



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

2 PETER 2:10b-22

LESSON: THE DECEPTION OF FALSE TEACHERS

April 19, 2026

INTRODUCTION:

The character of the false teachers show us **First** that they walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness (desire of filthiness), and **Secondly**, they have a problem with the government—they despise (loathe) authority.

LESSON:

I. 2 PETER 2:10b-14

2:10b Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

Thirdly, these false teachers were proud, presuming, and arrogant. They feel like they can question God even when they're wrong. **Fourth** self-willed, daring even to scoff at dignities (supernatural beings) without so much as trembling. They're just that bold and stubborn to not want to be ruled by anyone. **Fifth**, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries.

2:11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. Unlike angels who are created by God possess greater strength, power, and might, do not bring reviling accusations before the Lord. They remain obedient to God's Will respecting all of God and would not be caught speaking any evil before or to the Lord God!

2:12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;— *But these people (false teachers) blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like unreasoning animals (dumb animals), creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish (NIV).* In their corruption, they will utterly perish, for they have an insatiable appetite for sin! "LIKES" will not get you into heaven, but "DECEPTION" will keep you out!

2:13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;— The reward of the unrighteous is waiting for them who don't believe and blatantly sin. Sin has tangible consequences, both in this life and the next. Romans 6:23 says "*For the wages of sin is death...*" ²People may enjoy sin at the time, but the results are bad. Many people do evil things when it is dark (1 Thessalonians 5:7), but it is worse when people do evil things in the daytime. Are we seeing this today? They are openly normalizing sin (what God condemns). They counted (considered) it pleasurable (a delight) to riot (carouse; or revel) which refers to extreme indulgence in sensual pleasures; or dissipation (overindulgence or greed) even in the daytime. The false teachers did not even try to hide

¹ https://executableoutlines.com/guides/2peter/2pet_02.html

² <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/2peter-lbw.htm>

<https://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>



their sin. This shows that they had no conscience. They were a stain among the Christians while living in foul sin on the side. God requires us to be without blemish, symbolizing purity and holiness. They even joined in the “**Love Feasts**” with everyone else. The act of feasting together implies a level of fellowship and intimacy within the Christian community. They displayed false teachings, and let you see blatantly their behavior. Believers must discern and reject deceptive teachings and behaviors. The “**Love Feasts**” was part of the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. It referred to communal meals shared among early Christians. As they fellowshiped, they recalled the meals Jesus shared with His disciples during His time of ministry. And while everyone is fellowshiping, the false teachers are spreading their own deceitful lies.

³*Peter’s warning is not merely about spotting others’ faults; it is a call to pursue purity, protect community, and persevere in hope until Christ’s righteous kingdom is fully revealed.*

2:14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin;— ⁴This imagery suggests a constant, consuming desire for sinful pleasure, reflecting the state of those who have turned away from righteousness. “**All they think about is having sex with someone else’s husband or wife. There is no end to their wicked deeds.**” (CEV). I like this version; making it plain. **The point is:** False teachers have chosen to deny Christ, and the supreme authority of God’s Word. Therefore, they feel freer to share in the ways of the world, by sharing in the worldliness of the world. They are attracted to look and think about the opposite sex. Thereby, they are more easily aroused and stirred to desire. The result is catastrophic. They fall into immorality, desiring and lusting...

- To read or look at pornographic material.
- To look at attractive bodies.
- To make suggestive remarks.
- To have adulterous affairs.

But note: Christ is clear about the lust of the flesh and immorality—Exodus 20:14 “*Thou shall not commit adultery.*” Galatians 5:19, 21 says “*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,...of which I tell you before, as I have told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*”

2:14b ...beguiling unstable souls:—False teachers beguile (entice and lure) away unstable (not grounded in the faith; weak minded) souls. They trap people with their false teaching and lure them over with their opinions.

- As a thinker or learned person.
- as the creator of a new and creative idea.
- As a great teacher or preacher.
- as an influential leader

2:14c ...an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: —False teachers **trick people who are easily fooled, and their minds are filled with greedy thoughts. But they are headed for trouble!** (CEV). What is a heart that’s been exercised with covetous practices? Well, “**Covet**” means to desire wrongfully especially when it belongs to someone else. Do you know that people can watch you and mimic you to be like you? So, these false teachers coveted and coveted

³ https://biblehub.com/q/Applying_2_Peter_2_13_warning_today.htm

⁴ https://biblehub.com/2_peter/2-14.htm

<https://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

until their hearts are set on their worldly ambition. They have struggled and struggled against God in their Conscience, in Scripture, and what they know to be right so much, that their hearts were now trained to focus only upon their ambition (whose place they were going to take). They had practiced it so long that their very hearts were trained in the habitual pursuit of gain by all unrighteous means. The truth of God's Word no longer mattered at all. Their reward is said to be doomed, living as accursed children; living under the curse of God, and to be destroyed!

⁵Here are examples of a heart that has exercised with covetous practices:

1. **Achan's Sin:** In Joshua 7, Achan coveted and took forbidden items, leading to Israel's defeat and his own destruction.
2. **King Ahab and Naboth's Vineyard:** In 1 Kings 21, King Ahab and his servants covetously sought to take Naboth's vineyard, resulting in a significant moral downfall.
3. **2 Peter 2:14:** This verse describes **false teachers** as having "*an heart they have exercised with covetous practices,*" indicating their greedy and selfish motives.

Cursed Children: The verse also refers to these individuals as "cursed children," highlighting their undercurrent of greed and immorality.

II. 2 PETER 2:15-16

2:15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;— Peter wants to get this point over to us. Even in this time and season of life, the same thing is going on now. You have to be wise enough to know when truth is not told or it's exaggerated. Line it up with the Word of God because we are living in a time where right is wrong and wrong is right. No moral standard! The false teachers have forsaken; turned away from the right way; gone astray. This text is giving an example of what happens when following the wrong example—the way of Balaam, the son of Bosor. We've got to understand, Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He has never changed!

2:16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

Balaam was hired by the pagan king Balak of Moab to curse Israel. This king feared the strength of Israel. At first Balaam refused to go, but the king kept offering him wealth and positions, and finally Balaam's heart coveted after the world and agreed to go.

⁶Balaam rode on a donkey to go speak against the Jews. On his way to meet the king, the donkey Balaam was riding on, stopped, for an angel stood on the path in front of him, but Balaam couldn't see the angel. So, Balaam hit his donkey to go forth, and tried to force his donkey to move. But God gave this donkey power to speak to Balaam with a human voice. Afterwards, Balaam saw the angel who spoke to him. The donkey stopped the prophet Balaam from what he had intended to do. God rebuked Balaam through the donkey, for an angel was blocking his way. And God will stop the wicked behavior of the false teachers.

⁷God used an animal to speak to Balaam, demonstrating His power to use even the most unlikely of creatures to fulfill His purposes. Balaam's madness was restrained by a donkey, reminding us of the importance of listening to God's warnings and obeying His commands.

⁵ <https://www.bing.com/search?q=examples+of+a+heart+that+have+exercised+with+covetous+practices&pc=GD01&form=GDAVST&ptag=3601>

⁶ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/2peter-lbw.htm>

⁷ https://biblehub.com/2_peter/2-16.htm

<https://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>



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The point is: Balaam is an example of a false teacher who became worldly to lead God's people into sin and destruction. Balaam had the gift of prophecy, but a divided heart. In the end he could not curse what God had blessed! Read Numbers 22-24.

III. 2 PETER 2:17-22

2:17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. These false teachers are filled with emptiness and instability.

Two illustrations are given:

1. They are like wells that offer water to travelers who have been crossing a dry, barren desert, but when the travelers reach the wells, they are dry.
2. They are like clouds that offer rain to the farmer, but when the clouds arrive, they are driven away by the rushing wind of a storm.

The picture is that of the false teacher offering hope to people, but his hope is just as empty and unstable as the desert of the world itself. The false teacher cannot quench the thirst of people, nor water the seed of God's Word in people's hearts. His teachings are nothing more than the idea of a man, therefore it ends in the grave. However, Proverbs 10:11 says "*the mouth of a righteous man is a well of life, but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.*"

2:18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. When the false teachers speak, they use lofty words, excellency of speech, flowery language, and descriptive phrases to draw the immature believer and young believer through the lusts of the flesh, but what they say is empty. Those that were clean barely escaped from these false teachers who lived in error. In their false teaching, they said that Christians do not need to change their behavior. They could still enjoy their former evil desires even after escaping. However, this is a warning to those who are not rooted and grounded in the Lord, and in God's Word. Believers must be consistent in studying God's Word, and in following Christ. This is the Believer's only hope to escape the doom that is to fall upon those who follow after false teachers. "*Those that were "clean escaped" from them that lived in error and would not be so easily enticed by the false teachers.*" They "*that live in error*" are the heathen; the unhappy men who are led astray by the false teachers. They are Deceptive in their Methods:

- They are deceptive in the use of their words.
- They are deceptive when appealing to the flesh.

2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. *The false teachers "promise liberty, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for "people are slaves to whatever has mastered them."* Sin always enslaves and will destroy. However, John 8:32 says "*And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.*" John 8:36 says "*If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*" Freedom only comes through Jesus Christ, and bondage through Satan.

- They are deceptive in their promises

2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of

the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. *“And when people escape from the wickedness of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up and enslaved by sin again, they are worse off than before”* (NLT). This is a strong warning to false teachers: a threefold warning:

1. Warning One: against returning to the world and its entanglements.
 - a. If a false teacher once knew Christ, and has returned to the world, his fate is going to be worse than if he had never begun with Christ. Why? Because he had known the truth, and he had chosen to deliberately reject it. And is teaching against truth! He has deliberately corrupted the truth of Christ, and is leading others into destruction, dooming their very souls.

Teaching is the most responsible profession on earth. Therefore, the greater accountability falls upon the teacher's shoulders. God will have no mercy upon a false teacher; The false teacher will be judged much more severely than a person who never knew the truth.

2:21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

2. Warning Two: against turning from the way of righteousness, and from the holy commandment.
 - a. The way of the righteous is Jesus Christ

2:22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

3. Warning Three: against becoming uncouth, repulsive to God.
 - a. Imagine being compared to a dog that returns to his vomit, and to a washed hog that returns to wallowing around in the foul, smelly mud. The judgment of God will be severe, and terrible for all false teachers.

SUMMARY:

The false teachers were daring, self-willed, and not afraid to speak evil at dignities (supernatural beings) without so much as trembling. Unlike the angels who were created by God and possessed greater strength, power, and might, they did not bring reviling accusations before the Lord. These false teachers blasphemed in matters they did not understand, and will utterly perish. The reward of the unrighteous is waiting them who don't believe, and blatantly sin. They were a stain among the Christians, while living in foul sin on the side; deceiving others while they feast with them. They constantly had eyes full of adultery that could not cease from sinning, and were moved by sinful pleasures. They beguiled (enticed and lured) others away that were unstable (ungrounded in the faith; weak minded) in their souls. Their hearts exercised covetous practices. They habitually trained in the pursuit of gain, and lived as accursed children. They had forsaken the right way (**2:10b-14**).

The false teachers had forsaken the right way, following the way of Balaam who loved the way of unrighteousness, and was rebuked for his iniquity. And God used a dumb animal (donkey) to speak with a man's voice to restrain Balaam's madness. For the donkey saw an angel blocking his way. This only reminds us of the importance of listening to God's warnings and obeying God's commands. In the end he could not curse what God had blessed! **(2:15-16)**.

These teachers are springs without water and mists driven by a storm that offer no relief. Darkness is reserved for them. They boast empty words, and entice people living on the edge of sin, promising freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption. They are deceptive when appealing to the flesh. If people escape worldly defilement through the knowledge of Christ, yet become entangled again, their latter state is worse than before. Imagine being compared to *"A dog returns to its vomit"* and *"a sow, after washing, returns to wallowing"* around in the foul, smelly mud — a graphic proverb that portrays the tragedy of willful relapse. The judgment of God will be severe and terrible for all false teachers **(2:17-22)**.