

# 2 Peter 2:20-22

## Results of False Teaching

Jeremy Doan

Holly Hills Bible Church

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# Who do they think they are?

*20a For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,*

- *after they have escaped*
  - ▶ One word in the Greek
  - ▶ 1:4 – ... *you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust...*
  - ▶ 2:18 – ...*they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error...*
- *the defilements of the world*
  - ▶ *defilements* – pollution or contamination
  - ▶ *world* – kosmos<sup>1</sup>
- *knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*
  - ▶ *knowledge* – super knowledge
    - ★ 1:3 – ...*through the true knowledge of Him...*

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<sup>1</sup>same world in 1:4

## Back in the cooler

*20b they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.*

- *entangled* – to braid in, interweave<sup>2</sup>
  - ▶ 2 Timothy 2:4 – *No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life...*
- *in them* – that is, in the defilements of the world
- *overcome*
  - ▶ 1:19 – *for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved*
  - ▶ Galatians 5:1 – *It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.*

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<sup>2</sup>Zodhiates

## Worse than ever before

*20b they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.*

- *the last state has become worse for them than the first*
  - ▶ Matthew 12:45 – ...*the last state of that man becomes worse than the first*
- Three questions:
  - ▶ When are the *first* and *last* states chronologically?
    - ★ Proposition: state of a fallen believer < state of an unbeliever<sup>3</sup>
  - ▶ Where does the *worse* state occur?
    - ★ Proposition: the worse state is here on this earth<sup>4</sup>
  - ▶ What is *worse* about the *last state*?
    - ★ Proposition: see next slide

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<sup>3</sup>keeping in mind the next point

<sup>4</sup>clearly the state of the believer in eternity is infinitely better

# What's their deal?

What can we say about those who follow false teachers?

- 2:1 – following *destructive heresies*
- 2:2 – following sensuality
- 2:3 – being exploited by greedy people
- 2:14 – enticed in their instability
- 2:18 – enticed by their fleshly desires
- 2:20 – entangled in the defilements of the world

So what about this is worse than walking in the Spirit?

## To have loved and loss

*21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.*

- *better* – more advantageous
  - ▶ 1 Peter 3:17 – *For it is better...you should suffer doing right...*
- *to have known*
  - ▶ same “super knowledge” as in 1:4 and 2:20
  - ▶ variation used later in *than having known it*
- *the way of righteousness*
  - ▶ Same as *the way of truth* (2:2) and *the right way* (2:15)?<sup>5</sup>
- *to turn away from* – to turn back from, return<sup>6</sup>
  - ▶ doesn't seem to indicate something as strong as “repent”
- *the holy commandment*
  - ▶ 3:2 – *the commandment of the Lord & Savior spoken by your apostles*

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<sup>5</sup>Hint: I suspect so

<sup>6</sup>“return” foreshadows the next verse

## Bad dog

*22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, “A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT,” and, “A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.”*

- *It has happened to them according to the true proverb*
  - ▶ *proverb – figure of speech*
- *A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT*
  - ▶ Proverbs 26:11 –  
*Like a dog that returns to its vomit  
Is a fool who repeats his folly.*
- *A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.*
  - ▶ Notice: there is a washing here
- Do either of these imply any eternal condemnation?