

Profiling False Teachers Pt. 2

2 Peter 2:17-22

These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, but they themselves are

slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."

These are **waterless springs** and
mists driven by a storm.

Jude 1:12

These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; **waterless clouds**, swept along by winds; **fruitless trees** in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted;

Jeremiah 13:14

Her nobles send their servants for water; they come to the cisterns; they **find no water**; they return with their **vessels empty**; they are ashamed and confounded and cover their heads.

These are waterless springs and **mists**
driven by a storm.

The mists promise water that is so desperately needed in a dry climate, but the wind sweeps through and drives the hazy mists away, leaving the land parched.

– Tom Schreiner

For them the gloom of **utter
darkness** has been **reserved**.

Matthew 22:13

Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the **outer darkness**. In **that place** there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

All the language that strikes terror into our hearts - weeping and gnashing of teeth, outer darkness, the worm, the fire, Gehenna, the great gulf fixed - is all directly taken from our Lord's teaching. It is from Jesus Christ that we learn the doctrine of eternal punishment.

– J. I. Packer

For, speaking loud boasts of folly,
they entice by sensual passions of
the flesh those who are **barely**
escaping from **those who live**
in error.

1 Timothy 3:6

He must **not be a recent convert**, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.

It is likely, then, that Peter was not saying that they “barely” escaped the clutches of the world but that they had recently escaped it. The false teachers were crafty. They targeted those who were unstable and liable to be taken in by their schemes.

– Thomas Schreiner

They **promise** them **freedom**, but
they themselves are **slaves of**
corruption

John 8:34

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a **slave to sin**.

Titus 3:3

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, **slaves to various passions and pleasures**, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

For whatever overcomes a person,
to that he is enslaved.

For if, **after they have escaped the defilements** of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are **again entangled in them and overcome**, the last state has become **worse for them than the first.**

For it would have been better for them never to have **known the way of righteousness** than after **knowing** it to **turn back** from the holy commandment delivered to them.

Luke 12:47

And that servant who **knew** his master's will **but did not get ready or act** according to his will, will receive a severe beating.

John 15:22

If I **had not come and spoken to them**, they would not have been guilty of sin but now they have no excuse for their sin.

If you go down to destruction from the borders of salvation, it will be sevenfold destruction. If you die with Jesus weeping over you, as he did over Jerusalem, you will die horribly. If you sink down to hell with that word in your ears, "How often would I have gathered you,

as a hen gathers her chickens
under her wings, and you would
not" your sinking will be like that of
a millstone in the sea. If you perish
under a gospel ministry, it were
better for you that you had never
been born.

– Charles Spurgeon

What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The **dog** returns to its own vomit, and the **sow**, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”

The scavenging dog eating its own vomit and the sow wallowing in its own mud are both revolting pictures of 'brute beasts, creatures of instinct', and they vividly describe the false teachers. After an initial display of repentance and reformation, they show that nothing in their nature has changed at all, which is the last proof that these people never were Christians.

- R. C. Lucas and Christopher Green