

Profile of a Destructive Minister - 2 Peter 2:10b-22

Introduction

A. Review: Last week we listened to the words of our crucified, risen, reigning Lord Jesus Christ through His apostle Peter protect us, His church, from false teachers and teachings that would draw us away from following our Good Shepherd.

1. We heard Him warn us in 2:1-10 that there will be false teachers introducing destructive heresies to the churches. It is not a question of “if” this will happen, but when and how.

2 Peter 2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people, **just as there will also be false teachers among you**, who will **secretly introduce destructive heresies** (haireisis), even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

2. So we must be vigilant, alert for ourselves and one another that we not be carried away with them to their ultimate destruction.

B. We also were reminded that we are not left to our own resources to protect ourselves from their harming us, for if the Lord knew how to rescue Noah and Lot from overwhelmingly corrupt cultures, then He knows how to deliver us from temptation and destroy those who would destroy us.

2 Peter 2:9 **then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation**, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

C. Today we ask the Lord to help us digest the remainder of this chapter which underscores why we must not be sharers in the folly of these false teachers and share in their destiny.

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

D. Outline:

1. THEIR DEPRAVITY: a degraded human existence
2. THEIR ENSLAVEMENT: to their sinful nature
3. THEIR DESTRUCTION: - reserved for them by the Lord
4. OUR ESCAPE: from corruption through Christ

I. THEIR DEPRAVITY: a degraded human existence

A. 2:12 - an animal like existence. Sin reduces humans to animalistic existence.

2 Peter 2:10 and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties,¹¹ whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment

against them before the Lord. ¹² But these, **like unreasoning animals**, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,

1. 2:10-12 - like animals, no fear or appreciation of the spiritual realm or realities or God's judgment.

2 Peter 2:10 and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, **they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties**, ¹¹ whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.

2 Corinthians 4:4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2. 2:12 reduced to unreasoning animal significance - living to be slaughtered, and unaware if it. Cattle, pigs have no idea that they are being fed and kept alive for slaughter.

2 Peter 2:12 But these, like unreasoning animals, **born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed**, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,

1 Peter 2:7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone," ⁸ and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and **to this doom they were also appointed**.

3. 2:13 like blemished, unacceptable sacrificial animals, they are stains (spots) and blemishes upon the church's offering of worship

2 Peter 2:13 suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. **They are stains (spilos) and blemishes (momos)**, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you,

a. acceptable OT sacrifices had to be without spot or blemish. So must be the church's self-offering.

Leviticus 22:20 'Whatever has a **defect (LXX: momos)**, you shall not offer, for **it will not be accepted for you**.

Romans 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, **acceptable to God**, which is your spiritual service of worship.

b. same words as in 3:14 "spotless and blameless (blemishless")

2 Peter 3:14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, **spotless (aspilos) and blameless (amomatos)**,

4. 2:14 eyes full of adultery (full of an adulteress, I.e., they see an affair in every woman they see, just as a buck sees an affair with every doe he sees), and heart of greed.

2 Peter 2:14 **having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin**, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children;

5. 2:15-16 Unreasoning as Balaam, who had to have his donkey restrain him from self-destruction

2 Peter 2:15 forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;¹⁶ but he received a rebuke for his own transgression, for **a mute donkey, speaking with a voice of a man, restrained the madness of the prophet.**

a. Balaam was a prophet who worked for profit. He loved the wages of unrighteousness. He was hired by Balak, king of Moab, to curse the Israelites, but God prevented him. His donkey had more sense than he did. I.e., false teachers are dumber than a donkey.

Numbers 22:27 When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam was angry and struck the donkey with his stick.²⁸ And the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"²⁹ Then Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a mockery of me! If there had been a sword in my hand, I would have killed you by now."³⁰ The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I ever been accustomed to do so to you?" And he said, "No."³¹ Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand; and he bowed all the way to the ground.³² The angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out as an adversary, because your way was contrary to me."³³ "But the donkey saw me and turned aside from me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, I would surely have killed you just now, and let her live."

b. He could not change God's view of Israel, but later tried to change Israel's view of God, leading them into immorality with Moabite women, resulting in a plague killing 24,000 (Num. 25:1-9).

Numbers 31:15 And Moses said to them, "Have you spared all the women?"¹⁶ "Behold, these caused the sons of Israel, **through the counsel of Balaam**, to trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, so the plague was among the

congregation of the LORD.

c. Balaam was destroyed by the Israelites under Joshua as they destroyed the Canaanites. Believers are warned not to share in his immorality and therefore share in his fate.

Joshua 13:22 The sons of Israel also killed Balaam the son of Beor, the diviner, with the sword among the rest of their slain.

Jude 1:11 Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Revelation 2:14 'But I have a few things against you (Pergamum), because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality.

B. 2:17-19a They are deceptive salespersons.

1. springs without water - they do not deliver what they promise - freedom

2 Peter 2:17 These are **springs without water and mists driven by a storm**, for whom the black darkness has been reserved.¹⁸ For speaking out arrogant **words of vanity** they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error,¹⁹ **promising them freedom** while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

2. 2:18 they entice by appealing to our sensuality, sinful passions - sexual, egotistical, material, recreational passions, promising us freedom to indulge our passions without eternal consequence. Those who want to believe such falsehood will be susceptible to them.

C. Why do they continue in this way?

II. THEIR ENSLAVEMENT: to their sinful nature

2 Peter 2:19 promising them freedom while **they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.**

A. 2:19 slaves of corruption Jn 8:32-34

John 8:32 and you will know the truth, and **the truth will make you free.**³³ They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free '?"³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.**

B. 2:20,21 former profession and baptism did not change their nature (or state). Cf. 1:8,9

2 Peter 2:20 For if, **after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, **the last state has become worse for them than the first**.²¹ For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.

2 Peter 1:9 For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, **having forgotten his purification from his former sins**.

C. 2:22 they were always "dogs" and "pigs" (I.e., unclean), and simply revert to what they have always been. Like dogs who empty themselves of the contents of their stomachs only to lap it up again, so pseudo-saints who renounce their sin take it up again.

2 Peter 2:22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "**A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT**," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire."

Proverbs 26:11 Like a dog that returns to its vomit is a fool who repeats his folly.

Leviticus 11:7 and the pig, for though it divides the hoof, thus making a split hoof, it does not chew cud, it is unclean to you.

Revelation 22:15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

III. THEIR DESTRUCTION: - reserved for them by the Lord

A. Their judgment is not idle

2 Peter 2:3 and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and **their destruction is not asleep**.

B. They are being kept under punishment for the day of judgment.

2 Peter 2:9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, **and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment**,

C. They will be destroyed with the destruction of the creatures of the earth.

2 Peter 2:12 But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, **will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed**,

D. Black darkness has been reserved for them.

2 Peter 2:17 These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, **for whom the black darkness has been reserved.**

- E. Their punishment will be all the more horrible for having known and then forsaken the way of righteousness.

2 Peter 2:21 For **it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness,** than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.

Matthew 11:21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.²² "Nevertheless I say to you, **it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.**²³ "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day.²⁴ "Nevertheless I say to you that **it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.**"

- F. Why is Peter giving us such a description of false teachers? So we will not become like them and share their fate.

2 Peter 3:11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what **sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,**¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

Ephesians 5:5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.⁶ **Let no one deceive you with empty words,** for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.⁷ **Therefore do not be partakers with them;**

IV. OUR ESCAPE: from corruption through Christ

- A. 2 Peter 1:3,4

2 Peter 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.⁴ For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, **having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.**

- B. Romans 6:6,7, 16-18, 22-23

Romans 6:6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body

of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin.

1 John 3:7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;⁸ the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. **The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.**

2 Peter 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, **in your faith supply** moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge,⁶ and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness,⁷ and in your godliness, **brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.**⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹ For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;¹¹ for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

Conclusion

- A. Continue to seek Christ, to cling to Christ, to love Christ, to put your faith in Christ.
- B. Continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ through those means by which Christ brings His grace to bear on us - the Word of God and prayer.
 - 1. The Word of God is that by which He reveals Christ and teaches us to live by faith in conformity to Christ.

Psalm 119:98 Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever mine.⁹⁹ I have more insight than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the aged, because I have observed Your precepts. ...¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

- 2. God's Word teaches us to pray for discernment, knowledge, and a heart for Christ.

Psalm 119:66 Teach me good discernment and knowledge, for I believe in Your commandments.

Psalm 119:34 Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law and keep it with all *my* heart.

Psalm 119:38 Establish Your word to Your servant, as that which produces reverence for You.