

Study 5

Read 2 Peter 2:10-22

SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

This section includes a more detailed description of those who have walked away from Christ and been corrupted by false teaching. First, Peter says these wicked people are blasphemous because they insult creatures that are more powerful than they are. These unrighteous people are also immoral, and they entice others to follow in their lust. Next, they are a deceitful group that cannot deliver the freedom they promise. Lastly, they are hopeless since they have no power to return to Christ.

MEMORY VERSE

2 Peter 2:21 (NIV)—It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who do these false teachers blaspheme or revile (2:10–12)?
2. What will be the outcome for these evil people (2:12–13)?
3. What impact does their adultery have on others (2:14)?
4. What Old Testament character does Peter compare the lustful teachers to (2:15–16)?
5. What does Peter compare these false teachers to (2:17)?
6. What do false teachers promise but are unable to give (2:19)?
7. What does Peter say would have been better for the false teachers (2:20–21)?

8. What does Peter compare the false teachers to (2:22)?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Have you ever been exposed to any teaching that claimed to be Christian but wasn't rooted in the Bible?

What kinds of tactics do false teachers use today to lure people into their group?

How susceptible do you think you are to being enticed by greed or sensuality?

What false teachers can you think of from the Old Testament? From the New Testament?

What do you think are some of the first signs that someone is a false teacher?

1. Read 2 Peter 2:10-22 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Characterize the false teachers, according to verses 10-12.

3. How is the principle of "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" illustrated in verse 13?

4. How are they characterized further in verses 14 & 15?

5. How did Balaam receive a "rebuke," according to verse 16?

6. How are they described further in verses 17-19?

7. What would be better for them, according to verse 21?

8. State the proverb and explain it in verse 22.

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: The false teachers are living above authority and controlled by desire.

LESSON #2: They have association without acceptance; religion without a relationship.

LESSON #3: The false teachers spend a lot of time on new converts.

LESSON #4: The false teachers are characterized by greed or covetousness.

LESSON #5: They are promising freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption.

LESSON #6: By what a man has been defeated, by this he has been enslaved.

LESSON #7: It is better not to have known than to have known and turned away from the way of righteousness.

LESSON #8: The dog and pig represent people who have never become sheep.