

## 2 Peter 2:10b-22

### Candid: Better To Have Never Known The Way

#### Introduction:

1. This Chapter is about False Teachers and Apostasy
2. How does apostasy happen?
3. How did these false teachers get to the point where they denied Christ and walked away from the True Faith?
4. There is a way for a person to begin with zeal for the Kingdom of God, and in time deny the faith
5. If that happens, they show themselves never to have been saved in the first place (**1 John 2:19**)
6. Example: *The Parable of the Sower of the Seeds*

#### The Main Idea of 2 Peter 2:10b-22

**False teachers and their followers will be destroyed in the end. Beware of them. Persevere and be found secure in the Lord Jesus, lest you fall for their empty promises.**

#### Four Roads Which Lead To False Teaching & Apostasy

1. **Pride (vv 10b-13)**
  - a. Loathe Authority – Deny Christ (**2 Pet 2:1**)
  - b. Willful & Arrogant Blasphemy of Spiritual Things
    - i. God's Elect Angels do not Judge Fallen Angels
    - ii. Authority lies with God (**See Jude 8-10**)
    - iii. False Teachers are presumptuous, self-appointed authorities (nothing to repent of...)
    - iv. Christians are humble, teachable, repentant
  - c. Foolish & Beastly Conduct – no regard for their ways or the consequences of their actions
  - d. Ignorant of Gospel Truth: Scorn Christ's Command
  - e. Blots & Blemishes: Taint the purity of the Church
    - i. Jesus was a lamb without spot or blemish
    - ii. Christ's Church: washed, presented to Christ without spot or wrinkle (**1 Pt 1:19, Eph 5:25-7**)
2. **Lust (v 14a)**
  - a. Women are not sisters in the faith, but sex objects
  - b. They do not hide it – Insatiable (Unquenchable)
  - c. Sinful Desire is NEVER Satisfied – it wants more
  - d. False teachers are predators who prey on women
  - e. False teachers prey on unsteady souls: new or weak in faith

### 3. Greed (vv 14b-16)

- a. Christians use money as a tool to demonstrate Christ as a treasure, not monetary wealth
  - b. Christians hold onto their possessions loosely
  - c. False teachers are obsessed with money – trained (literally “gymned”) in greed
  - d. Like the False Prophet Balaam (**Numbers 22-24**)
    - i. Willing to sell out and curse Israel for pay from the princes of Moab
    - ii. Shameful: Prophet was blind – did not see the angel; Was supposed to speak the Word of God
    - iii. The true prophet that day was the Donkey
  - e. Are you like Christ who gave up everything for others? How do you deal with greed? (**Phil 2:6-8**)
  - f. Opposite of Greed: Generosity and Contentment
4. **False Words & False Belief (vv 17-19; Luke 6:45)**
    - a. Waterless Springs, Rainless Clouds – Empty Promises which only disappoint and never satisfy
    - b. The heart's longings are only satisfied by Jesus
    - c. *Entice those who barely escape those who live in error* → new converts to the faith
      - i. Discipleship is Imperative, Imitate the wise believer, Growth in Faith/Maturity is essential
      - ii. Do not remain a sitting duck for apostates
    - d. Christian Liberty = Slave to Righteousness
    - e. Worldly Liberty = Slave to Sin

#### Earthly Outcome For False Teachers/Apostates (vv 20-22)

1. Become worse than when they first heard the Gospel
2. They clean up the outside, but inwardly they are empty
3. The Holy Spirit does not indwell them, they are not regenerate = become worse by going back to worldliness
4. Like Dogs who ingest their own vomit and cleaned Pigs which go back to the mud (**Proverbs 26:11**)

#### Ultimate, Eternal Outcome For False Teachers/Apostates

1. Destruction and Cursedness (**Hebrews 6:4-6**)
2. Greater Revelation means Greater Responsibility
3. This text is not hypothetical: Apostasy happens
  - a. Esau, King Saul, Judas Iscariot
4. Warning: People will start the race, and not finish because they never knew Christ to begin with
5. Hope: The Prodigal Son can return to His Father