

- 4) The fact that Peter tells us that *“many will follow their destructive ways”* is a reminder to us that false teaching is often very popular. People like to have their “ears tickled.” They like hearing what they want to hear. This is the reason that the “name it, claim it,” falsely called “faith movement” became so popular. But, looking at the **first half** of **verse 3**, what does Peter say is the **motivation** of these false teachers?

- 5) These false teachers not only appeal to the covetousness of our human nature, but their motivation is to feed their own covetousness. The focus of their teaching is often **self-gratification**, rather than the worship of a holy God. What assurance does Peter give in the **second half** of **verse 3**?

- 6) Peter continues to assure us of this fact in **verses 4 through 6**. God takes seriously the offense of false teachers and Peter gives us a number of examples of God’s punishment that meets those who oppose Him. In **verse four**, what example does he give to us regarding the “angels who sinned?”

- 7) In **verse 5**, what example does he give to us concerning the “ancient world?”

- 8) In **verse 6**, what example does he give to us concerning “Sodom and Gomorrah?”

9) Peter continues in **verses 7 through 9**, by assuring us that, along with the ungodly being punished, the righteous will be delivered. The example he gives to us is “righteous Lot.” We might not necessarily look at Lot as being righteous, but God looks at the heart and sees what our eyes so often do not see. What clues do we find in **verses 7 & 8** concerning the righteousness of Lot’s heart? Write them down below.

10) This example of Lot has much to say to us when we look at his life closely. His soul may have been “tormented” but it was not enough to remove himself and his family from the ungodly city of Sodom and Gomorrah. Look up **Genesis 13:10-13**. Summarize from these verses the choices Lot made.

If we read **Genesis 19** we see all the loss that Lot suffered by his choice to move into the city of Sodom. He lost his home, his future sons-in-law, his wife and the innocence of his two daughters. Our choices come with natural consequences that God doesn’t often protect us from. However, God still considered Lot “righteous” because of his faith in Him, even in the midst of his many failures. The great lengths that God went to in order to deliver Lot from the coming destruction to be poured out on Sodom should give us strong encouragement that He will deliver us from evil as well, not because we’re perfect people, but because of our faith in Christ.

11) Look up the following verses that give us this assurance.

2 Corinthians 5:21 -

Philippians 3:9 -

Titus 3:5 –

- 12) After all these examples Peter has giving to us, what is the conclusion that Peter gives us in **2 Peter 2:9**?
- 13) In **verse 10** Peter gives us a description of the “unjust.” How does he describe them?
- 14) In **verse eleven** Peter points to the angels as a **contrast** in behavior from the “ungodly.” What does he say about them?

We know that God hates the arrogant pride of man, but what exactly is Peter referring to? I really liked Adam Clarke’s explanation of this verse. He says: **“This is a difficult verse, but the meaning seems to be this: The holy angels, who are represented as bringing an account of the actions of the fallen angels before the Lord in judgment, simply state the facts without exaggeration, and without permitting any thing of a bitter, reviling, or railing spirit, to enter into their accusations. See Zec 3:1, and Jud 1:9; to the former of which St. Peter evidently alludes. But these persons, not only speak of the actions of men which they conceive to be wrong, but do it with untrue colorings, and the greatest malevolence. Michael, the archangel, treated a damned spirit with courtesy; he only said, The Lord rebuke thee, Satan! but these treat the rulers of God’s appointment with disrespect and *calumny.”** **[malicious misrepresentation meant to harm another’s reputation].*

- 15) As Peter continues in **verse 12**, he describes the behavior of those he calls “natural brute beasts.” What does he say about them and of their final end in this verse?
- 16) Jude said something very similar to what Peter is saying here. I wonder if this was a subject that Peter and Jude had discussed together. Look up Jude 1:10 and record that verse below.

In **2 Peter 2:13** Peter reiterates the assurance that these false teachers will receive “the wages of unrighteousness.” In the second half of this verse, Peter begins a rather detailed description of the sins of these false teachers. What description does Peter use of them in **verse 13b**?

- 17) Peter states that not only do these false teachers deceive others, but they have **deceived themselves** as well. Look up the following verses regarding self-deception and write them down below.

Deuteronomy 11:16 -

Proverbs 26:12 -

Galatians 6:3

2 Timothy 3:13 -

1 John 1:8 -

Revelation 3:17 –

- 18) In **2 Peter 2:14** list Peter's description, as he continues speaking of the sinful behaviors of these false teachers.
- 19) From this verse, who is it that Peter says these false teachers entice?
- 20) What would you say makes a soul "unstable?" What so you think leads to that instability?
- 21) In **verses 15 & 16**, Peter compares them to having gone the way of Balaam. Look up **Revelation 2:14** and write down what Jesus says about Balaam's sins.

The **Bible Knowledge Commentary** states: **"The false teachers, like Balaam, had sinned so long and so intensely that their sin had become a form of insanity. Also today many people have so thoroughly given themselves over to avarice and debauchery that their lifestyles are spiritually insane. Money and sex (even in the name of religion) continue to bring spiritual ruin to many people. This is "the error of Balaam" ([Jud 1:11](#)), his way which is diverse from the straight way."**

- 22) In **verses 17 & 18** of our chapter in **2 Peter**, he goes on to speak about the emptiness of these false teachers. How does he describe them in **verse 17**?

23) How does he describe their **tactics** in **verse 18**?

Who are these “**ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error?**” Some Bible scholars believe they are not Christians, but are searching for answers, having not found any in the areas they had been searching for truth. Other scholars believe these are Christians who are still weak in the faith and therefore easily enticed. Regardless of which group you believe these people are in, it is clear that they are still easily influenced by the lusts of the flesh and have become a prey for the false teachers.

24) What is the promise made to these who are enticed by the words of these false teachers in **verse 19**? Record below what is being promised, and what the **real truth** of the matter is according to this verse.

The Promise -

The Truth -

25) Look up **Genesis 3:5** and compare this promise to the one that Satan made to Eve in the garden. What was the promise of Satan?

26) Read **Genesis 3:16-19**. Summarize **the real truth** of Adam and Eve’s actions. What did those actions cost them?

27) True freedom is only found in Christ. It can never be found in anything pertaining to the flesh or our human nature. Look up the following verses and record what they say about this.

John 8:34-36 -

Romans 6:16 -

Matthew 6:24 -

- 28) Read **2 Peter 2:20 & 21**. This verse has been a matter of controversy for many regarding whether or not a believer in Christ can lose their salvation. Looking at Peter's description of these people, record what he says about what they have experienced in the **first half of verse 20**.
- 29) Appearances can be misleading. We can look at someone who *appears* to be a true believer, attends church, knows the lingo, and yet we are filled with confusion when we watch them "fall away." The Lord said to Samuel in **1 Samuel 16:7**, "Do not look at his **appearance** or at his **physical stature**, because I have refused him. For *the* **LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**" Read **Matthew 13:24-30** and then record what Jesus says in **verses 29 & 30** about the wheat and the tares.
- 30) Looking again at **2 Peter 2:20**, what does Peter say in the **second half** of this verse about these people's condition?

Having a "**knowledge** of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" does not necessarily mean that there has been a true **heart-knowledge** of Him or a **reborn experience**. Many people have a lot of "knowledge" of Scripture, but aren't true believers in that knowledge, or even if they would say they believe God's Word is true, it does not mean they have **surrendered their lives to His lordship**. Those with knowledge that has not led to repentance are in a dangerous place.

31) Record Peter's grave words in **verse 21** below.

32) It is true that we are accountable for what we know, which makes those who had "knowledge" accountable for that knowledge. Record what the following verses say concerning "what we know."

Luke 12:48b -

John 9:41 -

James 4:17 -

33) As we come to the last verse of our chapter, Peter sums up his argument. Record **verse 22** below.

I believe this verse give us strong evidence that regardless of what we may try to do by our **own efforts**, we are powerless to change who and what we really are. That is, apart from coming into a "**new birth**" relationship with Christ. If we have not come into His salvation, if He has not made us a new creation in Him, if His Spirit is not dwelling within us, it doesn't matter what kind of "outward" efforts or appearances we make, we are still a sinner whose only hope is in the Living Christ.

34) What in this chapter spoke most to your heart? (Use the back side of sheet if necessary).

This study was written and prepared by Shawn Van Hook, 2023