

2 Peter Series

Lesson #048

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Spiritual Regression and Failure

2 Peter 2:19–22



2nd PETER

Guard Against False Teachers

2A God Warns Us About False Teachers, 2 Peter 2:1–22

**1B The certainty of false teachers and
their destructive heresies, 2:1a**

**2B The destructiveness of deception,
2:1b–3**

**3B The certainty of their judgment,
2:4–10a**

**4B The self-destruction of their
arrogance, 2:10b–22**

People and Groups in 2 Peter

- 1. Peter, the writer, this will be represented by 1st person pronouns, “I” or “we.”**
- 2. His audience, believers, “those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ” (1:1, 2:1, 3). 2nd person pronouns: you (sg) y’all (pl)**
- 3. False teachers, 2 Pet. 2:1. Indicated by 3rd person plural “they,” “them”. The False Teachers (FT) are still the focus of 2:12 “these,” 2:17 “these,” “whom,” 2:18 “they allure, entice,” 2:19 “they themselves.”**

People and Groups in 2 Peter

4. But who are “the ones who escape” and who are “those who live in error?”

2 Peter 2:18: who are the “the ones” and who are the “from those?”

“... through debauchery, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.
[~RD]

2 Pet. 2:12, “But **these** [men, false teachers], like irrational creatures of instinct born to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and **[they]** will be destroyed in their own corruption.

2 Pet. 2:13, “and will receive **the wages of unrighteousness**, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you,

2 Pet. 2:14, “having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and *are* accursed children.

2 Pet. 2:15, “They have forsaken the right way and **[they have]** gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the **wages of unrighteousness**,

2 Pet. 2:16, “but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man’s voice restrained the madness of the prophet.

2 Pet. 2:17, “**These** are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.”

2 Pet. 2:18, “For when they [FT] speak great swelling words of emptiness, they [FT] seduce [whom? #2] through the lusts of the flesh, through debauchery, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.” [~RD]

**φθέγγομαι
phtheggomai
pres mid part
masc plur nom
to speak, utter**

**δელιάζω *deleazō*
3 plur pres act
indic to entice,
bait the trap,
seduce**

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φθέγγομαι
phtheggomai
pres mid part
masc plur nom
to speak, utter

ματαιότης
mataiotēs Noun
fem sing gen (f)
futility;
emptiness;
purposelessness

δელιάζω *deleazō*
3 plur pres act
indic to entice,
bait the trap,
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2 Cor. 4:4, “whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”

Eph. 2:2, “in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,”

1 John 5:19, “We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.”

John 12:31, “Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”

John 14:30, “I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me”

John 16:11, “of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

What the Bible Teaches About

the *KOSMIC* System
(*Kosmos Diabolicus*)



The Three Enemies of the Believer Are:

Satan

Satan's thought forms: the World

Our sin nature

2 Pet. 2:18, “For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they seduce through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.”

Those who live in error are those whose thinking is controlled by the *kosmic system*

2 Pet. 2:19, “While they [FT] promise them [seduced ones (SO)] liberty, they themselves [FT] are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.”

they = FT

them = the seduced ones

they themselves = the FT

2 Pet. 2:20, “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.”

they = seduced believers

they are again = believers

2 Pet. 2:19, “While they [FT] promise them [SO] liberty, they themselves are slaves of depravity; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.”

they = FT

them = the seduced ones

they themselves = the FT

**ὑπάρχω *huparchō*
pres act part masc
plur nom
to be, exist**

**δοῦλος *doulos*
masc plur nom
(m) slave; BDAG;
NIDNTT**

**φθορά *phthora* fem
sing gen
corruption, decay,
depravity,
degeneracy**

2 Pet. 2:19, “While they [FT] promise them [target audience] liberty, they themselves are slaves of depravity; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also has he been brought into slavery.”

ἡττάομαι *hēttaomai*

3 sing perf mid indic

to be overcome,

defeated

**middle voice: we make
our decisions to sin and
enslave ourselves.**

2 Pet. 2:20

δουλόω *douloō*

3 sing perf pass indic

to enslave

**by whom a person is
overcome he has
already been brought
into slavery**

John 8:31, “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

John 8:32, “ ‘And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’ ”

**John 8:28, “Then Jesus said to them,
‘When you lift up the Son of Man, then you
will know that I am He, and that I do
nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught
Me, I speak these things.**

**John 8:29, “ ‘And He who sent Me is with
Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I
always do those things that please Him.’**

**John 8:30, “As He spoke these words,
many believed in Him.”**

John 8:31, “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

John 8:32, “ ‘And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’ ”

John 8:33, “They answered Him, ‘We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, “You will be made free”?’”

John 8:34, “Jesus answered them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.’”

John 8:35, “ ‘And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.’ ”

John 8:36, “ ‘Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.’ ”

Rom. 6:6, “because we know this, that our old self was crucified together with Him, that the body of sin [the tyranny of the sin nature] might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”

**δουλεύω *douleuō*
to serve as a slave**

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Rom. 6:7, “For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Rom. 6:8, “Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,”

Rom. 6:16, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”

Rom. 6:17, “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.”

Rom. 6:18, “And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”

Rom. 6:19, “I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.”

Rom. 6:22, “But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.”

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they = FT

them = the target audience

they themselves = the FT

ὑπάρχω *huparchō*

pres act part

masc plur nom

to be, exist

δοῦλος *doulos*

masc plur nom

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φθορά *phthora* fem

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**ἀποφεύγω *apopheugō*
aor act part masc plur nom
to escape, run away
same group as those who
escaped the ones who live
in error, v. 18**

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ἐπίγνωσις *epignōsis*

fem sing dat

knowledge, fuller

knowledge

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“Therefore to suggest that 2 Peter 2:20–21 refers to superficial or inaccurate knowledge would necessitate much more evidence from both Old Testament usage and Hellenistic literature than is forthcoming. In fact, it is difficult, if not impossible, to find one good, clear example of either γνῶσις [*gnosis*] or ἐπίγνωσις [*epignosis*] referring to superficial knowledge which later turns out to be false. This strengthens the view that the persons in view in 2 Peter 2:18–22 are new believers, not false teachers.”

~Duane Dunham, *BibSac*

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beginning = before salvation

latter = now that they are saved

2 Pet. 2:21, “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.”

ἐπιγινώσκω

epiginōskō

aor act part masc

plur dat

to know

ὑποστρέφω

hupostrephō

aor act infin

to return

2 Pet. 2:22, “But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: ‘A *dog returns to his own vomit,*’ and, ‘a *sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.*’ ”