

2 Peter

(Lesson 14)

Introduction:

1. Peter began his second letter (1:1-4) by showing that God has provided special blessings for the benefit of His people.
 - a. He has provided what we need to be *"partakers of the divine nature."*
 - b. Included are *"all things that pertain unto life and godliness"* and *"exceeding great and precious promises."*
2. Peter continued (1:5-11) by showing that God has provided special responsibilities [the Christian graces] for the benefit of His people.
3. (1:12-15) Peter emphasized the importance of "always remembering these things."
4. Peter showed in 1:16-21 that the teaching of the apostles is reliable.
5. In ch.2 Peter issued a strong warning to Christians against false teachers.
6. Previously, we covered the information presented in 2:1-11.
 - a. (vs.1-3, 9b-11) Peter warned that false teachers would affect Christians.
 - b. (vs.4-6) Peter used 3 illustrations to show how false teachers, and those who follow them, will be punished.
 - c. (vs.7-9a) Peter showed how the Lord will deliver the godly.
7. In this lesson we are studying 2:12-22 where Peter revealed additional information that would help Christians in identifying and avoiding false teachers.

Discussion:

- I. PETER COMPARED THE FALSE TEACHERS UNDER CONSIDERATION TO:
 - A. "natural brute beasts" (vs.12)
 - B. "spots and blemishes" (vs.13; Ephesians 5:27)
 - C. "wells without water" and "empty clouds" (vs.17)
 - D. Balaam (vs.15-16; Numbers 22:20-35; 25:1-3, 9; 31:16).
- II. PETER DESCRIBED THE FALSE TEACHERS UNDER CONSIDERATION AS UNCONTROLLED
 - A. (vs.13) They were like those who *"count it pleasure to riot in the day time."*
 - B. (vs.14) Peter said that they *"cannot cease from sin,"* having hearts they had *"exercised with covetous practices."*
- III. PETER REVEALED THE TACTICS OF THE FALSE TEACHERS UNDER CONSIDERATION
 - A. (vs.12) They spoke evil of things they did not understand.
 - B. (vs.14) They sought to beguile *"unstable souls."*
 - C. (vs.19) They promised *"liberty,"* while putting people in *"bondage."*
 - D. Similar instructions are given in Jude 8, 10-13, 16-19.
- IV. PETER REVEALED THE DESTINY OF THE FALSE TEACHERS UNDER CONSIDERATION
 - A. (vs.12) They would *"utterly perish in their own corruption."*
 - B. (vs.13) They would *"receive the reward of unrighteousness."*
 - C. (vs.17) *"The mist of darkness"* would be reserved for them forever.
 - D. (vs.20-22) They would suffer worse than someone who never knew about Christianity.