

Studies in 2 Peter (13)
The Fate of
False Teachers (2)
2 Peter 2:18-22

2 Peter - Previously

- We are continuing our examination of false teachers in **2 Peter 2**.

WE have addressed the warning of their presence, their condemnation, their corrupt character - both toward God's word and often within their own lives.

Today, we conclude with the ultimate fate of false teachers AND their followers (unless they repent).

False promises - 2:18-19

- They speak great swelling words of emptiness
- We have seen this throughout this text
 - **2:2** - many follow their ways
 - **2:3** - by covetousness they exploit
 - **2:14** - they entice unstable souls

False promises - 2:18-19

- They speak great swelling words of emptiness
- **2:17** - wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest - offering promises but disappoint and fail to deliver
- False teachers often “talk a great game” but they do not provide anything substantive. E.g., politicians, pressure salesmen, etc.
- Just because something sounds convincing doesn't mean it is.

False promises - 2:18-19

- Alluring through lusts and lewdness
- **2:18** - In our previous lessons we have addressed the depraved character of some false teachers - esp. those driven by selfish motives.

False promises - 2:18-19

- Promising liberty
- **2:19** - Liberty is freedom. This is ultimately what we desire.
We have freedom in Christ - **2 Corinthians 3:17, Galatians 5:1, 13, James 1:25**
- False teachers KNOW this and exploit it.
- NOTE: This is a danger tied to watering down the gospel and teaching that God tolerates certain types of sins. Sin rarely stays static.

False promises - 2:18-19

- They themselves are slaves of corruption
- Again, seen throughout this text
2:10 - walking according to their lusts of uncleanness, despising authority
- **2:13-14** - carousing in their own deceptions... having eyes full of adultery that cannot cease from sin... covetous
- **2:15** - following the way of Balaam
- NOTE **Matthew 7:16** - by their fruit

False promises - 2:18-19

- By whom a person is overcome... bondage
- Note: NASB - by *what* a man is overcome, by *this* he is enslaved.
- Someone that is now (again) enslaved by sin.
Romans 6:16-18, Hebrews 2:15, etc. -
- Christians have been freed from this bondage -
Romans 6:4-6, Colossians 3:9-10
- Teaching that ANY sin is acceptable might cause one to return to their former life.

False promises - 2:18-19

- By whom a person is overcome... bondage
- What happens when one returns to their old lifestyle?
- Typically, it gains an even greater stronghold - **cf. Matthew 12:43-45**
- Anyone who has tried to overcome an addiction, substance or behavioral, and reverts to it finds it more difficult to quit again.

False promises - 2:18-19

- By whom a person is overcome... bondage
- The false teachers of our text have seduced the young convert, or the vulnerable, that some of their former life was acceptable. E.g., “comfort doctrines” - OSAS, no hell, “continuous cleansing”, sincerity enough, etc.
- Consider **Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:26-31**

The latter end is worse - 2:20-22

- Their deplorable state is clearly described
- Is Peter speaking of the false teacher OR his “victim”?
- True teachers CAN walk away and become false -
Acts 20:29-30,
2 Peter 1:1 - denying the Lord who bought them
2:15 - like Balaam, forsaken the right way
- Whether it is the teacher OR his “victims” - the result is the same.
- The text is likely BOTH!

The latter end is worse - 2:20-22

- These WERE true believers
- **2:20** - They have “escaped the pollutions of the world...”
 - Sins “washed away” - **Acts 22:16, 2:38, 1 Corinthians 6:11**
- **2:20** - again entangled - they were not entangled
- **2:20** - overcome - they were freed
- **2:20** - worse than the beginning - of what?
Romans 6:3-4
- **2:21** - they knew the way of righteousness

The latter end is worse - 2:20-22

- These returned to the world
- **2:20** - Both **entangled & overcome** imply this!
They **had known** the way of righteousness
- WHAT else could this be describing but one who had become a Christian but walked away from it?

The latter end is worse - 2:20-22

- The latter end is worse than the beginning
- **2:20** - literally, they are worse off than when they first obeyed the gospel.
- A dog returning to its own vomit - **Proverbs 26:11** - *As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly.*
- A sow having washed to its wallowing in the mire (filth)
- BOTH illustrate returning to their former state BEFORE they obeyed the gospel

The latter end is worse - 2:20-22

- What about the doctrine, “Once saved, always saved”?
- **2 Peter 2:20-22** - defeats this doctrine strongly.
- HOW is it possible to be worse off than when you were spiritually lost, IF you cannot forfeit your salvation?

The latter end is worse - 2:20-22

- What about the doctrine, “Once saved, always saved”?
- **1 Corinthians 10:12** - take heed lest he fall
- **Hebrews 2:1** - lest we drift away
- **Hebrews 3:12** - depart from the living God
- **Hebrews 4:1** - come short of (that rest)
- **Hebrews 10:26-31** - no longer remains a sacrifice for our sins
- **Galatians 5:4** - “you have fallen from grace”
- **Acts 8:20-23** - repent and pray for forgiveness

Are you grounded in God's
word?

Let us pray!