

## Standing in the True Grace of God

*Peter's Life, Letters and Lord*

### 2 Peter 2:10–22

**Read 2 Peter 2:10–22.**

1. What is Peter's tone and why do you think he is speaking this way?
2. Make a list of how Peter says these false teachers are behaving. (vv. 10–15, 18–19)
3. How we behave is directly linked to what we believe.
  - a. Look back over your list from the previous question. What must these false teachers believe? (Hint: Rom. 6:1)
  - b. What does Peter clearly say about what they believe? (2:1; Jude 4)
4. What sort of creatures might Peter be referring to when he talks about “celestial beings” (v. 10b)? (Psalm 103:20–21; Luke 1:8–13, 18–20; Eph. 6:11–12; Rev. 12:7–9)

The false teachers seem to be speaking disrespectfully of this powerful but unseen spiritual world. Why is their slander an act of arrogance and ignorance? (vv. 10–12; Jude 8–9)

5. Peter condemns these false teachers for despising authority. However, who will have the final word and what will the outcome be? (vv. 9–10a, 13a; Jude 14–15)
6. If it is so plain that judgment awaits these false teachers, why does anyone follow them? (vv. 2–3a, 14, 18–19)
7. How are these blasphemous false teachers like “brute beasts” (v. 12)? (vv. 10a, 12, 22; Eph. 4:18–19; Jude 10)

**Read verses 14–16.**

8. Peter compares these false teachers to the Old Testament prophet Balaam, who was willing to curse Israel for financial gain. (📖\* Numbers 22–24)  
Why are greed and the love of money so destructive in the life of the church? (vv. 3a, 14–15; Luke 16:13; I Tim. 6:10)
9. In the Old Testament story, Balaam becomes so insanely angry that God has to resort to something very unusual to get Balaam’s attention.
  - a. What is it? (v. 16; Num. 22:26–34)
  - b. What do you think Peter is implying about the false teachers when he refers to the story of Balaam and his donkey? (v. 16)
10. What word pictures are used to describe the lives of these false teachers? (v. 17; Jude 12b–13)

What do these pictures imply about the lives and beliefs of the false teachers?

11. What kinds of “freedom” (v. 19) might the false teachers be offering?

Why are these “freedom[s]” actually forms of slavery? (vv. 19–20)

12. What have you pursued that you thought would bring you freedom but actually ended up enslaving you?

13. What did the false teachers know? (vv. 20–21)

14. Despite what they knew, the false teachers chose to reject the “way of righteousness” and “turn[ed] their backs on the sacred command” (vv. 21–22). What must always go hand in hand with a knowledge of Jesus that will prevent us from being entangled again by the corruption of the world? (1:3–8; John 15:9–17; Rom. 6:16–19)

15. Think about the ways that you are tempted to become entangled again in your old way of life.  
What practical steps can you take to prevent this from happening? (Use the passages listed in Question 14 as a guide.)

\*The 📖 symbol indicates verses for further study.