

## 2 Peter 2:12-22

### Verse 12

These false teachers and heretics are compared to unreasoning animals or brute beasts who are born as creatures of instinct. The wild beasts act in accordance with their natural instincts whereas these false teachers act according to the nature we are all born into which is a fallen sinful nature which is hostile to God. They revile even angelic beings which they have no understanding or knowledge of which is something even the holy angels will not do even to the fallen angels. Just as the wild unreasoning animals are captured and destroyed so is the fate of false teachers and heretics by the hand of God.

### Verse 13

There is a price to pay for their sins and wrongdoing against God. The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

What started out as introducing destructive heresies secretly, has now turned into a blatant show of their lustful pleasures and lives. They are seared by their sin and consider it great pleasure to publicly broadcast their sinful, shameful behavior. They are not ashamed and do not hide their sinful carnal lusts, desires, and actions in the dark, but rather display them in the daylight.

These false teachers and heretics are called stains and blemishes. The text does not say that they have blemishes and stains although they do, but describes their whole being as stains and blemishes. It is no accident that Peter uses the words stains and blemishes to describe these heretics. This is in contrast to our Savior who is spotless and unblemished (1 Peter 1:18-19). This is also in direct opposition to how the bride of Christ, the church is described. In our own righteousness and merit, we are and have blemishes and spots as is our own righteousness without Christ. However, when the Father looks at us, He does not see our blemishes and spots, but sees the perfect imputed righteousness of Christ who is the Lamb with spot or blemish. The Church will be presented to the Father as spotless, blameless as a result of our justification by faith alone.

- 1 Peter 1:18-19 knowing that you were not <sup>[a]</sup>redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.
- Ephesians 5:27 that He might present to Himself the church <sup>[a]</sup>in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

The Bible tells us how and when they revile, but it also tells where they revile and deceive. They deceive and revile in the midst of the true sheep. They revile in their deceptions as they fellowship and are around true Christians. These people are the wolves who are arm and arm with sheep. They are the tares among the wheat.

### Verse 14

Their eyes are full of adultery and lust and they never cease from searching for new prey to destroy to satisfy their lusts and sinful desires. They never cease from sinning. However, the true Christian is set free from sin and has a command to cease from sinning.

- 1 Peter 4:1-2
- Romans 6:1-12

They entice and mislead unstable souls. Their hearts are trained in greed. Christians are to be trained in the word of God for righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16), the heretics have trained their unregenerate souls for increased greed, by continually being greedy. They are not novices of greed but have hearts that are trained and stained with greed. This is the nature of their hearts because their hearts are unregenerate and evil.

- Matthew 6:19-24
- John 2:13-17-Jesus cleanses the temple.

They are accursed children. These are children that are cursed and not blessed by God. The blessed children are the ones whom God makes His face to shine upon and lifts His countenance on (Numbers 6:24-26). True blessed children of God have their lawless deeds forgiven, their sins covered, and their sins not taken into account (Romans 4:6-5). True Christians are blessed and through the grace and mercy of God have the privilege to call Him Father (Romans 8:15) and are indwelt and led by the Holy Spirit. Christ has set His children free from the curse.

- Galatians 3:10-14

### Verses 15-16

These heretics and false teachers have the knowledge of the right way. Christians were called Christians first at Antioch ([Acts 11:26](#)). However, before they were called Christians, they were called people of the Way. ([Acts 9:2](#), [Acts 24:14](#)). Jesus said He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no comes to the Father but through Me ([John 14:6](#)). They have heard the message of the Gospel, but intellectual knowledge is all they have as it has not reached the heart.

They have followed the way of Balaam who was a pagan prophet who was motivated by wealth and fame. This story of Balaam is found in [Numbers 22-24](#). He loved the wages of righteousness and used his "prophetic abilities" for wealth and fame. Balaam also gave the king of Moab advice ([Numbers 31:16](#)) on how to weaken Israel through seduction and temptation from the Moabite women which led to idolatry and fornication. As a result of Balaam's advice for sensuality and seduction ~24,000 Israelites were killed by a plague sent from the Lord ([Numbers 25:1-9](#)). A reference to Balaam and his deceptive and immoral acts is found in [Revelation 2:14](#) which is the section addressed to the church at Pergamum.

### Verse 17

Water is a matter of life and death. Without water humans die. The promise of water in the middle of a dry and barren desert is what gives hope of rescue and life. The soul of the unregenerate is like a barren desert dry and without any life or life sustaining abilities or rescue on their own. These false teachers and heretics promise a well of quenching water to satisfy the soul and bring life, but when people come to them and their wells, they find no water, no life, and no true hope. It is a mirage and an illusion because instead of life quenching water, they find spiritual death. On the contrast, those who proclaim the Jesus of the Bible and the true gospel message can have full assurance that those who hear the words of the gospel will not come to a well with no water, but rather find a well that is overflowing with life giving and life sustaining water that will cause them to never thirst again.

- [John 4:7-14](#)
- [John 7:37-39](#) Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "[a] If anyone is thirsty, [b] let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From [c] his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" <sup>39</sup> But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Peter also says they are mists driven by a storm. Those who are in a dry and barren place desperately rain for food, animals, and their own lives. The sight of rain clouds is hope to those who need rain for survival. However, these false teachers and heretics are not clouds that have an actual substance of rain that can satisfy, sustain, and bring life, but rather are clouds with mist that are easily blown away by the wind.

The future has been reserved for them from eternity past just as the eternal fate of the elect has been predestined and reserved ([Romans 9:21-23](#)). What is reserved for these heretics, false teachers, and false prophets is the black darkness.

### Verses 18-19

Their words are grand swelling words, but their words are empty and worthless. They try to entice by fleshly desires and sensuality those who are not true Christians, but who are trying to escape from hardships or rough times in their lives. There are people who are looking for help from God in various matters or wanting to turn over a new leaf and see religion as a way to accomplish these things. Therefore, people will attend church and try to keep all the rules which seem to appear that they are escaping from the world. Many people like the thought of religion or Christianity, but it never gets to the heart because they are not regenerated and the gospel falls on one of the 3 soils that are not good as stated in [Luke 8](#).

- *"We confuse two similar yet different human actions. We see people searching desperately for peace of mind, relief from guilt, meaning, and purpose to their lives, and loving acceptance. We know that ultimately these things can only be found in God. Therefore, we conclude that since people are seeking these things they must be seeking after God." "People do not seek God. They seek after the benefits that only God can give them. The sin of fallen man is this: Man seeks the benefits of God while at the same time fleeing from God himself. We are, by nature, fugitives." (Thomas Aquinas)*

False teachers and heretics promise people a continued lifestyle of sin without repentance under the promise of freedom in Christ. This is a carnal message that appeals to carnal people. They promise freedom (antinomianism) in Christ, but they themselves are enslaved. The true believer does have freedom in Christ in many ways, but not to live in rebellion and sin to God. We are born enslaved to the devil and the desires of our sinful nature and are only set free when Christ sets us free. We are a servant of the devil or a servant of God. We are either servants of sin or servants of righteousness. When we are set free by God, we become slaves of God and of righteousness which is the only true freedom a human being can have.

- [John 8:32-36](#)
- [Romans 6:14-23](#)
- [2 Timothy 2:24-26](#)

Many sins are justified in the name of freedom. The freedom they desire is the freedom that enslaves them.

[Verse 20](#) (apostates). An apostate is someone who at least once has professed to be a Christian and has “returned” to their sinful desires and life. An apostate is one who is never converted truly but professes salvation.

Many unconverted people escape the defilements of the world in their actions for a period of time. They stop “doing bad things,” they come to church, they turn over a new leaf, etc. The outward appearance and actions look the part of a Christian. These are the false converts, the professing Christian but not a true Christian. However, these people are entangled with and enslaved by the defilements and the corruptions of this world.

The last state which is them returning their sinful lust and desires is worse than their previous state prior to their profession of faith.

- o [Matthew 12:43-45](#) *“Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it. <sup>44</sup> Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came’; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. <sup>45</sup> Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation.”*

#### [Verse 21](#)

It is better to never profess to be a Christian or know the way of righteousness than to know it (intellectually) and profess conversion and then turn away from the holy commandment handed down. It is better to never sit in a Church service and reject Christ than to have heard the Gospel one time and rejected Him. The more that is given to a person, the more that is required and the more they will be judged for. An example of this is found in [Matthew 11:20-24](#) and [Luke 12:45-48](#).

#### [Verse 22](#)

The false converts are not born again. The outward appearance and actions may seem that they have truly escaped the corruptions of the world, but they cannot resist their unregenerate desires. Peter uses two analogies of animals in which the Jews would find offensive and low, dogs and pigs. He uses these analogies of a dog returning to their own vomit and sow returning to the mire to describe the apostasy of these professing Christians. Those who “return” to their true nature are not people who are saved, but rather those who were never saved.

- o [1 John 2:18-19](#) Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. <sup>19</sup> They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that <sup>[a]</sup> it would be shown that they all are not of us.
- o [Luke 9:62](#) But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Many will gather and listen to the message of these heretics and false teachers. It’s a contrast between empty words and holy words. Many that follow them are not saved but are following their carnal sinful lusts and desires. The message that false teachers preach and teach with swelling words and promises ends in dry wells, mire, and vomit.