

Part 4—You Must Have the Right Message! II Peter 2:17-22

The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the LORD and against His Anointed One. ³“Let us break their chains,” they cry, “and free ourselves from this slavery.”

Psalm 2:2-3

So if the Son sets you free, you will indeed be free.

John 8.36

Now, the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, He gives freedom. 2 Corinthians 3.17

Freedom is **not** the ability to do whatever you want—That is the essence of _____!!
False teachers offer a “false freedom” as the “bait” to entice to bondage.

The False Teachers’ Message Is WRONG Because...

It Is Based on False _____ (17–18)

These people are as useless as dried-up springs of water or as clouds blown away by the wind—**promising much and delivering nothing.** They are doomed to blackest darkness. ¹⁸ They brag about themselves with **empty, foolish boasting.** With lustful desire as their bait, they lure back into sin those who have just escaped from such wicked living. II Peter 2:17-18

Peter uses three vivid illustrations to emphasize the emptiness of the false teachers’ promises.

dried-up springs of water”

“clouds blown away by the wind”

“blakest darkness”

FALSE TEACHERS are _____ of their doctrines.

“Did God Really Say?”

“You will NOT surely die!”

FALSE TEACHERS appeal to the _____ (pride, greed, secrecy, division) of the sin nature.

“Look good for food”

“You will be as gods!”

Jude 1:16 helps here- *These people are grumblers and complainers, doing whatever evil they feel like. They are loudmouthed braggarts, and they flatter others to get favors in return.*

THIS IS WHY _____ are So VERY VERY IMPORTANT

It Is Offered by False _____ (19–20)

¹⁹ They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves to sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you. ²⁰ And when people escape from the wicked ways of the world by learning about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up with sin and become its slave again, they are worse off than before. II Peter 2:19-20

These are not believers. Jude 1:19 explains *Now they are here, and they are the ones who are creating divisions among you. They live by natural instinct because they do not have God's Spirit living in them.*

Slaves to sin have many masters!

_____ (2 Peter 2:3,14)

_____ (2 Peter 2:10-12)

_____ (2 Peter 2:10, 14)

Notice the three Ancients mentioned in this passage → Noah, Lot, and Balaam

*"You must **warn each other every day**, as long as it is called "today," **so that none of you will be deceived by sin** and hardened against God."* Hebrew 3:13

Temporary reformation without true repentance and rebirth only leads to greater sin and judgment.

Reformation cleans up the _____, but regeneration changes the _____.

It Involves a False _____(20–22)

²⁰And when people escape from the wicked ways of the world by learning about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up with sin and become its slave again, they are worse off than before.²¹ It would be better if they had never known the right way to live than to know it and then reject the holy commandments that were given to them. ²² They make these proverbs come true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and "A washed pig returns to the mud." II Peter 2:20-22

Peter called these apostates "unthinking animals, creatures of instinct" (vs. 12), & "pigs & dogs!"
Why do that?

Remember what Peter said (1:4) about True Believers? "so that through them you may participate in the divine nature"

A pig & a dog you can clean up on the outside and they look better and may even feel better for a while but on the inside they are not changed in their _____ and they will return to what they are!

CONCLUSION-The apostates appear to have successful ministries, but in the end, they are bound to fail. The important thing is that you and I have the assurance of a true experience with the Lord, and that we have nothing to do with these counterfeit ministries, no matter how popular they may be. Christ is "the truth" (John 14:6) and following Him leads to freedom. The apostates are liars and following them leads to bondage. There can be no middle ground!

Answers:

Sin, Promises, Eloquent Promoters, Base Appetites,
Discipleship, Small Groups, Christians, Money, Pride, Sex, Outside,
Inside, Experience, Nature