


Second Peter Lesson #7

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2 Peter 2:10-22

**Question from the end of class
last week –
Is all sin equal?**






2 Peter 2:10-22

- **2 Peter 2:10** This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; **11** yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. **12** But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish. **13** They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. **14** With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed — an accursed brood! **15** They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness.
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2 Peter 2:10-22

- . 16 But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey — a beast without speech — who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness. 17 These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. 18 For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. 19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity — for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. 20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. 21 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. 22 Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud." NIV
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2 Peter 2:10-22

Do you know any false teachers?






2 Peter 2:10-22

- **When Peter says “This is especially true of those” – who is Peter talking about?**
 - **From the previous verses we understand them to be the people God is going to judge for intentionally teaching error.**
 - **In the verses we just read Peter now gives a detailed description of what false teachers are all about.**
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2 Peter 2:10-22


- They are audacious and self-willed – they will do almost anything to gather a following for their own purposes.
 - They have no respect for good spiritual things – they sometimes act irreverently and sometimes they appear as sheep in wolves clothing.
 - They sound ‘spiritual’ while taking shots at the true gospel.
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2 Peter 2:10-22

- **1 John 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. 4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. NIV**




2 Peter 2:10-22

- **Matt 24:11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. NIV**
 - **Mark 13:5 Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 6 Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. NIV**
 - **Here is the point – we have been warned about false teachers multiple times which says something about its importance to God.**
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2 Peter 2:10-22

- **Sometimes they succeed in building a cult – this is really their goal, to have a ‘following’.**
 - **What a waste of charisma and social skills to use the natural attributes and abilities given by God to work against Him.**
 - **Their cults are often marked by strict rules, a shunning of society, child abuse, and sexual immorality.**
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2 Peter 2:10-22

- **Sometimes false teachers participate in mainstream churches where they preach part of the bible quite well while denying the rest of the canon.**
 - **Their errors are never small – they often deny the virgin birth, the resurrection, or some other fundamental truth.**
 - **They may look meek and mild, but they are out to cause harm and destroy the church.**
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2 Peter 2:10-22

- **An important distinction – there is a difference between being wrong on some minor point of doctrine and teaching error with malice.**
 - **There are many minor points of doctrine that good people differ over sharply – this is one reason why we have so many denominations of the Church.**
 - **If the standard is total agreement on all points of doctrine then you will see a lot of ‘false teachers’.**
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2 Peter 2:10-22

- **False teachers are a danger to the believer and the church.**
- **Those within the church are often agents of division. Rom 16:17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. 18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. NIV**





2 Peter 2:10-22

- **Our best defense against false teachers is to know the truth for ourselves.**
 - **2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth. NASB**
 - **Acts 17:11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. NIV**
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2 Peter 2:10-22

- Perhaps the plainest mark of a false teacher is they do not encourage a close personal relationship with Jesus.
- They want their followers to be dependent on them rather than God.
- John 8:32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free ." NIV






2 Peter 2:10-22

- **They promise freedom, but actually want to enslave their followers to a new master.**
 - **One of the more common things we witness in our lives is the constant attempts of the young to be something other than what their parents are.**
 - **The young and restless are primary targets for the Jim Jones', the Charles Manson's, and many other cult leaders.**
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2 Peter 2:10-22

- **2 Peter 2:21** 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. NIV
 - **Luke 12:47** And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. **48** But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more. NKJV
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2 Peter 2:10-22

- **Just like there are various amounts of rewards for faithful service so there are varying amounts of punishment for sin.**
 - **From Jesus' own words we understand the determining factors to be motive and intent.**
 - **Peter argues false teachers would be better off to be totally ignorant of the gospel than to be what they are.**
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2 Peter 2:10-22

- **Better off to have never heard of Jesus than to be in the position they are?**
 - **That means an eternity of punishment in the blackness and torment of Hell.**
 - **So we must ask – what can be worse than that?**
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2 Peter 2:10-22

- **And so the question – is all sin equal?**
 - **The question is unanswerable without context.**
 - **All sin separates from God and is an affront to Him, so in that context yes, all sins are the same.**
 - **However, within the context of justice, all sin does carrying the same intensity of judgment.**
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Questions / Comments

