

2Peter
Condition Of The Self Willed

2Peter 2:10b-22 *Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties, 11 whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord. 12 But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed, 13 suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you, 14 having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children; 15 forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 but he received a rebuke for his own transgression, for a mute donkey, speaking with a voice of a man, restrained the madness of the prophet. 17 These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved. 18 For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, 19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved. 20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. 22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A dog returns to its own vomit," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire."*

- God's mercy can only be understood in context of God's ability & obligation to be a just God, a God who judges wrong.
- Peter is exposing those that come into the flock of God to draw people to themselves with their deception. It is wrong to be deceived, but even worse to influence others by that deception.
 - How our actions affect others is what brings God's assessment of us – God deals with those do wrong & take from others or mislead others.
- I. Daring; vs. 10b
 - a. These false teachers & influencers have no stop sign in their life; nothing holds them back
 - b. Arrogant in their actions
 - c. Such people end up deceived thinking they have power & authority the don't have
 - i. Like the Sons of Sciva – people learn a formula and think they have power

- ii. True power, the power Paul exercised, had authority born out of a knowledge of God
- iii. We must approach the spiritual realm with caution, not presumption

II. Demented; vs. 12-13a

A. Unreasoning Animalistic Behavior

- a. Such folks are prompted by what their soul desires
- b. Not according to God's word, but by desire and instinct of their own heart

B. Headed For Destruction

III. Daytime Revels; vs. 13b – these folks lack fear of God and are bold – openly showing forth their deception. No shame in their action. We must continually care for the condition of the “garden of our heart”. How we handle truth is critical; not to make one verse predominant over all others.

A. Stains, Blemishes – These are people who don't have your best interest in their minds.

B. Promoting Deception – we need people telling us the truth so that we can walk rightly. We can't/don't change to the degree we need to by ourselves.

IV. Donkey Assisted; vss. 14-16 – these are like Balaam, a prophet but not part of the people of Israel. [NUM 21] Balaam heard from God, yet he wasn't of the line of the covenant. God can speak to & thru anyone He chooses; God spoke to & thru Balaam.

A. Forsaking The Right Way – Balaam heard from God that he was NOT to curse the people of Israel, yet he willed to go the way of his own heart. The sin of Balaam is that he willfully refused to hear God and did so in order for personal gain.

B. Needs Unreasoning Beings To Restrain Madness – on his way to doing what Balaam wants to do, in resistance to God, God uses a beast to speak to him. God uses anything, even the unusual to get a hold of us because He cares about us and our mission. He used the donkey to speak to Balaam trying to course correct him and expose his motives.

d. Balaam can only prophecy the truth, including a prophecy about the coming Christ – all thru a stained vessel

e. If God can use a Balaam and speaks thru a donkey – He can & will use us!

V. Dark Deceivers; vss. 17-19

A. Promising What They Can't Deliver – those who minister out of false pretense and selfish motive promise freedom, but they are held in bondage to corruption themselves.

B. Overcome & Enslaved – corruption darkens the heart and brings even the most promising minister into less than they should be. It's not about becoming

better in professional mannerisms or fruitfulness of numbers or income, but is progressing toward freedom and maturity. There needs to be openness to God so as not to be enslaved or overcome by weakness.

VI. Directed Toward Ruin; vss. 20-22 – such people are prone to return to what is wrong. It would have been better for them to have not known the way of righteousness than to have known and left it.

- Peter is talking about people either in whom the truth never really had taken hold and brought transformation. These are people who have directed their life toward their deception.
- Or, he is speaking of people in whom the truth has taken some degree of saving influence but who have resisted that in-working more deeply.
- The point here is not to bring uncertainty to those who sin, but to caution and warn us so that we can live more fully in Christ.

A. Once Delivered, Twice As Bad Off

B. No Point In Washing A Pig