

## Fact Sheet for “Where Are You?” 2 Peter 2:10b-22

Pastor Bob Singer  
07/31/2016

Read 2 Peter 2:10b-22. What can we gain from a passage like this? We will go through the passage in more detail, but I want to start out with a biblical line of thinking.

What is the real problem with the people Peter is describing? What is the real problem with people? You have to go all the way back to the Garden of Eden. God created Adam and Eve without a sin nature. That is something they gained when they chose to sin in Genesis chapter 3. In chapter 4 Cain's sin nature led him to kill Abel. Then God put a mark on Cain so no one would kill him. Later in that chapter one of Cain's descendants, Lamech, killed someone and then proclaimed his own protection from being killed. In chapter 6 we read of God's judgment (Genesis 6:5-8). But Noah and his family still had sin natures, as did people in Peter's day and as do we.

True Christians have something that helps us counteract the desires of our sin natures... the indwelling Holy Spirit. We also hold to something that gives authoritative direction for living... the Bible (2 Peter 1:19). Peter was writing about false prophets and teachers who were among the Christians in Asia Minor. They had neither the Holy Spirit nor a dedication to the Word of God. And yet they presented themselves as part of the church. Their motivations were rooted in their sin natures.

Peter began to warn of these false prophets and teachers in 2:1. Remember that Christ's sacrifice was sufficient for everyone but efficient only for those who place their faith in Him.

Peter's goal in this letter is to encourage the true Christians to righteousness (2 Peter 1:3-4) and to warn against false teachers.

ESV 10b **Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones,<sup>11</sup> whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord.**

“Bold and willful” – presumptuous, proud, arrogant, brazen, self-willed

“they blaspheme the glorious ones” – a reference to angels.

What the content of their words were one can only surmise, but you can be sure that they were rejecting any call to righteousness.

*By the way, you also want to read Jude which bears clear and striking similarities to our passage today.*

<sup>12</sup> **But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, (1) blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, (2) <sup>13</sup> suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. (3) They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. (4) They are blots and blemishes, (5) reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. (6) <sup>14</sup> They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. (7) They entice unsteady souls. (8) They have hearts trained in greed. (9) Accursed children!**

“While they feast with you” – love feasts and communion (see Jude 1:12).

“They entice unsteady souls” – immature Christians

“They have hearts trained in greed” – a powerful motivation from the sin nature

*Have you begun thinking about the “Christian” groups that have been influenced by false teachers, and the characters of these false teachers? There surprising similarities.*

<sup>15</sup> **Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, <sup>16</sup> but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.**

A bottom line was that these false prophets and teachers loved money, just like Balaam. The story of Balaam is found in Numbers 22-24. Although God would not allow him to pronounce a curse on Israel, Balaam counseled a way to destroy Israel so that he could still realize a good payday from Balak king of Moab (Numbers 31:16; 25:1; Revelation 2:14).

<sup>17</sup> ¶ **These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved.**

This means eternal punishment.

<sup>18</sup> **For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping (ἀποφεύγω) from those who live in error. <sup>19</sup> They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes (ἡττάω succumb to) a person, to that he is enslaved.**

“those who are barely escaping” – those considering Christ, and perhaps immature believers

“They promise them freedom” – Freedom from God’s authority will actually lead to enslavement to sin. They offer no real freedom at all.

One person put it this way... “the heretics are like a 300-pound man selling diet books”.

Verse 19 ends with “For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.” This is a statement that is true for everyone.

<sup>20</sup> **For if, after they have escaped (ἀποφεύγω) the defilements of the world through the knowledge (ἐπίγνωσις true knowledge, used especially of intensive religious and moral knowledge, what one comes to know and appropriate through faith in Christ) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome (ἡττάω succumb to), the last state has become worse for them than the first.**

Who is “they”? Look at the word for “knowledge”. Duane Dunham, a former Greek professor at Western Seminary, wrote that new believers are warned against being “caught up” into a life of carnality... only to find that there is even less pleasure, less fulfillment than before they were saved.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>21</sup> **For it would have been better for them never to have known (ἐπιγινώσκω) the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.**

“the way of righteousness” – This does not equal “becoming a Christian” but rather a knowledge of what is right and wrong.

For the young Christians this would put their Christian walk on the rocks.

<sup>22</sup> **What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit<sup>2</sup>, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."**

The sin nature infects every person living. It corrupts people from every political party, and people from every race and walk of life. Politics is not the answer to men’s ills, Christ is! Where are you? Have you placed your faith in Christ? Do you have the indwelling Holy Spirit or not? Do you know your Bible? Are you following it? Have you succumbed to the sin nature? Please walk up to any mature Christian and simply say, “I need to talk.” I’m sure they will be willing to give you the time and answers you need.

---

<sup>1</sup> “An Exegetical Study of 2 Peter 2:18-22”, Bibliotheca Sacra 140. January-March, 1983:51.

<sup>2</sup> Proverbs 26:11.