

2 Peter

6) Wells Without Water

Recap

The false teachers in Peter's day:

- ✓ **Despised authority**
- ✓ **Displayed arrogance**
- ✓ **Made damaging accusations**
- ✓ **Were corrupt**
- ✓ **Corrupted others**
- ✓ **Were covetous**

***'These are wells without water, clouds
carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved
the blackness of darkness forever'***

(2 Pet.2:17)

Contrast Jesus' words

'... whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life'

(Jn.4:14)

'He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water'''

(John 7:39)

'For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage'

(2 Pet.2:18-19)

Note: 'They' = the false teachers

'Them' = The ones in process of conversion

'You', 'your', 'we', 'us' = in contrast the Christians this epistle is addressed to

(2 Pet.1:2, 4-8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 19, 2:1)

✓ **The message of the false teachers is swollen with big, bold, impressive words and promises, but is empty of substance**

✓ **'Allure' = to catch by use of bait. Their words were designed to appeal to the lusts and desires of their hearers. Compare (John 6:25-27, 6:47-66)**

✓ **In contrast, Jesus never took the bait, *'I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me'* (Jn.14:30), and He gives us discernment and victory over all the wiles of the Devil (Eph.6:11)**

✓ **Their hearers had outwardly reformed, but had not yet been established in Christ because they followed the false teachers**

✓ **For a while they cleaned the outside of the cup but they had not yet received the new birth within. They were only professing Christians**

✓ **Other Biblical examples of this: Heb.6 & 10, the parables of the sower and the wheat and tares, Judas, *'...having a form of godliness but denying its power'* (2 Tim.3:5)**

**✓ 'For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ'
(Jude 1:4)**

✓ Their doctrine was that the body is not important, so it is irrelevant what we do in it

✓ The Bible teaches, 1) our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit; 2) though we are body, soul and spirit we are a unity. What is done in the body affects the whole person

- ✓ **They promise freedom, but this is the very thing they do not have. Their version of freedom is freedom to do whatever we want**
- ✓ ***'...for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage'* . In being overcome by the flesh and the false teachers, these unfortunate ones became slaves to both**
- ✓ **Only faith in the true gospel leads to freedom from the corruption that is in the world through lust**

All of us will serve someone. We cannot serve two masters, but we must serve one - God or Satan, flesh or spirit, righteousness or sin

'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? ...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.6:16, 19)

The liberty the gospel brings is not a liberty to do whatever we want, but what He wants

'... as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God'

(1 Pet.2:16)

'For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another'

(Gal.5:13)

'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. 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. 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"'

(2 Pet.2:20-22)

- ✓ **Peter's picture here has the appearance of people losing their salvation. Two things are important to keep in mind:**
- ✓ **1) There is a difference between being enlightened and regenerated. No one who is truly born again can end up in the state Peter describes here. A true believer is a partaker of the divine nature**
- ✓ **2) It is better for a person to have never known a thing about Jesus than to be enlightened, and then later reject Christ and the gospel. With knowledge comes responsibility**

'It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness'

Jesus said a similar thing

'If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, "They hated Me without a cause"'

(John 15:22-25)

- ✓ **By turning back and giving themselves over to a life of sin they are like pigs returning to the mud they were cleansed from, and dogs returning to the very thing they vomited. In other words they demonstrated that their nature was never changed. They were never born again**
- ✓ **As Peter has already referred to them, they are *'like natural brute beasts'***

Conclusion

The doctrine of false teachers is like wells without water and clouds without rain, promising much but leaving their hearers empty, disillusioned and unchanged

The gospel brings to us the very life of Christ by which we become partakers of the divine nature, leading to an ever-increasing abundant life of fulfillment and fruitfulness