

II Peter 2:12-22

REVIEW...

- KNOWLEDGE of Christ...
 - We have been GIVEN - Grace and Peace by multiplied...
 - We have been GIVEN - all things that pertain to life and godliness...
 - We have been GIVEN – GREATEST promises – making us partakers of the divine nature...
 - GIVEN to us through the WORD - like a LIGHT that shines in a DARK place...
 - Important – because there will be FALSE teachers!
- Defining FALSE teachers...
 - False teachers will come in secretly - they are cunning - **II Corinthians 11:14**
 - They teach destructive heresies – and MANY will follow – blaspheming the way of Truth!
 - Their motive is greed - and their DESTRUCTION is certain!
- The CERTAINTY of judgement...
 - Angels reserved in hell for judgment - the ancient world wiped out except for Noah and family...
 - Sodom and Gomorrah - where nothing remains to this day...
 - God knows how to deliver the Godly out of trials – RIGHTEOUS Lot...
 - But God WILL reserve the unjust for the day of JUDGEMENT!

DEFINING FALSE TEACHERS...

- 1st – **THEY CORRUPT... vs. 12-17**
 - FALSE teachers...
 - You might think having likened FALSE teachers to FALLEN angels - Sodom and Gomorrah...
 - Peter had exhausted his FURY against FALSE teachers – but he was just getting started...
 - He continues - giving EIGHT examples of how they CORRUPT - THREE examples of their LIES!
 - 1st – BRUTE beasts... vs. 12
 - [FALSE teachers are] **like natural brute beasts born to be captured and destroyed!**
 - NATURAL [φυσικός] – 3x in NT – someone RULED by their body [not SPIRIT]
 - BRUTE [ἄλογος] beasts – 2x in NT – defining a mindless animal - **Jude 1:10**
 - The picture is of COW – meant only for the slaughterhouse...
 - FALSE teachers are NATURAL – no more capable of grasping SPIRITUAL truths than a COW!
 - And like a mindless COW – their inevitable fate is DESTRUCTION!
 - 2nd – Speak EVIL... vs. 12
 - [FALSE teachers] **speak evil of the things they do not understand!**
 - Speak EVIL [βλασφημέω] – their words are BLASPHEMOUS – because they do NOT...
 - UNDERSTAND [ἀγνοέω] – where we get the word AGNOSTIC...
 - They CHOSE [active] to not KNOW [present] God – so they BLASPHEME the truth!
 - [As a RESULT they] **will utterly perish in their own corruption!**
 - As a result - they will utterly perish in their own corruption...
 - Utterly PERISH [καταφθείρω] – 2x NT – to have a CORRUPT mind...
 - Through [passive] their CORRUPTION – blasphemous ignorance – they are CORRUPTED!
 - **II Timothy 3:8** – “As Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses - so do these also resist the truth: **men of corrupt [καταφθείρω] minds...**”
 - When Moses brought the TEN plagues on Egypt – **Exodus 7-8**
 - Jannes and Jambres could duplicate SOME of the miracles – staff to snake - water to blood...

- But when Aaron struck his rod on the dust – all the dust became lice...
 - The magicians tried to copy it – and they could NOT [or any that would follow]
 - They called it the FINGER OF GOD – fingerprint – proof God was behind the plagues!
 - Their MOTIVE in duplicating Moses – was to KEEP Pharaoh from LISTENING to God...
 - And it WORKED – because of them Pharaoh HARDENED his heart!
 - If we do not LISTEN to the TRUTH – LISTEN to the WORD...
 - Instead we will LISTEN to corrupt men - and end up with a HARD heart towards Jesus!
- o 3rd – Wages of UNRIGHTEOUSNESS... vs. 13
- FALSE teachers look for a REWARD [wage] – in PLEASURE...
 - As those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime!
 - PLEASURE [ἡδονή] – 5x in NT - the pursuit of happiness from this life...
 - But because they want PLEASURE – they have no FRUIT!
 - **Luke 8:14** – “The [seed] that fell among thorns are those who when they have heard - go out and are choked with cares – riches - and PLEASURES [ἡδονή] of life - and bring NO fruit...”
 - FALSE teachers look for a REWARD [wage] – in CAROUSING...
 - CAROUSING [τροφή] – 2x NT – a word that describes luxurious living...
 - **Luke 7:25** – “Those who... live in LUXURY [τροφή] are in kings courts...”
 - Those who choose to live for PLEASURE and LUXURY...
 - WASTE all their TIME striving for things that will NEVER fulfill them!
 - [FALSE teachers] will receive the wages of unrighteousness!
 - What FALSE teacher GET – is the REWARD of UNRIGHTEOUSNESS...
 - They will be both UNSATISFIED by ANYTHING they get in this life...
 - And they will end up being JUDGED – at the end of their life – **Romans 6:23**
 - **John 4:13** – “Whoever drinks of this water [from the world] will thirst again...”
 - How many times have we said – if I could only have THIS - I would be happy...
 - And when we get what we wanted – we are happy for a moment – then we want more...
 - No matter how many times we drink from the water of the world – thirsty again!
 - **John 4:14** – “Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst.”
 - We were not CREATED by God to be FULFILLED by the things of this world...
 - We were CREATED by God to KNOW Him - WORSHIP Him - **John 17:3**
 - And only when we use our life for the purpose God intended for it - are we SATISFIED!
- o 4th – Spots and blemishes... vs. 13
- They are spots and blemishes - carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you!
 - SPOTS [σπίλος] – 3x NT – to have a moral fault – spiritual stain...
 - BLEMISH [μῶμος] – on here NT – a blot or disgrace...
 - FALSE teachers are SPOTS – BLEMISHES because they CAROUSE [τροφή] - live in luxury...
 - They go to DINNER with the believers – trying to blend in...
 - But they are DECEIVING themselves - they are an EMBARRASSING mark on the church!
 - One of the more embarrassing things that can happen...
 - Is walking into a room with a STAIN on your clothes – and NOT knowing it!
 - God has a plan to wash away the spots...
 - **Ephesians 5:27** – “He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word... present her to Himself a glorious church - not having spot [σπίλος] or wrinkle or any such thing - but she should be holy and without blemish [ἄμωμος].”
 - How can we CLEAN the SPOTS and BLEMISHES that are in our churches...
 - We go back to the Word of God – the Word is the water that cleanses the SPOTS...
 - The moment we look to the Bible – false teachers have nowhere to hide!
- o 5th – Full of ADULTERY... vs. 14

- [FALSE teachers] have eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin!
 - The EYE speaks of what they are FOCUSED on – ADULTERY [μοιχαλίζ]
 - Referring to spiritual ADULTERY – they are FOCUSED on cheating on God!
 - The result being - they CANNOT stop sinning – they are a SLAVE to their sin!
 - **Matthew 6:23** – “If your eye is bad - your whole body will be full of darkness...”
 - We must be careful what we allow our EYES to see – what we spend our time watching...
 - We CHOOSE daily what we fill our MINDS with – by choosing what we watch...
 - What do we fill our HEADS and HEARTS with - this WORLD - or with the WORD!
- Enticing unstable souls!
 - ENTICE [δεδεσάω] – 3x NT - to bait or lure someone away from God...
 - But NOTE – they are ONLY able to ENTICE those who are UNSTABLE...
 - UNSTABLE [ἀστήρικτος] – someone who is not established – has no foundation!
 - How do we keep ourselves SAFE from being ENTICED – be ESTABLISHED in Jesus!
 - **Romans 16:25** – “Now to Him who is able to establish [στηρίζω] you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ...”
- o 6th – Trained in COVETOUSNESS... vs. 14
 - [FALSE teachers] have a heart trained in covetous practices - and are accursed children!
 - COVETOUSNESS [πλεονεξία] – 10x NT – to be GREEDY - want more stuff...
 - They EXERCISE [γυμνάζω] their heart to CONSTANTLY [present] want more...
 - As a result - they have become CURSED [κατάρα] children!
 - We do not CHOOSE to be BLESSED or CURSED - that we be an easy choice...
 - We choose to OBEY or to DISOBEY the Word of God - a choice we make every day...
 - If we OBEY – we are BLESSED - if we CHOOSE to go our own way – CURSED!
 - **Joshua 24:15** - “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...”
- o 7th – Like Balaam... vs. 15-16
 - [FALSE teachers] have forsaken the right way and gone astray!
 - They LEFT behind [καταλείπω] the STRAIGHT [right] way – and have gone astray...
 - Gone ASTRAY [πλανάω] – speaking of going the way of the world [planet]
 - They did not CHOOSE to go astray [passive] – their CHOICES led them that way!
 - Following the way of Balaam the son of Beor!
 - Balaam was one of only a handful of non-Jewish prophets in the Old Testament...
 - There is no doubt Balaam KNEW the LORD - and that the LORD SPOKE to him...
 - Balaam referred to God by his true name [יהוה] - **Numbers 22:8**
 - Who loved the wages of unrighteousness - but he was rebuked for his iniquity!
 - King Balak of Moab sent to Balaam and asked him to CURSE the people of Israel...
 - When Balaam asked the LORD if he could go – the LORD told him NO – TWO times...
 - But he pleaded with the LORD [he was offered a LOT of money] and God let him go...
 - Because Balaam LOVED [ἀγαπάω] the wages of unrighteousness!
 - A dumb donkey speaking with a mans voice restrained the madness of the prophet!
 - God to send an angel to KILL Balaam – but his DONKEY kept avoiding the angel...
 - The THIRD time it happened – Balaam beat his DONKEY – and the DONKEY spoke...
 - What is AMAZING is not that a DONKEY talked – it is that Balaam ARGUED back...
 - Then Balaam saw the angel – and the LORD told Balaam to ONLY speak what God said!
 - What was OBVIOUS to a dumb DONKEY – was HIDDEN from Balaam...
 - Because GREED will BLIND us to the DANGER right in front of us!
 - Balaam DISOBEYED the LORD...
 - He wanted to earn the REWARD King Balak had for him...

- He did not care what effect his actions would have - he ONLY thought of the MONEY...
- He was more concerned with RICHES in this life - than ETERNAL life...
- If he could not CURSE Israel – he knew how to get them to CURSE themselves...
- Balaam gave king Balak the idea to TEMPT the men of Israel - with the women of Moab!
- **Numbers 31:16** - “These women caused the children of Israel - through the counsel of Balaam - to [sin] against the LORD...”

▪ Balaam DIED for his MONEY...

- God commanded Israel to attack the allies of Moab – **Numbers 25:16-18**
- When Israel defeated them - Balaam also died in the battle - **Numbers 31:8**
- SADLY - many people are DETERMINED to miss out on HEAVEN...
- They are confident MONEY will make them happy - they will SACRIFICE anything to get it!
- The problem is people make MONEY their god – instead of Jesus...
- We cannot dedicate our lives to MONEY and possessions – and to the LORD...
- We waste our life on possessions that do not last – rather than on eternal rewards...
- If we desire more MONEY – we are missing the greatest riches of all – Jesus!
- **I Timothy 6:10** – “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil - for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness - and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

o 8th – Wells without water... vs. 17

▪ [FALSE teachers] are wells without water – clouds carried by a tempest!

- The idea being they APPEAR to be something that would be REFRESHING...
- A COLD drink of water from a WELL on a hot day - or the COOLING of a CLOUD overhead...
- But instead of being a BLESSING – FALSE teachers turn out to be FALSE advertising!
- **Jude 1:12** – “They are clouds without water - carried about by the winds. Late autumn trees without fruit - twice dead - pulled up by the roots...”
- Those who teach us to look to the world for PROMISES...
- The PROMISE if we MARRY the right person – we will find HAPPINESS...
- The PROMISE if we have enough MONEY – we will have no WORRIES...
- These PROMISES look good - but they are EMPTY promises....
- What they do not tell us – ONLY in Jesus - are PROMISES Yes and Amen!
- For whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever!
- A phrase used 2x NT – to describe everlasting punishment – the Lake of Fire - **Jude 1:13**
- The bottom line – the destiny of these teachers is sealed – their doom certain!
- All the more reason why we want to make sure to avoid them – and not share their fate!

● 2ND – THEY ARE LIARS... vs. 18-22

o 1st – EMPTY words... vs. 18

▪ When they speak great swelling words of emptiness!

- They say things that sound PROFOUND – great swelling words...
- But what comes is EMPTINESS – it has no TRUTH – its only PURPOSE is to ALLURE...
- ALLURE [δελιάζω] – 3x NT - to bait or deceive someone – in TWO ways...
- 1- LUST of the flesh – to long for and crave what is FORBIDDEN...
- 2 - LEWDNESS [ἀσέλγεια] – unbridled LUST – shameless desires...
- They APPEAL to the SINFUL nature of men – to TRAP them in SIN again!

▪ [Trapping] the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error!

- ESCAPED [ἀποφεύγω] – to FLEE or run away from...
- These false teachers pull BELIEVERS back into a life of sin that God had saved them from!
- **II Peter 1:4** – “[Who] have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises - that through these you... escaped [ἀποφεύγω] the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

- If you took a plane from the Philippines to Hawaii – and your compass was off one degree...
 - You would miss the ISLAND by over 144 KILOMETERS – run out of fuel – and crash!
 - We may be right on with the LORD today – but that does NOT make us safe...
 - COMPROMISE is a constant danger – it only takes a LITTLE to get us in a LOT of trouble...
 - This is a heavy and humbling truth – there are men who are seeking to DESTROY us...
 - They do so by giving us a message that appeals to our SINFUL nature...
 - We must be on constant GUARD – knowing that our eternity is what is at stake!
 - **I Timothy 1:19** – “[Have] faith and a good conscience - which some having rejected concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck...”
- o 2nd – FALSE promises... vs. 19
- While they promise them liberty - they themselves are slaves of corruption!
 - PROMISE [ἐπαγγέλλομαι] – 15x in NT – from the word ANGEL [ἄγγελος] – MESSENGER
 - Claiming to be a MESSENGER of LIBERTY – they are the SLAVES [δοῦλος] of SIN...
 - Someone who is in BONDAGE to SIN – can NEVER set anyone else FREE...
 - Instead they bring others into SLAVERY with them!
 - We either choose to be a SLAVE to Jesus - or we choose to be a SLAVE to SIN...
 - We CHOOSE who we will be a slave to – by where we put our TIME...
 - Whatever we INVEST in – that is where we will also find our LOYALTY!
 - **Galatians 5:16** – “Walk in the Spirit - and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”
 - By whom a person is overcome - by him also he is brought into bondage!
 - OVERCOME [ἡττάομαι] – to be CONQUERED [passive]
 - Sin is like the most addictive kind of drug – if we are not careful it will CONQUER us...
 - Sin can seem to be enjoyable - but it sucks us in - and we are TRAPPED...
 - In the end we find we are in BONDAGE to sin - morally and spiritually bankrupt...
 - The man who CHOOSES to sin – gives up his freedom to CHOOSE!
 - **John 8:34** - “I say unto you he that commits sin is the slave of sin...”
- o 3rd – Worse than the beginning... vs. 20-22
- For if - after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the KNOWLEDGE...
 - Of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - they are again entangled in them and overcome!
 - Having ESCAPED [ἀποφεύγω] – the corruption [μίασμα] of the WORLD...
 - Through the KNOWLEDGE – of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - **II Peter 1:4**
 - If they are CAUGHT again by the world – by these FALSE Teachers...
 - And they are CONQUERED [ἡττάομαι] – and brought back into BONDAGE to sin!
 - The latter end is worse for them than the beginning.
 - It would have been better for them NOT to have KNOWN the way of righteousness...
 - Than having KNOWN it - to TURN from the holy commandment delivered to them!
 - TURN [ἐπιστρέφω] – often used to describe REPENTANCE – **Acts 3:19**
 - But here used to describe TURNING from the LORD – back to the WORLD...
 - It would be BETTER to have not KNOWN – because then there would still be HOPE...
 - But if someone has rejected the ONLY way of salvation – what hope is left for them!
 - According to the true proverb...
 - It has happened to them according to the true proverb:
 - A dog returns to his own vomit – and a pig having washed - to her wallowing in the dung!
 - HAPPENED [συμβαίνω] – to WALK in the FOOTSTEPS of the PROVERB - **Proverbs 26:11**
 - A DOG will VOMIT something NOT good for it – but then eat it again...
 - A PIG can be washed of the DUNG the body expels – but then go back and BATH in it!
 - The WISDOM of this WORLD is NOT healthy – we should spit it out...
 - The FILTH of SIN is something we should REJECT – not bath in...

- How sad for the believer who end up back in a pile of their own dung!
- KNOW there are FALSE teachers...
 - By DEFINING what FALSE teachers look like – the HOPE is we will AVOID them...
 - Not being CORRUPTED by their GREEDY example...
 - Not listening to their LIES and EMPTY promises...
 - Instead – HOLDING fast to the KNOWLEDGE of CHRIST!