

**Blots and Blemishes (Part 1)**  
**The Character and Conduct of False Teachers**  
**2 Peter 2:10b-16**

**Thought for the Day:** False teachers and their false doctrines are an abomination to God! We should certainly love those who are caught up in their deceptions, but we must expose and reject the lies of those who are propagating such destructive heresies, as the Lord and His Word do.

In 2 Peter 2, “the apostle Peter projects a detailed and dramatic picture of human corruption. The scene is neither pleasant nor encouraging. Rather, it is dark and foreboding. The tone feels more like a walk through the sleazy back alleys of a foul-smelling ghetto—where shameless conditions accost our moral senses like putrid waste in a gutter.

“Why does Peter delve so deeply into these depths of depravity? Remember that Peter wrote this letter to remind believers of the source of sound teaching, to encourage diligence in the faith, and to strengthen biblical foundations of beliefs and practices. To encourage the positive, Peter sets it against the black backdrop of the negative. In chapter 1, he described the useful and fruitful image of a growing believer in brilliant hues and pointed to the hope they have through embracing God’s Word as their standard of unflinching truth. In chapter 2, he describes the useless and fruitless unbeliever in dark, drab colors, pointing to their future judgment for rejecting God’s Word and God’s Son and leading others astray.” (*Charles Swindoll, 1&2 Peter, p. 334*)

**10b Bold and willful...**

- As opposed to humble and submissive – attitudes that characterize the true servant-leaders (i.e., the pastors and teachers) within the Church. (Cp. Philippians 2:5-9)
- False teachers were and are anything but humble and submissive! They do not come to serve but to be served (cp. Matthew 20:28). They are arrogant and live only to please themselves.

**...they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, 11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord.**

- False teachers are disrespectful of those in authority, both human and angelic.
- The “glorious ones” generally refers to angelic authorities. Here, it appears that Peter is referring to Satan and his demonic followers.
- Even the godly angels do not dare to speak against the fallen angels! But the false teachers, in their pride and arrogance, foolishly do not hesitate to revile and belittle Satan and his demonic forces.

**12 But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, 13a suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing.**

- “Such people, Peter says, can expect to receive wrath, not mercy, from the God of justice when Christ returns to rescue His people and judge the world.” (*Swindoll, 1&2 Peter, p. 329*) (Cp. vss. 1,3, 4-10a)
- “Not only do they deceive others, but they even deceive themselves! They can ‘prove’ from the Bible that their lifestyle is right.” (*Wiersbe, Be Alert, p. 67*)

**13b They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you.**

- Most people party after dark where they can hide their debauchery, but the false teachers are so bold that they party in broad daylight!
- They are "dirty blotches, and scabs" (*MacArthur, 1 & 2 Peter, p. 87*). They bring shame and reproach to the name of Christ and to the body of believers!
- The false teachers were so bold that they would show up to the Love Feasts, taking advantage of "free food" and using them as hunting grounds for immature believers and those who were easily lead astray, in order to gain followers for themselves.

**14 They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin.**

- "Such people are constantly on the prowl for fornication or adultery. They size up every situation for unseen opportunities to sin... Like carnivorous predators, they hunt for naïve, weak, and unstable victims to devour." (*Swindoll, 1&2 Peter, pp. 334-35*)

**They entice unsteady souls.**

- A fishing metaphor: They bait the hook and wait for someone who is weak or immature in the faith, to take the bait. They reel them in and lead them astray from the faith and the Lord. (Cp. 2 Timothy 3:6)
- "More than one 'minister' has used religion as a cloak to cover his own lusts. Some women, in particular, are vulnerable in 'counseling sessions,' and these men take advantage of them." (*Wiersbe, Be Alert, p. 69*)

**They have hearts trained in greed.**

- Paul exhorted Timothy to "train yourself for godliness" (1 Timothy 4:7). The false teachers, in stark contrast, are "trained in greed."
- They are "masters at conning, extorting, stealing, blackmailing. They know how to jerk at the heartstrings and sound so sincere," all-the-while taking advantage of those with good and generous hearts who want nothing more than to please the Lord and help others.

**Accursed children!**

- Accursed children of the devil (John 8:44; Matthew 7:15) vs. blessed children of God.

**15 Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, 16 but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.**

- Balaam was a prophet for profit, a hireling; his services were available to the highest bidder. When the price was right, he was ready to work his magic!
- He was a man who preferred wealth and popularity over faithfulness and obedience to God. (*MacArthur, 1 & 2 Peter, p. 87*)

Most of us have friends and loved ones who are involved in false religions, listening to false teachers who are leading them astray. We should pray for our friends and family members and do everything we can to help them know the truth. Don't fall into the trap of tolerating and even endorsing false teachings just to make your friends or family members feel good about themselves! Those false teachers and false teachings are leading them to eternal destruction!