

**Letters From a Fisherman**  
**Week 26**  
**2 Peter 2:10-22**  
**“Drinking From a Dry Well”**

**Introduction**

**Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life.”**  
**John 4:13-14**

Everyone seems to be searching for truth these days. In fact, it seems there are many different “truths” to choose from. People have created for themselves their own brand of truth. But a manufactured “truth” is no truth at all. This is why society has become so perverse, not to mention divided. For no one can agree on what is right, when everyone does what is right in their own eyes.

God has always been, and shall always be, the only source of truth. And His truth is absolute. This fact has never changed. But unfortunately, so-called *civilization* has by and large turned its back on God’s truth, and that is why civilization is in the shape it’s in today. We have become so incredibly arrogant that we have forsaken the only real truth that there is. While we go about trying to “progress” and become more tolerant of that which God calls profane, we slip further and further into chaos. *The Bible* is no longer considered authoritative, and therefore, we have anarchy, rather than order. What *The Scriptures* say regarding this is more relevant than we could possibly imagine.

**Without revelation people run wild, but one who follows divine instruction will be happy.**  
**Proverbs 29:18**

Or:

**There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death.**  
**Proverbs 14:12**

In his final letter, before his impending execution, Simon Peter warned the church not to be taken in by charlatans who offered an *alternative gospel* other than that which the apostles had proclaimed. Many false teachers would arise and try to deceive in order to lead the flock astray. They are motivated by lust and greed and by their made up (*plastic imitation*) stories. They would “make merchandise” of the unsuspecting (**2 Peter 2:3**).

Peter makes no attempt to warn these so-called preachers whose only purpose was to deceive and fleece the flock, for their condemnation was already predetermined (**vs. 3**). But he wished to warn any who might be deceived by their flattering speech and empty promises. These phonies appeal to our own fleshly desires, but in the end, they will leave us empty and hopeless. The worst kind of people in this world are those who knowingly lead others away from God’s truth for their own personal gain. And Peter had nothing good to say about them. Neither should we. These false teachers are not misguided. They are evil. They operate by twisting God’s Word to make it fit with their own corrupt agendas. And what they attempt is no different than what Satan himself did in the garden when he beguiled Eve. He began with the phrase:

**“Did God really say.....”**  
**(Genesis 3:1b)**

In the passage we are studying today, Peter exposes the very nature of the Satanic “preacher”, who would entice us away from God’s truth in order to appeal to our own fleshly desires. These phonies have no regard for their followers whatsoever, but simply consider them as a means to an end, as it were. Peter pulls off their masks and allows us to see into the blackness of their hearts. They are *Prideful*, *Predatory*, and *Perverse*. And nothing they offer can actually bring any lasting freedom, but rather, only further enslavement. Please allow me to explain.

**Prideful (vs. 10b-11)**

***Bold, arrogant people! They are not afraid to slander the glorious ones; however, angels, who are greater in might and power, do not bring a slanderous charge against them before The LORD.*** **2 Peter 2:10b-11**

As Peter continues his discussion of the false teachers who would seek to infiltrate the church, he points out that one of their defining characteristics is that of extreme pridefulness. They have such inflated egos that they are unafraid even of beings that are more powerful than themselves. *The Bible* teaches us that we are not at war with mortal man in this our spiritual battle, but rather we are being opposed by forces in high places.

***For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.*** **Ephesians 6:12-13**

Peter tells us that even the angels, who are much stronger than we are, have the good sense to respect the chain of command and operate within the authority that has been granted to them. Some in the so-called charismatic movement today have absolutely no fear of things that are more powerful than they are. They are so prideful that they actually think they have the authority to “bind” the satanic forces in the spiritual realm. You hear them say things like, “*I now hereby bind you Satan...*”, as if they possess that kind of power.

I’m pretty certain that the devil laughs when he hears such nonsense coming out of these charlatan’s mouths. Of course, he doesn’t do anything to them for they are blissfully unaware that they are acting on his behalf with their foolish boasting. Anyone who can boast of their own spiritual prowess has never truly been in the presence of The King of kings and LORD of lords... for to know Him is to be humbled by His majesty!

Peter was probably thinking of deceivers such as Simon Magus or the sons of Sceva, when he wrote this passage (**Acts 8:9-25, Acts 19:13-16**). The latter of which I actually find humorous. Their story is a perfect example of how the arrogance of thinking we have power that we do *not* have can lead to our downfall.

***Now some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists also attempted to pronounce the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “I command you by the Jesus that Paul preaches!” Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish high priest, were doing this. The evil spirit answered them, “I know Jesus, and I recognize Paul — but who are you?” Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them, overpowered them all, and prevailed against them, so that they ran out of that house naked and wounded.*** **Acts 19:13-16**

Let me assure you of something today... The devil isn’t the least bit afraid of you in your own feeble strength. But he is absolutely *terrified* of Jesus! As you have heard me say before, I raise turkeys. Sometimes the baby chicks get out of their pen, because they are small enough to escape through the holes in the chain-link fence. Every now and then, when I’m outside, I spot the shadow of a hawk flying overhead. Not once have I ever seen those turkey chicks look up at the hawk, and say, “I hereby bind you hawk, be gone with you.” NO! They run as fast as they can to hide underneath their mother’s wings, for they know she’s too big for the hawk to mess with.

So we need to be as smart as a turkey... (That isn’t too much to ask is it?). When the devil comes after us, we don’t face him in our human weakness, we run for The Master and hide in the shelter of His wings. *He is the One with all the power*, and as long as we will humble ourselves enough to rely upon His strength, we will have nothing to fear.

The mark of the unregenerate, even as they pretend to be spiritual, is that they are prideful. And no-one who places any hope in their own strength should ever be trusted by the child of God. 'Tis the wise Believer who knows that apart from Him we can do nothing (**John 15:5**). So beware the pridefulness of the false teacher, for he will lead you far away from the safety and security of Christ.

**Predatory (vs. 12-13)**

**But these people, like irrational animals — creatures of instinct born to be caught and destroyed — slander what they do not understand, and in their destruction they too will be destroyed. They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. They consider it a pleasure to carouse in broad daylight. They are spots and blemishes, delighting in their deceptions while they feast with you. 2 Peter 2:12-13**

Back when I was still watching television, I once saw a program entitled, “*When Animals Attack*”. And one of the highlighted stories of animal encounters involved a “domesticated” Grizzly bear and a news reporter. They brought the bear out into the studio, leading him on a leash, and he acted just like someone’s house pet. The bear was massive, probably weighing in around five or six hundred pounds. They went on and on about how sweet he was, and how he just loved playing with his handlers, and for all intents and purposes he was just a big ol’ teddy bear. Well, that was as good as it got, because things quickly went off the rails.

They brought out a female reporter to “interview” the bear. I have no idea what she expected it to say, but nonetheless, there she was microphone in hand, wearing a dress, heels, and makeup, as if she was about to interview some celebrity. The instant she sat down beside ol’ Teddy, he pounced. And let’s just say she didn’t look nearly as professional, when they finally managed to pull the massive bruin off of her.

The thing that struck me the most was how they kept saying things like, “We just don’t understand what happened?! I mean, he’s never done anything like this before.” I was sitting in front of the TV actually considering raising my hand like a kid in school thinking, “*Oh please, I know this one! Please let me answer!*” He did this ‘**cause he’s a bear!** I mean really! It’s an apex predator. It’s what they do, it’s what they are! Good grief, how stupid can some people really be?!

When Peter speaks of the false believer’s who will infiltrate the church he calls them “irrational animals” (brute beast in the KJV). The word he uses for “irrational” in the Greek is *alogos*, meaning without reasoning. These wicked phonies do what they do, because it is in their depraved nature to do what they do. They have no shame whatsoever, even as Peter declares, carousing in broad daylight. Which means, their consciences have become so seared by repeated wickedness that they do what they do in the light of day. They don’t even have enough decorum to hide their sins under the cover of darkness. So I ask you this question: Do you think that Grizzly, who attacked that poor woman, thought it over later on that evening, and said to himself, “*I really shouldn’t have done that.*”? Of course not, he had no remorse whatsoever. Why? Because he’s a bear for crying out loud! He’s a brute beast that is incapable of reasoning. He just does, what he *is!*

In Peter’s day, the church had fellowship meals called “love feasts”, where they would come together, take communion, and then share a communal meal. The pretending believers would come to those feast, take communion like everyone else, and all the while they would be looking for someone to seduce in order to sleep with them. Peter called them “*spots and blemishes*”, literally meaning “*scabs*” on the body of Christ. That is exactly what a fake Christian is to the church. Devoid of conscience and any desire for godliness, these people do everything in an attempt to gratify their own flesh. This is why we are not only commanded to shun false teachers, but anyone who claims to love Christ, and yet, lives a perverse lifestyle. Hence Paul’s warning to the church at Corinth:

**I wrote to you in a letter not to associate with sexually immoral people. I did not mean the immoral people of this world or the greedy and swindlers or idolators; otherwise you would have to leave the world. But actually, I wrote you not to associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister and is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or verbally abusive, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such a person.** **1 Corinthians 5:9-11**

That particular passage is pretty much self-explanatory is it not? Beware the predators!

**Perverse (vs. 14-22)**

**They have eyes full of adultery that never stop looking for sin. They seduce unstable people and have hearts trained in greed. Children under a curse! They have gone astray by abandoning the straight path and have followed the path of Balaam, the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of wickedness but received a rebuke for his lawlessness: A speechless donkey spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.**

**These people are springs without water, mists driven by a storm. The gloom of darkness has been reserved for them. For by uttering boastful, empty words, they seduce, with fleshly desires and debauchery, people who have barely escaped from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption, since people are enslaved to whatever defeats them. For if, having escaped the world's impurity through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in these things and defeated, the last state is worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy command delivered to them. It has happened to them according to the true proverb: A dog returns to its own vomit, and, "A washed sow returns to wallowing in the mud."**

**2 Peter 2:14-22**

There are many imposters who infiltrate the church. They all have this one thing in common. They are religious in appearance, or maybe even to their own way of thinking, but they do not possess a saving faith, nor have they experienced any regeneration by The Spirit. I recently had an encounter with just such a person. On the surface it would appear that they are genuine in their belief in Christ. But by examining just beneath the "christian veneer", you will find a lost soul. Just as lost as they ever were. The only difference is they have a genuine knowledge of Christ and His atoning sacrifice. The one thing they are lacking is... saving faith.

People such as these will actually use other people of faith for their own personal benefit. Peter compared them to Balaam the false prophet of *The Old Testament* (**Numbers 22-24**). Old Balaam was basically a psychic, who knew enough about God to know better than to go up against Him. He was a "prophet for hire", as it were, and was paid by the Moabite King Balak to curse the Israelites as they journeyed to the promised land. Balaam actually tried to earn his paycheck, but every time he opened his mouth to call down a curse on God's people, The LORD took over his mouth and caused him to bless them instead.

Balaam grew increasingly frustrated for fear that the king would demand a refund! So he came up with another way to trouble the Israelites. He suggested to the king to have his young women seduce the men of Israel and lead them to abandon the One True God by worshiping their idols. The scheme worked temporarily, until God punished the people with a plague. Balaam was later killed by Israeli warriors.

Just like Balaam, the false teachers who invade the church will do everything that they possibly can to destroy God's people from within by leading them to abandon truth in favor of a cheap imitation faith. In each instance, all they offer is idolatry. Peter calls these phonies, "**wells without water, and mists without rain**", for they leave those in their path just as thirsty for truth as they were in the beginning. The false teacher promises freedom, but delivers only more bondage instead. By seducing people with the desires of their own flesh, they lead those who would have escaped their bondage by following Christ, even further into bondage by embracing sin instead. Peter states that such as these would have been better off not knowing the truth, than knowing the truth only to turn away from it.

The comparison to a dog eating its own vomit (**Proverbs 26:11**), and a sow returning to wallow in the mud, shows us that these perverse and unregenerate people are so enamored with their own sin, that they run back to it, even though it will inevitably lead to their downfall. So it is with those who succumb to the doctrines of a plastic substitute faith. Perversion is what they know, and so perversion is what they ultimately prefer.

In his commentary of *Second Peter*, Warren Wiersbe shares some truth that I found to be deeply profound. He states:

*"It is interesting to compare the three men Peter named in this chapter — Noah, Lot, and Balaam. Noah kept himself completely separated from the apostasy of the world of his day. He boldly preached God's righteousness and was faithful in his walk and witness, even though no one but his family followed The LORD.*

*Lot knew the truth and kept himself pure, but he did not keep himself separated; he lost his family as a result. Lot hated the wickedness of Sodom, yet he lived in the midst of it and, by doing so, exposed his daughters and wife to godless influences.*

*Balaam not only followed the ways of sin, but he encouraged other people to sin! He told Balak how to seduce the nation Israel and his plan almost succeeded. Lot lost his family, but Balaam lost his life."*

And I cannot even begin to say it any better than that. Beware of those who compromise with this world and yet feign to be followers of Christ. Their faith is but a plastic imitation and does not save. They can only offer you a drink from a well that is dry and can never satisfy the thirst of your soul.

TRUTH!!!