

2 Peter 2:13-22 (also, Read Jude)

THE CHARACTER OF THE FALSE TEACHERS

2:13 – The gain the false teachers have made will be punishment when they are judged.

- Since the false teachers are so motivated and captivated by their evil, they cannot even wait until the cover of darkness is available to hide their sin. Their sin is blatant.
- They stain the church. Peter advises his readers to be “instead “spotless and blameless” before God in 3:14.
- The literal Greek says: “reveling in their deceitfulness while they feast with you.”

2:14 – The false teachers look at every woman in order to consider her as a possible target for adultery.

- The Greek says, “having eyes full of an adulteress”
- Thus, with their “eyes” the false teachers “never stop sinning” since their eyes are always seeing.
- The result of this behavior is:
 - The unstable are seduced
 - “seduce” (*deleazo*) is from a Greek word referring to the bait used to catch an animal in a trap or a fish on a hook.
 - “unstable” (*asteriktous*) - In 3:16 the “unstable” (*asteriktoi*) distort Paul’s authoritative writing and all of Scripture. “Unstable”, then, is directly connected to those who are NOT established firmly in the truth as in 1:12 (*esterigmenous*).
- Peter then focuses from sexual sins of the false teachers and the unstable women they pursued, to the false teachers’ greed for money:
 - NIV – experts in greed”
 - NRSV “They have hearts trained in greed.”
- “trained” comes from *gegymnasmenen* which refers to the place people committed their time and training to become expert athletes. We get our English word “gymnasium” from *gegymnasmenen*. These men had committed time and money training themselves to gain a profit through their ministry. And, in this case, gaining a profit would require false teaching.

2:15 –

- Numbers 22-24
- Peter uses the name “Balaam son of Bosor” (KJ, NRSV, HCSB) in the original which was changed back to the “son of Beor” ((NIV, NASB, RSV, NKJ). Peter appears to be using a Hebrew word *basar* which means “flesh” instead of Balaam’s father’s real name.

2:16 –

THE EFFECT OF THE FALSE TEACHERS

2:17 – The false teachers promise water and clarity to the thirsty and confused. But, since they did not have truth the thirsty and confused were left thirsty and confused, but now disillusioned, hopeless and ready to forsake the faith.

- False teachers were addressing recent converts and believers young in the faith/knowledge.

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2:18 – Greek says, “They entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error.”

- The young believers have just been delivered from the world into the hands of false teachers motivated by the world!

Three things the false teachers use (seen in 2:18-19) to manipulate their followers:

1. Spoke with confidence
2. Appeal to natural (and, often sinful) desires
3. Promised freedom from the burdens of this life that people were facing every day

2:19 –

2:20 –

2:21 –

2:22 –

