

# Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

## 2 Peter 2:12-22

### Lesson 5

*Natural brute beasts, spots and blemishes, accursed children, wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, slaves of corruption...* Just a few phrases Peter used to describe those whose goal is to deceive and entrap those in the church. Could you spot them? Could you identify their teachings for the lies that they are? Peter is severely warning the church that there are those sent to corrupt us. May this lesson cause you to take heed and equip yourself, so as to not be *unstable* or *entangled*.

#### DAY ONE: Read 2 Peter 2:12-22

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

- a. 2 Peter 2:12-22 has been divided into 2 sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

**Verses 12-17**

**Verses 18-22**

How would you title each section? Record your title on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

After titling each section, record a title for Chapter 2.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in previous lessons: *Jesus*

New to this lesson: *they* (as it refers to false teachers)

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 2 Peter 2:12-21. Remember, as you mark the word *Jesus*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Him. Also, as you mark the word *they*, mark any personal pronouns that refer to the false teachers such as *them* and *those*.

3. Peter used the contrasting term *but* three times (verses 12, 16, and 22). Choose one of them and record the contrast that Peter made.

4. Refer to your markings of the words that refer to the false teachers (*they, them, those, these*). Make a list of six things that is revealed about them. Challenge: Make a complete list.

## DAY TWO: Read 2 Peter 2:12-14

1. Notice the vivid description of false teachers in 2 Peter 2:12. How are they described?
  - a. The phrase, *natural brute beasts*, has been defined as “natural animals without reason”. Like “natural animals without reason”, what are they *made to be* and what will be their end?
  - b. What do they *speak evil of*?
    - 1.) Many people fall prey to the *doctrines* of false teachers. What does it say to you that they *speak evil of things they do not understand*?
    - 2.) The book of Jeremiah addresses the peril of false teachers and those who listen to them. Look up the following verses and record God’s evaluation of those who teach falsely and those who heed their teaching:  
Jeremiah 5:4  
  
Jeremiah 10:8  
  
Jeremiah 10:21  
  
a.) What personal warning do you see from these verses?
2. Using 2 Peter 2:13, explain in your own words what these false teachers do *in the day time* and *while they feast with you*.
  - a. What part of this description stands out to you? Why?

3. Focus on the opening phrases of 2 Peter 2:14. Imagine how awful it would be to be under the influence of a person like this who is *enticing unstable souls*. Define:

*enticing*

*unstable*

- a. Rather than be *unstable*, we are called to be stable believers. Describe a stable believer.

- 1.) How does a believer become stable in her walk?

### **DAY THREE: Read 2 Peter 2:15,16**

1. Thoughtfully print the root problem of these false teachers as recorded in 2 Peter 2:15.

2. Whose *way* did these false teachers follow?

- a. Record the sin of *Balaam* declared in 2 Peter 2:15c.

- 1.) How does this link with the motive exposed in 2 Peter 2:3a?

3. The *madness* of Balaam was restrained when God *rebuked him for his iniquity*. In what way did the Lord do this? 2 Peter 2:16

Challenge: Read the account of Balaam in Numbers 22:2-34;31:16. Jot down any additional interesting information you notice.

4. Balaam's influence was as wicked as his greed. He not only *loved the wages of unrighteousness*, but through his counsel he caused the children of God to sin (Numbers 31:16). What promise can we claim when we follow our Shepherd, the true Teacher? Psalm 23:3b

- a. Using Psalm 23, meditate on the heart and character of the Good Shepherd. What joy and confidence does this bring you?

## DAY FOUR: Read 2 Peter 2:17-19

1. Write the phrases of 2 Peter 2:17 used to depict the terrible emptiness and instability of these deceivers.
  - a. How does Jude 1:12,13 intensify this picture?
  - b. What do Peter and Jude say will be their end?
2. Write 2 Peter 2:18 phrase by phrase.
  - a. Underline the method these false teachers use to *allure* the believers.
  - b. In your own words briefly describe who these false teachers *allure*.
3. From 2 Peter 2:19, what do the false teachers *promise*?
  - a. How does this verse reveal their *promise of liberty* to be empty?
  - b. When and how does slavery sometimes appear to be a promise of freedom?
    - 1.) Conversely, what kinds of deceptive thinking teach that freedom (in Christ) is slavery?
4. Write the warning of 2 Peter 2:19b in your own words.
  - a. What do you think Peter means by the word *overcome*?
5. Contrast the truth of the *precious promises* (2 Peter 1:4) from our Lord and the deceptive *promise* of these seducers. What do you see?
6. What is the warning of Ephesians 4:14?
  - a. What does this warning say to you?

## DAY FIVE: Read 2 Peter 2:20-22

1. Some Bible expositors believe that 2 Peter 2:20-22 pertains to those people who have been deceived by false teachers; others believe these verses refer to the false teachers. Either way they are applicable to all. Describe the tragic regression from 2 Peter 2:20,21.
  - a. These people, despite their profession of salvation, have become *entangled* and *overcome* by *the pollutions of the world*. *The latter end is worse for them than the beginning*. What serious warning can we draw from this?
  - b. Think for a moment what it means for a believer to turn from *the way of righteousness* and from *the holy commandment*. What dangerous effect could this have on that person?
  - c. In what way would the *latter end* be worse than the beginning (for the one entangled in heresy)?
2. 2 Peter 2:22 concludes this chapter with two repulsive illustrations. What are they?
  - a. Why do you think Peter used them?
3. How should the truth of 2 Peter 2:22 be a deterrent to all who might be entertaining anything that borders on heresy?

## DAY SIX: Review 2 Peter 2:12-22

1. Peter presents these strong words as a means for discerning false doctrine and to help identify heretical teachers. Recall from each of the following verses at least one thing that will help accomplish this end:

2 Peter 2:12-14

2 Peter 2:15,16

2 Peter 2:17-19

2 Peter 2:20-22

2. Peter used many analogies to depict these false teachers. Which of these intrigued you the most? Why?

3. What are some false teachings that you have been exposed to in your life?

- a. How did you eventually recognize them as false?

- b. In what ways has knowing God's Word helped you to identify false teachings?

4. What is the most important truth you have learned from this lesson?

- a. In what way has this study strengthened your desire to grow in the *grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*?

*In the way of righteousness is life,  
And in its pathway there is no death.*

*- Proverbs 12:28*