

SIMON PETER

A SERVANT AND APOSTLE (SPECIAL MESSENGER) OF JESUS CHRIST

Part 10

2 PETER

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In these next few verses false teachers are polemically described as “cursed children,” literally, “children of a curse”; “wells without water”, unable to satisfy the spiritual thirst of men; and “clouds” that are blown about by every wind of doctrine (see Jude 12).

2 Peter 2:10 KJV

10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

2 Peter 2:10 AMPC

10 And particularly those who walk after the flesh and indulge in the lust of polluting passion and scorn and despise authority. Presumptuous [and] daring [self-willed and self-loving creatures]! They scoff at and revile dignitaries (glorious ones) without trembling,

“Walk after the flesh”: Like the wicked of Noah’s and Lot’s time, the false teachers of Peter’s era were slaves to the corrupt desires of the flesh. This is speaking of the punishment coming on those who are controlled by their flesh and its lust.

We have discussed in these lessons before, that the person who is in authority (whether in government or in the church), are there because God placed them there for a purpose.

“Despise government” is translated from the word **“Authority”** comes from the same Greek word as “lord” (1:2).

The false teachers identified with Christ outwardly. But they would not and will not live under His lordship. The two major characteristics of false teachers are emphasized in this verse:

1. Lust; and
2. Arrogance.

Presumptuous ... self-willed: Presumptuous meaning “Daring”, is to be brazen, audacious and defiant. “Self-willed is to be obstinate, determined in one’s own way.

Jude 4 AMPC

4 For certain men have crept in stealthily [gaining entrance secretly by a side door]. Their doom was predicted long ago, ungodly (impious, profane) persons who pervert the grace (the spiritual blessing and favor) of our God into lawlessness and wantonness and immorality, and disown and deny our sole Master and Lord, Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

*8 Nevertheless in like manner, these dreamers also corrupt the body, scorn and **reject authority and government**, and revile and libel and scoff at [heavenly] glories (the glorious ones).*

Isaiah 56:10-12 AMPC

10 [Israel’s] watchmen are blind, they are all without knowledge; they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; dreaming, lying down, they love to slumber.

*11 Yes, the dogs are greedy; they never have enough. And such are the shepherds who cannot understand; **they have all turned to their own way, each one to his own gain, from every quarter [one and all].***

12 Come, say they, We will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink! And tomorrow shall be as this day, a day great beyond measure.

2 Peter 2:11 KJV

11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

2 Peter 2:11 AMPC

11 Whereas [even] angels, though superior in might and power, do not bring a defaming charge against them before the Lord.

“Angels which are greater in power and might”: A reference to the holy angels, who are greater in power than human beings.

“Bring not railing accusation”: Unlike false teachers who are defiant toward higher powers, the holy angels so revere their Lord that they will not speak insults against any authority.

Even the archangel, Michael, recognizing the great presence and power of Satan, refused to speak evil of him, but called on the Lord to do so (Jude 9; see below). No believer should be so boldly foolish as to mock or command the power of supernatural demons, especially Satan.

Philippians 2:5-18 AMPC

5 Let this same attitude and purpose and [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:]

6 Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped [c]or retained,

7 But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being.

8 And after He had appeared in human form, He abased and humbled Himself [still further] and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross!

9 Therefore [because He stooped so low] God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,

10 That in (at) the name of Jesus every knee should (must) bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 And every tongue [frankly and openly] confess and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Therefore, my dear ones, as you have always obeyed [my suggestions], so now, not only [with the enthusiasm you would show] in my presence but much more because I am absent, work out (cultivate, carry out to the goal, and fully complete) your own salvation with reverence and awe and trembling (self-distrust, with serious caution, tenderness of conscience, watchfulness against temptation, timidly shrinking from whatever might offend God and discredit the name of Christ).

13 [Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.

14 Do all things without grumbling and faultfinding and complaining [against God] and questioning and doubting [among yourselves],

15 That you may show yourselves to be blameless and guileless, innocent and uncontaminated, children of God without blemish (faultless, unrebukable) in the midst of a crooked and wicked generation [spiritually perverted and perverse], among whom you are seen as bright lights (stars or beacons shining out clearly) in the [dark] world,

16 Holding out [to it] and offering [to all men] the Word of Life, so that in the day of Christ I may have something of which exultantly to rejoice and glory in that I did not run my race in vain or spend my labor to no purpose.

17 Even if [my lifeblood] must be poured out as a libation on the sacrificial offering of your faith [to God], still I am glad [to do it] and [m]congratulate you all on [your share in] it.

18 And you also in like manner be glad and congratulate me on [my share in] it.

When Jesus took on the form of flesh, He was spoken of as being a little lower than the angels. This is speaking of flesh being lower than the spirit.

“Angels”: These are ministering spirits, they are not controlled by the limitations of the flesh. Righteous Angels are not accusers. They are ministering spirits to help the believers. They have a specific job...

Note: These are the angels who did not abandon God, who did not follow in the way of satan.

Hebrews 1:14 AMPC

14 Are not the angels all ministering spirits (servants) sent out in the service [of God for the assistance] of those who are to inherit salvation?

Notice in the following Scripture, that the angel did not rebuke the devil.... the Lord rebuked the devil.

Jude 9 AMPC

9 But when [even] the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, judicially argued (disputed) about the body of Moses, he dared not [presume to] bring an abusive condemnation against him, but [simply] said, The Lord rebuke you!

This is the same method Christians must use, as well, the name of Jesus (the Word) rebukes the evil one. We have no power in our own name, in our own anger, in our own sense of right and wrong...It is the power in His name that succeeds.

2 Peter 2:12 KJV

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;

2 Peter 2:12 AMPC

12 But these [people]! Like unreasoning beasts, mere creatures of instinct, born [only] to be captured and destroyed, railing at things of which they are ignorant, they shall utterly perish in their [own] corruption [in their destroying they shall surely be destroyed],

“As natural brute beasts”: Jude 10 explains and speaks the same things that Peter is saying.

Jude 10 AMPC

10 But these men revile (scoff and sneer at) anything they do not happen to be acquainted with and do not understand; and whatever they do understand physically [that which they know by mere instinct], like irrational beasts—by these they corrupt themselves and are destroyed (perish).

“And destroyed”: Since they live like beasts that are “born ... to be captured and killed,” the false teachers will be killed like beasts. They cannot get beyond their own instincts and thus will be destroyed by the folly of those passions. You and I must judge through the lens of scripture if another gospel is being preached, not preached and or twisted. God does final judgment.

2 Peter 2:13 KJV

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;

2 Peter 2:13 AMPC

13 Being destined to receive [punishment as] the reward of [their] unrighteousness [suffering wrong as the hire for their wrongdoing]. They count it a delight to revel in the daytime [living luxuriously and delicately]. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their [a]deceptions and carousing together [even] as they feast with you.

“The reward of unrighteousness”: Immorality and arrogant boldness will not pay in the end. It will rob and destroy. This is speaking of those who profess to know God, but are really not His. Notice the statement (shall receive the reward of unrighteousness).

We have seen this recently, spiritual leaders, (pastor, preacher, teacher) living very worldly lives. They are attempting to cover their sins, and deceive the people into believing they are in right standing with God. These false teachers are even worse than the people who have not made any commitment to God... These “spiritual leaders” are deceiving, they are not truly sold out to God. They bring a false message and are not only deceived themselves, but deceive others as well.

2 Timothy 3:1-14 AMPC

1 But **understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear].**

“Perilous times” defined:

“Spiritually difficult”. Paul is warning Timothy of the condition in the church that will take place in the last days. When we see a cashless currency coming, Israel being surrounded and homosexuality no longer being called a sin.

2 For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane.

3 [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good.

4 [They will be] treacherous [betrayers], rash, [and] inflated with self-conceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God.

5 For [although] they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession]. Avoid [all] such people [turn away from them].

10 Now you have closely observed and diligently followed my teaching, conduct, purpose in life, faith, patience, love, steadfastness,

11 Persecutions, sufferings—such as occurred to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra, persecutions I endured, but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

12 Indeed all who delight in piety and are determined to live a devoted and godly life in Christ Jesus will meet with persecution [will be made to suffer because of their religious stand].

13 But wicked men and imposters will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and leading astray others and being deceived and led astray themselves.

14 But as for you, continue to hold to the things that you have learned and of which you are convinced, knowing from whom you learned [them].

“Riot in the day time”: Sinning during the day without the cover of darkness was a sign of low-level wickedness in Roman society (1 Thess. 5:7). These false teachers are so consumed with lust and rebellion that they are pleased not to wait for the night. Their unbridled passions consume them. “Spots they are and blemishes” (see Jude 10). That is, dirt spots and scabs. They are opposite to the character of Christ (1 Peter 1:19), the church should be like her Lord (Eph. 5:27).

Sporting ... while they feast with you”: The false teachers, feigning (pretending) to be teachers of truth while sitting with Christians at church love- feasts, were behaving arrogantly and immorally even on such occasions that was intended for Christian fellowship.

Though attempting to cover their corruption with religious talk, they were filthy defects on these church gatherings (2 John 9:11; Jude 12). The church (all true believers), should be striving to be without spot or wrinkle. Jesus Christ (our perfect Lamb sacrifice), was without spot or wrinkle and He is the way, the Truth and the Life. (John 14:6)

2 Peter 2:14 KJV

14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

2 Peter 2:14 AMPC

14 They have eyes full of harlotry, insatiable for sin. They beguile and bait and lure away unstable souls. Their hearts are trained in covetousness (lust, greed), [they are] children of a curse [[a]exposed to cursing]!

“Eyes full of adultery”: The false teachers had so totally lost moral control that they could not look at any woman without seeing her as a potential adulteress (Matt. 5:28). They were uncontrollably driven by lust, never resting from their sins.

“Beguiling unstable souls”: The metaphor is from fishing and appears also (in verse 18). To entice is to catch with bait. False teachers do not capture those strong in the Word, but prey on the weak, the unstable and the young in the faith (see 3:16; Eph. 4:14; 1 John 2:13).

“Hearts they have exercised with covetous practices”: The word “trained” was used for training in athletics. The false teachers have trained, prepared and equipped their minds to concentrate on nothing but the forbidden things for which their passions lust. They are well schooled in the craft of self-fulfillment.

Isaiah 56:10-12 AMPC

10 [Israel’s] watchmen are blind, they are all without knowledge; they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; dreaming, lying down, they love to slumber.

11 Yes, the dogs are greedy; they never have enough. And such are the shepherds who cannot understand; they have all turned to their own way, each one to his own gain, from every quarter [one and all].

12 Come, say they, We will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink! And tomorrow shall be as this day, a day great beyond measure.

2 Peter 2:15 KJV

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;

2 Peter 2:15 AMPC

15 Forsaking the straight road they have gone astray; they have followed the way of Balaam [the son] of Beor, who loved the reward of wickedness.

“Forsaken the right way”: The “right way” is an Old Testament metaphor for obedience to God (Acts 13:10). "Following" in the verse above, means follow out to the end.

Acts 13:10 AMPC

10 And said, You master in every form of deception and recklessness, unscrupulousness, and wickedness, you son of the devil, you enemy of everything that is upright and good, will you never stop perverting and making crooked the straight paths of the Lord and plotting against His saving purposes?

“Balaam”: (See Jude 11 below)

Jude 11 AMPC

11 Woe to them! For they have run riotously in the way of Cain, and have abandoned themselves for the sake of gain [it offers them, following] the error of Balaam, and have perished in rebellion [like that] of Korah!

Balaam served as an illustration and example of such false prophets. He was an Old Testament compromising prophet for sale to whomever paid him, who preferred wealth and popularity over faithfulness and obedience to God (Numbers chpt 22-24).

Through a talking donkey, God kept him from cursing Israel. Balaam had drawn the Israelites into a fleshly religion. Religion which appeals to the flesh is probably Christianity in form only, changing to meet the godless culture. "True Christianity" has to do with crucifying the flesh and living in the spirit. The flesh must die that the spirit might live.

The battle that every Christian faces, is the battle between the pleasing of our flesh, or pleasing the spirit. Notice again "forsaken", which lets us know they were on the right track, they just left that straight and narrow path for a wider path. Jude 7 tells us "[The wicked are sentenced to suffer] just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the adjacent towns—which likewise ***gave themselves over to impurity and indulged in unnatural vice and sensual perversity***—are laid out [in plain sight] as an exhibit of perpetual punishment [to warn] of everlasting fire.

2 Peter 2:16 KJV

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

2 Peter 2:16 AMPC

16 But he was rebuked for his own transgression when a dumb beast of burden spoke with human voice and checked the prophet's madness.

A very determined Baalam was stopped by God from doing a very foolish thing. The Lord did not want him to go, and he went anyhow.

Numbers 22:22-33 AMPC

22 And God's anger was kindled because he went, and the Angel of the Lord stood in the way as an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his donkey, and his two servants were with him.

23 And the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way and His sword drawn in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. And Balaam struck the donkey to turn her into the way.

24 But the Angel of the Lord stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall on this side and a wall on that side.

25 And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she thrust herself against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against it, and he struck her again.

26 And the Angel of the Lord went further and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, either to the right hand or to the left.

27 And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she fell down under Balaam, and Balaam's anger was kindled and he struck the donkey with his staff.

28 And the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, What have I done to you that you should strike me these three times?

29 And Balaam said to the donkey, Because you have ridiculed and provoked me! I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!

30 And the donkey said to Balaam, Am not I your donkey, upon which you have ridden all your life long until this day? Was I ever accustomed to do so to you? And he said, No.

31 Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His sword drawn in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell on his face.

32 And the Angel of the Lord said to him, Why have you struck your donkey these three times? See, I came out to stand against and resist you, for your behavior is willfully obstinate and contrary before Me.

33 And the ass saw Me and turned from Me these three times. If she had not turned from Me, surely I would have slain you and saved her alive.

We can see that this prophet had gone astray, as these last few lessons from God's Word have been teaching us about the false prophets. Balaam, was determined to follow evil.

Many pastors, preacher and teachers (according to Jesus, Peter, Paul, Jude and John) are determined to teach false doctrines, to twist the truth or avoid speaking about sin, judgment, righteousness and the "things" to come. I wonder if it will be take a donkey to speak to them before they will listen?



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