

A True Portrait of False Teachers

II Peter 2:11-21

Introduction:

- Illustr- eyewitnesses of the scene giving a sketch describing the criminal
 - This is the real picture, beneath the nice exterior
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- I. They are fleshly and proud- v. 11-17
 - a. Walk after the flesh- The desire-dominated man. His life is dominated by the lusts of the flesh- instincts, passions, self-pleasing, etc.
 - b. See James 1:14-15, Galatians 5:17-21
 - c. Despising government, self-willed, speaks evil of dignities
 - i. That is, they regard all government/authority in the state, the church, and the family, as an evil. They advocate for unbridled freedom of all kinds; defenders of what they regard as the rights of injured man, and yet secretly themselves lusting for the exercise of the very power which they would deny to others
 - ii. The tolerance movement is really a silencing movement
 - d. V. 11- The audacity of these men/women is without parallel in the angelic realm! See Jude 9 for more detailed explanation- most likely describing the same thing
 - i. Angels are greater than men- “a little lower than the angels...”
 - ii. Redeemed man will be made higher and rule over the angels
 - iii. Yet still, there is rank and authority that should not be defied!
 - iv. He is condescending of talk of the spiritual realm! Illustr- Joy Behar from the View
 - e. V. 12- brute beasts- destroying themselves
 - i. Illustr- Eskimo strategy catching wolves
 - ii. Self-destroying in fleshly pleasure. To make such pleasure the be-all and the end-all of life is a suicidal policy and in the end even the pleasure is

lost. The point Peter is making is this, and it is eternally valid--if a man dedicates himself to these fleshly pleasures, in the end he so ruins himself in bodily health and in spiritual and mental character, that he cannot enjoy even them. The glutton destroys his appetite in the end, the drunkard his health, the sensualist his body, the self-indulgent his character and peace of mind.

iii. The pleasures of the body are demonstrably subject to the law of diminishing returns. In themselves they lose their thrill, so that as time goes on it takes more and more of them to satisfy. The luxury must become ever more luxurious; the wine must flow ever more freely; everything must be done to make the thrill sharper and more intense. Further, a man becomes less and less able to enjoy these pleasures. He has given himself to a life that has no future and to pleasure which ends in pain.

f. V. 13- Riot in the day time- no shame or fear of God! Judgment is coming!

g. V. 14- They cannot even look without having an immoral thought- they have trained their minds to become like this. The power of habits!

i. They are not amateurs but experts in covetous practices/ sexual greed

h. On the wrong road- v. 15-16

i. Balaam was covetous

ii. He led people into sin

iii. False Prophet- The man who loves gain and lures people into sin

II. Their allurements- v. 17-19

a. V. 17-18- Think of a traveller in the desert being told that ahead lies a spring where he can quench his thirst and then arriving at that spring to find it dried up and useless. Think of the husbandman praying for rain for his parched crops and then seeing the cloud that promised rain blown uselessly by. They promise a gospel and in the end have nothing to offer the thirsty soul.

- b. V. 19- Freedom/liberty- Gal 5:13. The liberty these were offering was really slavery/bondage to lust
- III. Their latter end- v. 20-22
- a. A man should never forget the responsibility which knowledge brings. Peter ends with contempt. These evil men are like dogs who return to their vomit (Proverbs 26:11) or like a sow which has been scrubbed and then goes back to rolling in the mud. They have seen Christ but are so morally degraded by their own choice that they prefer to wallow in the depths of sin rather than to climb the heights of virtue.
 - b. From the entire description in this chapter, it is clear that the persons referred to, though once professors of faith in Christ, have abandoned that profession and are totally corrupt. Professors not possessors
 - c. A dog and a sow/pig are used- both unclean animals under the law. These prophets were unclean before the vomit and still unclean when they returned to them!
 - d. Matthew 12:43-45 does not show believers can lose their salvation, but rather the demonstration of their last state that their nature was still unclean and evil. Reformation is not enough- man needs regeneration!

Conclusion:

- Key Examples: Liberal Protestantism (Anglican, Lutheran, Methodists, Episcopalians, etc.), Universalism, Social Gospel/Liberation Theology, Theistic Evolution, Compromising Evangelicals.
- Denial of Verbal Plenary Inspiration, miracles, deity of Christ, Virgin Birth, etc.
- The battle of Fundamentalism vs. Liberalism
- How should we treat false teachers? See Romans 16:17-18, II Tim 2:16-18, I Tim 1:20