

## **WHEN A DOG RETURNS TO ITS VOMIT** (2 Peter 2:18-22)

### **A. The WARNING about FALSE TEACHERS Who PERVERT GRACE. (2:18-20a)**

- 1. What is the general and specific context of this passage?**
- 2. Who are the “they” and “the ones” in verse 18?**
- 3. Who are the “they” and the “them” of verse 19?**
- 4. What method and message do these false teachers use to attract new believers? (2:18-19)**
- 5. Are the “they” and “them” of verse 20 - believers or unbelievers?**

**Summary:** For when they {unsaved false teachers} speak great swelling words of emptiness, they {unsaved false teachers} allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones {new believers} who have actually {recently} escaped from those who live in error. 19 While they {unsaved false teachers} promise them {new believers} liberty, they {the unsaved false teachers} themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. 20 For if, after they {new believers} have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they {the new believers} are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them {the new believers} than the beginning.

- What does all this assume and reminds us of?
  - 1) This reminds us that Peter knew there was a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ raging, and if Satan cannot blind the minds of the unsaved so that they come to faith in Christ, he then wants to use \_\_\_\_\_ to derail their spiritual growth and service / witness for Christ to others. (2 Peter 3:17-18)
  - 2) This assumes that believers are \_\_\_\_\_ correctly and that there are people who have been \_\_\_\_\_. (Mark 16:15; Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 9:16)
  - 3) This reminds us of the importance of personal \_\_\_\_\_ of new believers, and the importance of believers being \_\_\_\_\_ by sound doctrine and \_\_\_\_\_ by personal fellowship with spiritual believers, and ideally being connected with a solid \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Thess.3:1-5; Acts 14:21-23)
- What are two ditches to avoid & a third that’s in the woods, & how do these reflect themselves in our day?
- How does this relate to the book of Jude and 2 Peter 2:2? What does this teach us about “the perseverance of the saints” vs. eternal security?

## B. The SERIOUS EFFECTS of False Teaching Upon NEW BELIEVERS. (2:20b-22)

### 1. In what way is the “latter end worse than the beginning”?

**What is it not saying:** It is not referring to the \_\_\_\_\_, for then the latter end would be the same as the beginning. In addition, this interpretation would \_\_\_\_\_ many other passages on eternal security.

**What this is teaching:** It is referring to the practical \_\_\_\_\_ that results from embracing false teaching being worse than \_\_\_\_\_ salvation in the sense that they now \_\_\_\_\_ and have the \_\_\_\_\_ to live in practical victory over the world.

### 2. What is the “way of righteousness” and “the holy commandment” referring to?

- a. It is *not* referring to \_\_\_\_\_ for it would be better for someone to be saved and later entangled than never saved at all.
- b. It is referring to the Christian \_\_\_\_\_, and the holy commandment is found in 1 Peter 1:13-19.
  - How is the “way of righteousness” communicated in the Proverbs? (2:20, 8:20, 12:28; 16:31)
  - This will be reinforced later in this epistle in \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. Why did Peter say. “For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.”

### 4. What is the “true proverb” that Peter uses to illustrate and reinforce his point? “*But it has happened to them according to the true proverb:*

- a. “*A dog returns to his own vomit,*” {Prov. 26:11} and,
- b. “*a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.*”

### 5. What is the point of both sayings? How does this tie into 2 Peter 1:9?

**Summary:** For if, after they {new believers} have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they {the new believers} are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them {the new believers} than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them {the new believers} not to have known the way of righteousness {Christian living by grace in a righteous walk} than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them {1 Peter 1:15-16}. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” {Prov. 26:11} and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

### Applications:

- 1) For *new believers* about getting established & warned about false teaching & severe carnality:
- 2) For *older believers* about assisting new believers in the growth process:
- 3) For *pastors and teachers* regarding feeding and protecting the sheep, the need for repetition, the use of illustrations, knowing your audience, etc.