

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 1, 2009

Passage: 2 Peter 2:10b-16

Memory Passage: 2 Peter 2:12

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 2:10b-11.** In your own words describe the kind of people the false teachers might be like? Is it wrong to be bold? What kind of boldness is good and what kind of boldness is bad (Romans 15:18; 2 Corinthians 4:18-19; 10:15-18; Philippians 1:14; Philemon 8-9)?

(b) Who does the term “glorious ones” (ESV) or “dignitaries” (NKJV) refer to (See Jude 8-9)? What comparison can be drawn from verses 10b-11 and Jude 8-9? What is Peter’s point in making this comparison?

(c) What do you know of angels? What are some of the things that angels are doing in these passages (Jude 8-9; Daniel 10:2-14, 20-21; Deuteronomy 32:8-9 (ESV); Matthew 13:41-42; 1 Corinthians 11:10; Isaiah 6:2-3)?

(d) Why might it be good to remember that there is a conflict being waged that we cannot see (Ephesians 6:10-13)? According to this passage, how should we think about angels both good and evil?

(e) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 2:10b-11. Talk about some of the things that you have learned or know about angels and their roles. Is it ever okay to speak evil or slander someone? Why would it be even worse to speak about angels in such a way? What does James 4:11-12 tell us about speaking evil against each other? Read Ephesians 4:29. Try to follow this verse for the rest of the day. Pray that God would help you to be an encouragement to others in all you say and do.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 2:12.** How does the way that the false teachers are acting reflect them being like animals? Why is the analogy with animals used?

(b) What does Paul say has led all non-Christians to behave like this in Romans 1:20-25? How does James in James 1:14-15 warn us against the desires of the flesh?

(c) What hope do we have of overcoming such impulses of the flesh (Galatians 5:24)? What is the status of something that is crucified? Why is that we still feel defeated by the lusts of the flesh (Galatians 5:16-17)? What does it mean to walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:25; 3:3)?

(d) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 2:12 and Galatians 5:16-17. What is causing these false teachers to be so sinful? How can we not be free from the instincts of our sin nature? What does Galatians 5:24 say about Christians and the flesh? What does it mean that the flesh has been crucified? What does it mean to walk by the Spirit? Pray that you would walk by the strength of the Holy Spirit and not your own strength.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 2:13-14.** What is going to be the wage or result of their wrongdoing (Revelation 22:12)? How is their judgment going to be worse according to James 3:1?

(b) Is verse 13 saying it is wrong to have a feast or a party (Isaiah 55:22)? What is wrong about the nature of the false teacher’s revelry (Ecclesiastes 10:16-17; Isaiah 5:11-12)?

(c) What is the significance of calling them blots or blemishes to their feasts (Leviticus 1:3; 21:21; 2 Peter 3:14)? What is the nature of these feasts (Jude 12; Acts 2:46)?

(d) Compare this list against Titus 1:6-9. How does one list help us read the other? What are some of the parallels that stick out to you? Is anything in one list not mentioned in the other?

(e) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 2:13-14 and Titus 1:6-9. Talk about why it is so necessary to have a godly elder in light of the list in 2 Peter. What are the false teachers focused upon above everything else? What does it seem like godly elders are most concerned about? Why do you think that Peter makes it so clear that the false teachers will get their due reward? Pray that the Lord would give you the strength to be like the men described in Titus.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 2:15 and Proverbs 2:6-15.** How does the Lord protect us from following down the wrong path? What are the things listed in this passage from Proverbs that will keep us from the way of the fool? What are the characteristics of someone who walks uprightly (Isaiah 33:15; Hosea 14:9)?

(b) How does the Lord present the way of blessing and the way of curse in Deuteronomy 11:26-28? How have these false teachers gone after other gods? What are some of the prevailing foreign gods of our day? What is to be our role when we see someone wandering off the wrong path (James 5:19-20)?

(c) In John 14:4-7, Jesus states that He is the only way to the Father. He is the way to salvation, and He is the only way to grow closer to the Lord. Why is it so important to go back to Jesus and look to Him when we have fallen into sin? Why is it easy to forget to go back to Jesus even after we've recognized our sinfulness?

(d) *Family* Read Proverbs 2:6-15. Talk about the important role that wisdom plays in protecting us from sin. How can we not be a fool according to this passage? What happens if we fail to listen to what is wise? Who is it that gives wisdom? Pray that the Lord might give you wisdom in all things through His word and the wisdom of others.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Peter 2:15-16 and Numbers 22-24.** Summarize Numbers 22-24 in your own words. What is Balaam's intent in going to Moabites? What is it that causes God to stop Balaam after God had told him to go? How important does it seem to God to not only do the right thing but to have the right motives?

(b) How does God watch over the Israelites? How does this help us see how God can use even the evil teachers for His purposes? What warning does this serve for us concerning the love for money?

(c) How does the giving of the Macedonians in 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 compare with the attitude of these false teachers? How does it compare with the attitude of your giving? Why should you be able to give like this and it not be considered foolish (Matthew 6:28-34)?

(d) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 2:15-16. Summarize the story of Balaam by reading some of the passages. What was it that motivated Balaam more than anything? What happens when we love our money too much? How does the giving of the Macedonians in 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 compare with the attitude of these false teachers? Why are they able to give like this and it not be considered foolish (Matthew 6:28-34)? Pray that God would give you a heart like the Macedonians that seeks to give out of what God has given to you.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read 2 Peter 2:10b-16. Does your life in any way reflect the lives of these false teachers? Are there any idols in your life that are distracting your attention and affections away from God? How about the list of qualifications for elders, are you lacking in any of those? How could you develop those godly qualities in your life? Pray that God would give you a passion and a humble desire for His holiness and would protect you from such teachers as Peter talks about.

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The Character of Counterfeits

"They are blots and blemishes..."