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a *Grace Notes* course

## **2 Peter**

### **Lesson 7**

#### **2 Peter 2:6 to 16**

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## 2 Peter Lesson 7

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**2 Peter***Course Outline*

There are ten (10) lessons in the 2 Peter course. Each lesson has a Quiz, to be completed and returned to Grace Notes after studying the lesson. Here is a list showing the portion of 2 Peter to be studied in each lesson.

Lesson 1	Introduction; 2 Peter 1:1 to 4
Lesson 2	2 Peter 1 :5 to 6
Lesson 3	2 Peter 1:7 to 9
Lesson 4	2 Peter 1:10 to 14
Lesson 5	2 Peter 1:15 to 21
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**2 Peter 2:6**

"and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly"

Peter gives three illustrations of divine judgment, all taken from the Book of Genesis. The first illustration is the angels who fell. The second is the flood generation. The third illustration of God's judgment is that against Sodom and Gomorrah, covering verses six through eight. Peter gives more space to this judgment than the other two, and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes

The word "turning" means to subvert or overthrow one's existence. These cities enter a state of total ruin, complete destruction. "Into ashes" means that God reduced Sodom and Gomorrah into complete ruin.

We get the term "sodomites" from the city of Sodom. Sodomites are people who pervert God's standard for sex.

Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom and eventually moved into Sodom (Genesis 13:12,13). Lot was Abram's nephew. He knew this city was wicked. Nevertheless, he took his wife and two daughters into this atmosphere. Eventually he became a politician there.

"Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom" (Genesis 19:1).

To sit in the "gate" during this time meant that you were a politician. Lot was an official in the town council of city hall. Imagine a man of God being an official in a city of homosexuals! He advanced his career in Sodom, but he lost his family there. He succeeded materially but lost his family. Money was more important than his family. That is the only thing that counts for some men.

While Lot entertained two messengers, homosexuals came demanding that Lot bring the men out to them.

"Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot and said to him, 'Where are the men who came to you tonight?

Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally" (Genesis 19:4-5).

The men of the city beat on Lot's door. He went out and tried to placate them (he had power as an official of the city). They would not be appeased but turned on Lot. The messengers reached out and rescued Lot. These messengers smote these men with blindness. Then God rained judgment on the city.

"Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the Lord out of the heavens. So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground" (Genesis 19:24-25).

Lot's wife lived in Sodom a long time. She had become prominent in social circles and women's clubs. God warned them, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed" (Genesis 19:17). She disobeyed God by looking behind to the city. She lost her life. She never made it to the city limits. Lot's daughters lost their morals and by the end of the chapter they were both pregnant by their own father. Although Lot was a carnal believer, God preserved him from the catastrophe at Sodom and Gomorrah.

**Principle**

Some of us are more interested in our careers than our family.

**Application**

Many of us advance our careers by compromising with the society around us. We put priority on business rather than our families and lose our families in the process. We succeed materially but lose our families. That means money is more important to us than our families. That is the only thing that counts for some of us.

**Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes**

Let us take a survey of how God views sodomy in the Bible. Even today, "Sodom and Gomorrah" is an idiom for degradation. Sodom and Gomorrah were filled with homosexuality (Genesis 19:4-5).

"There shall be no ritual harlot of the daughters of Israel, or a perverted one of the sons of Israel. You shall not bring the wages of a harlot or the price of a dog to the house of the Lord

your God for any vowed offering, for both of these are an abomination to the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 23:17).

Biblically, a "sodomite" is a sexual pervert. The sodomite in verse eighteen is the "dog" (with all apologies to the dog). Dogs have no interest in marriage.

"The whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning; it is not sown, nor does it bear, nor does any grass grow there, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the Lord overthrew in His anger and His wrath" (Deuteronomy 29:23)

God destroyed four cities in anger because of sexual perversion.

"The look on their countenance witnesses against them, And they declare their sin as Sodom; They do not hide it. Woe to their soul!" (Isaiah 3:9).

Isaiah tells of brazen, blatant homosexuals who have no shame. Today homosexuals want to come out of the closet.

"Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent: ....And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you" (Matthew 11:20,23-24).

The Lord Jesus is the speaker here. He says that homosexuality is a sin of greater degree. It is probably greater in the sense of the social consequences.

"They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed" (Luke 17:27-30).

### Principle

God views homosexuality as perversion.

### Application

It is interesting how God thinks about depravity in contrast to how present day evangelicalism thinks about it.

"Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due" (Romans1:27).

### condemned them to destruction

"Condemned" means appointed. When a nation rejects Bible doctrine, God appoints ingredients of destruction for that nation. A homosexual society is like a hand grenade with the pin pulled; it looms ready to explode society. When a military accepts homosexuals into its institutions, it incorporates "destruction" into its infrastructures. This will undermine social life as we know it.

We get our English word "catastrophe" from the Greek word for "destruction." Metaphorically, "destruction" comes to mean a state of total ruin, a disaster. God brought disaster on cities of homosexuality.

### making them an example

Sodom and Gomorrah are examples of God's hatred toward the sin of homosexuality, a sin of perversion. These cities were filled with male and female perverts. God made their cities an example to those who might live like they did in the future.

An "example" signifies a sign, a representation of a thing (Hebrews 9:23). Here is an example we are to avoid. Homosexuality is something to avoid in God's eyes.

When Lot went to Sodom and Gomorrah, he gradually learned to accept their sin and then live with them. Eventually he came to believe that their lifestyle was acceptable. Lot could have separated himself from these people, but he chose to live there.

God sent two messengers into town. A mob tried to rape the messengers (a society devolves into its maximum depravity when depravity develops into mobs). Lot would not let the mob have these two men. He brought out his daughters to give them to

the mob, but they would have none of it. They wanted men.

### **to those who afterward would live ungodly**

The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah foreshadow the coming judgment of God (3:7,10).

The idea of this phrase in the Greek is "those who are about to live ungodly." The "ungodly" here are unbelievers. People involved in homosexuality are non-God in their thinking.

### **Principle**

Homosexuality is ungodly in its orientation.

### **Application**

The Bible clearly views homosexuality as sin, not as a disease. It is more than unnatural; it is "ungodly." God's standards are altogether different than our society.

Homosexuality is not only unnatural, it is also a sin. Not only is it a sin, but it is also "ungodly." The Lord Jesus can deliver thieves from their evil. He can make drunkards sober. He makes immoral people clean. He can deliver sex perverts from obsessions. That is why the gospel is good news.

"As Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh (homosexuality), are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire" (Jude 7).

### **2 Peter 2:7**

"And delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked"

### **and delivered righteous Lot**

God "delivered" Noah. Now Peter alludes to another deliverance, the deliverance of Lot from the city of Sodom. "Delivered" means that God rescued Lot from the sins of Sodom.

"Righteous Lot" does not necessarily refer to his moral character. It refers to his judicial standing before God. Lot stood justified before God eternally. We would never suspect this from reading the Book of Genesis.

### **who was oppressed**

"Oppressed" means tormented, distressed with the implication of being worn out by this experience in a homosexual community. The New Testament uses this word two times, here and Acts 7:24. Lot was tormented by the overwhelming degradation all around him. This depravity overcame him and exhausted him.

Homosexuality tortured Lot's soul. Lot was distressed by the lawless sin of Sodom. It's sin wore him down because it exhausted his sense of right and wrong. Homosexuality in Sodom tormented and vexed his soul.

### **by the filthy conduct of the wicked**

These "wicked" people live a life of disgrace. They have little sense of decency. They are "past feeling" (Ephesians 4:19). "Filthy" means sexually debauched (2:2). These people live like dogs morally and have little sense of shame.

"Filthy" means to refuse to be subject to legal requirement. This is a lawless person, unruly. Lot was troubled by the lawlessness of the people of Sodom. The word "filthy" carries the idea of unprincipled (here and 3:17). Papyri uses this term for a father who breaks off his daughter's engagement because he learned that her fiancé gave himself over to lawlessness. This person refuses to be subjected to legal requirements of society. He was unruly, not complying with the law.

Homosexuality is a state of anarchy toward God. Homosexuality leads to lawlessness. They love to make a law out of their own abnormality. They want to call homosexuality normal. However, homosexuality is outside God's law. Sodom and Gomorrah lived under mob violence as well.

### **Principle**

God sometimes protects the believer from assaults.

### **Application**

Homosexuality is an assault both on God and humanity. Sometimes only God can deliver us from the assault of this society.

**2 Peter 2:8**

"(for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)"

Verse eight is parenthetical and interprets verse seven. This verse explains the personal torture that Lot went through in Sodom.

**(for that righteous man**

Lot was a man of God although his life did not manifest this at times.

**dwelling among them**

"Dwelling" comes from three words (to live, down and in) and means to live down among. The word "dwelling" thus carries the idea of settling down permanently in a community. Lot settled down among homosexuals. He lived there as a fixed dwelling or habitation. He made his home there. He felt at home among homosexuals and enjoyed their company. His social life was with them.

Why did Lot not move from Sodom before he got into so much trouble? "What? And lose his job?" Which would you rather lose, your job or your family?

**Principle**

When we compromise our standards because we enjoy the company of people, we put people over conviction.

**Application**

When we develop a process of thinking that lowers our standards we end in trouble. First, we think that people are nice although their sin is perversion. Then eventually we think that the sin is not so bad. The logic goes something like this: "Since they are nice people their sin must not be so bad." Therefore, we go along with the sins of sodomy because we like people.

Are you in an environment of sin and feeling comfortable there? You would rather switch than fight? This thinking puts maudlin thinking over conviction from God's Word.

**tormented his righteous soul**

Lot took a glance at the sin of Sodom and he was tormented by what he saw. "Tormented" carries

the idea of mental torture or torment. He was tormented by the lawless deeds he observed.

A person who is "tormented" experiences mental anxiety and sorrow about what he sees. What Lot saw tormented his heart. The sins of Sodom tormented his righteous (born again) soul. He knew enough truth that this situation tortured his soul.

**from day to day**

Lot's soul was tortured on a prolonged basis. The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah grieved and vexed Lot's soul. His soul was vexed day in and day out with their sin. Guilt was an ongoing feeling in Lot's soul. Evidently, he constructed a guilt complex in his soul.

**by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)**

Lot saw and heard too much. The sin of Sodom was blatant. It was out in the open much like it is in our day. When a civilization does not care about blatant sin in its society, that society begins to devolve. This was the testimony of the Greek and Roman civilizations. Those civilizations decayed from within and disappeared as world powers. Will historians in years to come write about the erosion of our society during our watch?

"Lawless" means unprincipled. Their deeds carried no standards. Lawlessness pertains to what is not consecrated or devoted to God--unholy, impious, and godless. Here it refers to people who do not subject themselves to God's law. The idea is not simply doing what is unlawful, but flagrant defiance of the known will of God about homosexuality.

**Principle**

A principle of victory over sin is not to build a platform for sin. That way, sin can't gain a foothold in our life.

**Application**

Lot was vexed, but he was not vexed enough to pick up his belongings and leave Sodom. He evidently didn't care enough for his daughters and his wife to leave when he should have. Are you in a situation where you are dwelling too long? Get out of the situation and do not allow a platform of sin to develop in your soul.

There is a valid separation from sin and even sinners (2 Corinthians 6:14). Many young women go into situations thinking that this is an opportunity for some fun but it ends in great pain for them. It would have been better for them to separate from that crowd in the beginning.

### 2 Peter 2:9

"Then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment"

Now we come to the point of Peter's thesis. God has know how. He knows how to deliver Christians out of trials. This is His punch line.

#### Then the Lord knows how

Peter formulates a conclusion drawn from the earlier illustrations. God sovereignly delivers the godly from the reversals of life, for He is never at a loss to deliver His people.

#### to deliver the godly out of temptations

The term "godly" means a person with awe for God. He holds reverence for God (Acts 10:2,7; Timothy 2:2,12; James 1:26). This is more than a godly belief, but a belief that lives out what one believes.

"Temptations" means tests or trials. God knows how to deliver people who revere God.

#### and to reserve the unjust under punishment

God keeps the wicked under guard, waiting for punishment. God is the cause of this punishment. God holds the ungodly in a holding hell.

God also has the "know how" to reserve the unjust for punishment. There is a "pay day some day" as Vance Havner used to say (Romans 6:23).

#### for the day of judgment

One day those without Christ must face the Great White Throne Judgment.

"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which

were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:11-15).

#### Principle

God has the "know how" to deliver us from trails or temptations.

#### Application

There is no doubt that the temptations teens face today are more insidious than a few years ago. Most youth today do not have what it takes to say "no" to temptation. They move with the herd and run with the crowd. Thank God that there are some who have the spiritual stuff to say "no" to temptation.

"Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me" (Psalm 50:15).

"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:12-13).

### 2 Peter 2:10

"And especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries"

Peter exposes the false teachers of his day. They were rebellious against truth. They brazenly opposed God's truth.

These apostates are not weak types who simply fall into sin; they are people who fly against the truth knowingly with their will.

#### and especially

"Especially" means chiefly. More than any other group, we need warning of this group more than others. "Above all, look out for these types." Their chief characteristic is that they walk according to the norm of their flesh. This is their outstanding



characteristic. This is a special category of false teachers.

"This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness" (Ephesians 4:17-19)

### **those who walk**

The word "walk" carries the idea of joining a certain person as an attendant and follower. Some people run after these leaders because of their lust orientation to life. "Lusts" are their norm for living. These types live by lust as their essential belief system. They pledge allegiance to lusts.

### **according to the flesh**

False teachers follow their own hearts. They refuse to bend under the authority of God's revelation. They bring the Bible under their authority. Their norm for life is their "flesh" which operates in "lust."

"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:7-8).

### **in the lust of uncleanness**

This is the motivation for false teaching--lust of uncleanness. These false teachers enter lusts that defile their orientation to truth. They change their standard of truth to fit their own corrupt nature.

The word "uncleanness" means pollution, corruption. It denotes the act of defiling rather than the defiling thing. This person is tainted and stained by evil. These false teachers enter lusts that defile their orientation to life. Their standard is their own corrupt nature.

"For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness" (1 Thessalonians 4:7).

Polluted motivation starts in the heart. Our sin capacity corrupts every part of our soul including our mind. Our mind and heart must find standards

of operation outside themselves. We only find absolutes in the Word of God.

### **Principle**

Immorality is at the base of false teaching.

### **Application**

Immorality is always at the base of false religion. Immorality and apostasy marry and live together intimately. Bible perversion and sex perversion go hand in hand.

When people reject biblical authority, they have no absolute to guide them in their conduct. They have no absolute to determine whether premarital sex is wrong. If you believe the Bible, that issue is not open for discussion. It is a closed issue because God declares Himself clearly on the subject. The Bible has the last word on the subject. We might as well start rethinking murder as to rethink premarital sex. No, God has spoken once and these issues are not debatable. Non-Christians have no compass for living, but Christians have a map to guide them through life. That map is the Bible.

Immorality is the motivation behind the rejection of the authority of God's Word in our lives. This is what spawns false teaching.

### **and despise authority**

"Authority" carries the ideas of ruling power, lordship, dominion. These people love to rule over others. False teachers hold the authority of God's Word in contempt. They deny their Lord. They do not want the Lord to have dominion over them.

"Despise" means to make of no account, to regard as nothing. The word "despise" means to think down upon. False teachers despise authority and treat God and His Word with contempt and scorn. Authority has no impact on them. False teachers held authority in contempt because God's Word violates their values.

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24).

**Principle**

The authority of God's Word is our only mooring in a society without an anchor for values.

**Application**

Once we reject the authority of the sovereign Son of God and the Word of God that reveals who He is, then we lose our moorings for truth. We have nothing to which we can anchor our soul.

We spawn a generation that despises authority. People reject the authority of the home, work, government and church. They despise any kind of authority.

Children soon learn when ground rules of the home are not enforced. They know that those rules do not mean anything. They carry that into school and do not respect authorities at university. All this begins with the rejection of the Bible as final authority. A civilization without ultimate authority will result in anarchy.

Religion loves to ridicule the Bible. There is a fundamental attitude problem in great areas of religion today. No wonder people have little respect for God.

**They are presumptuous**

"Presumptuous" means bold, daring. These people shamelessly dare God's authority. They dare His truth to have any effect on them. These people are "bold" in the sense that they carry no shame. They are audacious people. They are particularly arrogant and dominated by self-interest.

These people so overvalue their own goals that they do not honor the goals of others. They are totally inconsiderate of others. They have no dread of authority. They are so bold as to challenge or even defy danger. They are bold toward God's authority.

**Principle**

Presumption precludes us from finding God's truth.

**Application**

Presumptuous people have over-confidence in their own world view without adequate knowledge to make decisions. These people can be brazen or bold in the bad sense. They take undue liberties

(not freedoms) with the Word of God. They fly in the face of God's authority. They presume to know more than anyone else does.

A plumber cannot tell a brain surgeon how to remove a tumor from the brain. Today many people give their opinion on how to get to heaven. Their opinion is irrelevant because they are not the ultimate authority on getting to heaven. Television shows are filled with ignorant people giving ignorant answers to things of which they know nothing. If we come to God, we must come to God His way. We must come to the cross and there find forgiveness for our sins. There we will receive pardon and a guarantee of eternal life. We can no more tamper with the gospel than we can tamper with the multiplication table.

Beware of half-truths; you may have gotten hold of the wrong half! It is twice as hard to crush a half-truth as a whole lie.

**self-willed**

"Self-willed" people are stubborn, contumacious and presumptuous. They are self-pleasing. They delight in themselves. They are dominated by self-interest and do not take others into consideration. They arrogantly assert their own will over others. They so overvalue their own opinion that they do not consider any other opinion. This is arrogance of self-will. They think that they are so much better than anyone else that they look down on others. This implies that they are better than others.

This self-will is in reference to God. "I know better than God."

**Principle**

Self-will places itself sovereign over God's will.

**Application**

All Christians have a titanic tug of war between their divine and human natures. The human nature, however, dominates non-Christians. They do what they please without any restraint except the restraint of the mores of their society. If society can stretch its conscience like a rubber tape measure then individuals can justify any action they want. Christians cannot do this because they have no confidence in the flesh.

"For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh..." (Philippians 3:3).

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find" (Romans 7:18).

The "flesh" has areas of strength whereby it produces acts of religion and morality, but is still raw flesh. God never uses the flesh, converts the flesh, refines the flesh or educates the flesh. He bypasses the flesh.

Religion makes the flesh respectable and passes it off as a substitute for the fruit of the Spirit. The Devil has a thriving business in the area of religion. His emphasis is not to down brothels and bars, but to hold false religion as supreme. He focuses his attention on launching religions.

Religion is his ace trump. If he can deceive by religion, he will lead many astray. He loves nice, cultured, educated, religious people who reject the blood of the cross as the only way of salvation. Religion is the substitute for the real thing.

### **They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries**

These people do not fear dignitaries. They have no respect for authority. The Greek word behind "speak evil" is the word from which we get our English word "blasphemy." "Speak evil" carries the idea of slander.

False prophets are not afraid to speak evil against God. This has to do with the way they treat the Bible. They leave innuendoes and inferences about the Bible's lack of trustworthiness. They speculate that the Bible came from man, not God. These people are not afraid to blaspheme God.

The point is not that God is a bogeyman who demands people to fall in trepidation before Him. False prophets are so arrogant that they show no respect at all for "glorious beings."

### **Principle**

We should submit our will to God's will.

### **Application**

The Bible tells the truth as it is. The ugly picture in this verse has to do with religious leaders whose lives revolve around themselves. They are "false

teachers" (2:1). These false teachers are in Christendom but not in true Christianity. These baptized infidels occupy many pulpits of Christendom. They throw out the authority of the Bible and substitute it with New Age philosophy. Their motivation is for themselves.

To listen to blasphemy about Jesus Christ is like listening to someone calling your mother names. You do not stand for that. That is not open to debate. Blasphemy is not open to debate because it flies in the face of the Word of God. Do you fly in the face of God's Word. Do you disregard His authority at His expense? Are you dominated by self-interest?

Mere religion cannot help human nature. People will do what comes naturally. Are you so bull-headed and stiff-necked that you cannot recognize any authority but your own?

### **2 Peter 2:11**

"Whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord"

### **whereas angels who are greater in power and might**

Angels are greater in "power and might" than men. That means that they are greater than false teachers.

### **do not bring a reviling accusation against them**

Good angels do not revile false teachers. We have a case in point in Jude 8 "Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'" (8-9). Michael did not blaspheme the Devil but said "The Lord rebuke you." Yet, these apostates will blaspheme any authority.

The exception to this is the Devil himself. He keeps a file on each one of us (Revelation 12:9-10; Job 1:6-11; Zechariah 3:1-2). He accuses the believer before the throne of God. He finds out our sins by a demonic CIA. Then he mentions our sins before God.

**before the Lord**

When good angels gather in convocation, they do not bring accusations against these false teachers.

**Principle**

It is important to respect authority no matter how evil that authority.

**Application**

Respect of authority is an operating principle of the Word of God. This verse carries that idea to any authority. It is not right to "blaspheme" false teachers. This does not mean that we cannot criticize them. Every second book of the New Testament criticizes false teachers--2 Thessalonians, 2 Timothy or even 2 Peter.

Satan accuses us before the Lord. However, Jesus is our defense attorney (2 John 2:1-2). He defends our case. His case is perfect.

**2 Peter 2:12**

"But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption..."

Jude and 2 Peter are analogous books. 2 Peter 2:12 is parallel to Jude 10.

"But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves" (Jude 10).

**But these**

Having shown that false teachers are inferior to angels, Peter now shows how low they are on the totem pole of human beings.

**like natural brute beasts**

Peter now illustrates the nature of false teachers with animals that have no reason. They operate on instinct, not their mind. They do what comes naturally. Their instinct is to peddle false doctrine.

False teachers are like animals that function from instinct and do not derive truth from the Word. "Brute beasts" means "belonging to nature." Wild animals follow their appetites. Apostates follow their natural drives. They are like foxes or bears in the wilderness.

**made to be caught and destroyed**

We treat false teachers like wild animals who we either capture or kill. This is severe language and indicates how serious Peter is about heresy. False teachers need to be hunted down and "destroyed." False teaching is an issue to deal with decisively.

**speak evil of the things they do not understand**

"Speak evil" here means to malign. They love to malign the truth. They malign salvation by grace.

Ignorance is the cause of much false teaching. God does not divulge His truth to false teachers no matter how brilliant they might be.

"But the natural man (non-Christian) does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14).

No matter how much university education a person may have, one cannot extract truth from God's Word.

"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:7-8).

No matter what mental horsepower people might have, the Bible is a closed book to them. The Bible is a book where knowing the Author is a prerequisite to understanding what it says. Once we know the Author, the Bible opens up to us no matter how little education we might have. If we are born again, we have a built-in Bible Teacher, the Holy Spirit.

**and will utterly perish in their own corruption**

"Corruption" here may be the corruption of eternal damnation. Their teaching puts them in jeopardy of God's wrath. They have a terrible future (2:1,3). Their only hope is to embrace Jesus as their Savior.

**Principle**

We are to think of false teachers as wild animals.

**Application**

The instinct of false teachers is to bring out false doctrine. They will confuse and distort as best as they can. They have an instinct for religion

without the mutual exclusive message of Jesus Christ.

The instinct of false teachers is to bypass the Word of God in favor of their own distorted thinking.

We have the Word of God in our hands and the Spirit of God in our hearts. Therefore, we can both understand and apply the Word of God to our experience. A person who never sees the inside of a university can know more of the Bible than a PhD in religion. Anyone can know how far Jericho is from Jerusalem, but only those who truly know God can know how dark our soul is before God.

### 2 Peter 2:13

"And will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you..."

We are in a section of Second Peter that describes false teachers (2:10-22). This is a detailed description of false teachers who infiltrated the first century church.

#### and will receive the wages of unrighteousness

False teachers will face the result of their false teaching one day.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

#### as those who count it pleasure

These people love pleasure and sensation. They operate in the sphere of sensual pleasures. Pleasure is what gratifies them.

#### to carouse in the daytime.

Most people use the night-time to live it up. The word "carouse" means a breaking down, especially of the mind and thus to make effeminate. The word comes to mean luxury or indulgence. These people esteem daytime luxury a pleasure. This marks greater degeneracy. They think life should be entirely and totally entertainment. Their mind is so broken down that they live constantly in indulgence. They hold the opinion that people should not have to work. These false teachers are "swingers."

#### They are spots

A "spot" is a moral blemish. In the first century, people had very poor table manners. They did not use utensils like we do today. They generally used their hands for eating except for a knife. They dropped food on the front of their clothing and carried many stains on their clothes. The movie industry today depicts people of the first century as glamorous, which is not an accurate view of lifestyle in that day. In addition, their clothes carried odors from the spots of food.

Here, the idea is a person who lives a lascivious lifestyle. False teachers have a stain on their character.

#### and blemishes

A "blemish" is a stain. It carries the idea of blame, shame and disgrace. If we go to a formal gathering with gravy stains on our white shirt, this is a "blemish." This is a moral disgrace. False teachers are a disgrace and shame to society.

#### carousing in their own deceptions

The word "carousing" carries the idea of revel or sport. These false teachers are caught in the web of their own lies and revel in their own web.

False teachers deceive especially by false statements. They try to get away with their false lifestyles by deception. They break you down by wining and dining you. They love to woo you.

#### while they feast with you

To "feast" means to entertain sumptuously with. While they advocate false doctrine by wooing you into their system, they laugh up their sleeves. Often people with money go for false teachers because they cater to their depravity.

#### Principle

People love false teaching because much false teaching justifies sinful lifestyles.

#### Application

People who go into false teaching to justify their sin ultimately end in misery. They think that they are having a ball, but the results of sin take their toll. To gain greater pleasure they go deeper and deeper into sin. Whether it is gambling, booze or immorality, they need more and more to satisfy

themselves. They finally reach a stage where nothing satisfies them. Some commit suicide. They have nothing or no one for which they live.

It is very difficult to distinguish sheep from goats anymore. Saved sheep wear goatskins and unsaved goats wear sheepskins. It is difficult to tell the difference between saints and sinners anymore.

### 2 Peter 2:14

"Having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children"

#### having eyes full of adultery

"Having eyes full of adultery" is literally having eyes full of an adulteress. They think only of adultery when they see women.

When these false teachers reject the Bible, they also reject the standards for morality of the Bible. There are no true absolutes outside the Bible. Apostasy and immorality are twins; they journey together hand in hand.

We commit adultery with our "eyes" before we commit adultery with our body (Matthew 5:28; Lamentations 3:51). Men love to ogle women. They leer at them. Some women, knowing this, dress to draw sexual attention to themselves.

This is not overt adultery, but the adultery of the heart. The "eye" is the window to the soul. Some people would never commit physical adultery but they are involved in heavy and extensive mental adultery. The word "having" indicates that this is ongoing mental adultery.

Note that their eyes are "full" of adultery. Their eyes are satiated with mental adultery. Their eyes reach the full measure of mental adultery. They are satiated with adultery but not satisfied sexually.

#### and that cannot cease from sin

They are inane in their sin. They cannot stop sinning. False teachers cannot stop their orientation to adultery. Their wills are unable to stop. They are inveterate sinners and cannot help but follow their belief systems. Their built-in belief system manifests itself in a lifestyle that matches their beliefs.

#### Principle

What we believe and what we do are twins.

#### Application

Some churches smile on immorality. It is sad that even churches will not hold to biblical standards. Some people look for churches that will justify their sin.

Somewhere between the cradle and the grave, these people must be confronted with the gospel. There is no hope for them otherwise. Without the gospel they cannot cease from sin. Their lust patterns are so inveterate and built-in that they cannot stop sinning. Their belief system keeps them from victory over sin.

Christians who allow themselves to become sated with mental adultery are headed for spiritual disaster. God has given Christians the power to overcome sin (Romans 6:14).

#### enticing unstable souls.

The deception of the false teachers aims at alluring others into their system. The word "enticing" originally meant to catch by using bait. The word "entice" means to lure. False teachers lead people astray because what they say sounds so feasible.

False teachers look for "unstable" people. They look for the naive and gullible. Some people will swallow anything. Apostates get their victims from untaught or poorly taught Christians. They are susceptible to error. Religion often appeals to them more than truth.

"That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting..." (Ephesians 4:14).

"But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways" (James 1:6-8).

#### Principle

Stability comes by knowing God's Word.

**Application**

Do you blow hot then blow cold? Are you enthusiastic about God's will one week and the next week you live in defeat? If you are this way, you're an excellent candidate for false teaching. False teachers look for people like you.

Religious con men will take you into their confidence. By this, they sell you a bill of goods. They never say everything they believe. They make it sound like they are evangelical in belief. You do not find out what they believe until you buy into their system. Superficial types will be swept away by the superficial.

Some people are swept into false doctrine because they are hurt in church. They are unhappy with the leadership or with what someone says about them. Someone will meet them and appeal to their hurts. These people are prime targets for entering into error.

False teachers constantly peddle diabolical propaganda on every hand. The propaganda sounds so feasible. People buy into appearance. The only way to gain stability of soul is to establish ourselves in the Word of God.

**2 Peter 2:15**

"They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness"

False teaches are predatory (vv. 15,16). Peter gives Baalam as an illustration of someone who used religion for his own greed. He was a prototype of a religious predator.

**They have forsaken the right way**

These false teachers knew the "right (straight) way" but they, by their own volition, rejected truth right in the face of it. They were at the point of truth, but they left it behind. They abandoned it with finality. They abandoned what they knew to be true.

**and gone astray**

The words "gone astray" come from one Greek word meaning deceive by leading into error, to seduce (Malachi 24:4,5,11,24). False teachers love to twist truth. They make what is false seem like truth.

**following the way of Balaam the son of Beor**

Balaam's error was to make merchandise of spiritual gifts. He sold his spiritual services for money. He held out for more money and got it. The story of Balaam is found in Numbers 22-24 and 31. Baalam encouraged the Moabites to trick Israelite men into illicit relationships with Moabite women (Numbers 31:16). As a professional curser, he did his work so well that it put the entire nation of Israel into jeopardy. He placed a hex on Israel by waging psychological warfare on it.

Here is a man who got his name in the Bible as an infamous character. He now would like to get his name out of the Bible but he cannot. No people ever call their new baby "Balaam." This is a man who got into a debate with a jackass and the jackass won the debate (Numbers 22)!! The jackass had more sense than Balaam.

The word "following" means to follow up, or to follow out to the end. The idea is to follow extensively in a dependent manner. People today, following Balaam's example, extensively use religion for their own financial gain.

**who loved the wages of unrighteousness**

Balaam was in the religion business for a fast buck. There is nothing wrong with legitimate business. As well, there is nothing wrong with ambition. God does not put premium on laziness. Balaam was in business to make a shady dollar out of religion. He loved the "rewards of divination" (Numbers 22:7,11).

False teachers might get their financial reward in time but they will get another reward in eternity. Inordinate love of money causes some people to distort the truth. This is an issue of money motivation.

**Principle**

Look out for religious fakers who are in religion for money.

**Application**

There are more fakers, phonies and unregenerate preachers today than ever before in history. Many churches preach almost anything but the gospel. You can hear New Age philosophy or how to become more successful, but not the gospel. They

reject the Bible and the message of the Bible. Today, some television preachers are in it strictly for the money. It is apparent who they are. It is amazing to me how so many evangelicals buy into their sham religion.

**2 Peter 2:16**

"But he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet"

**but he was rebuked for his iniquity:**

A jackass rebuked Balaam. The Holy Spirit has a great sense of humor here. He took a jackass to reprimand and blame Balaam.

"Iniquity" is lawlessness. By using his spiritual gift for monetary gain, Balaam entered lawlessness. His lawlessness continued by luring young Israeli men into a situation where young girls paraded in front of them. He said in effect, "Let nature take its course." He led these young Jewish men into immorality.

**a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice**

Here a jackass is smarter than Balaam.

"Speaking" here is bombastic speaking. He not only spoke but he preached a sermon.

**restrained the madness of the prophet**

Balaam was cut off at the pass when he heard the jackass speak. Balaam was "mad" because he was blinded by his love for money.

**Principle**

God can use any vehicle to communicate his truth.

**Application**

If God can take a jackass and turn it into a preacher, then He can use you and your message. When you think you have arrived as a great communicator, just remember Balaam's ass!