

Renewed Mind Bible Studies

1 & 2 Peter - Session 11 (Exiles Who Discern)

2 Peter 2:1-22

(Use this sheet to take notes, reflect personally, and contribute to discussion.)

2 Peter 2:1-3 (Recognizing False Teachers)

- That word “false” isn’t just about being slightly off...it’s pseudes (PSOO-dess), meaning _____ deceptive, or counterfeit.
- The verb Peter uses for “deny” is arneomai (ar-NEH-oh-my), meaning to renounce or _____ completely.
- The Gnostics claimed salvation came through hidden insight, making ordinary believers feel _____. The antinomians twisted grace into permission, teaching that _____ didn’t matter. The docetists denied Jesus truly had a physical body, saying He only “seemed” human...which undermined His suffering, death, and _____.
- Not much has changed to this very day. False teaching still promises life but delivers destruction. Sometimes it comes wrapped in _____. Sometimes it comes cloaked in _____. Sometimes it’s personal _____, These movements echo the same old lie...it’s modern _____ in disguise.
- The Greek word for “greed” here is pleonexia (play-oh-NEX-ee-ah), meaning an insatiable _____ for more, often at the expense of others. It’s the hunger that never says “enough,” which is why it so easily corrupts spiritual _____.

Personal Insight:

• **Where have I seen subtle “half-truths” slip into Christian teaching or culture, and how can I guard against them?**

• **Do I have a tendency to follow spiritual voices based on popularity or charisma rather than testing them against Scripture?**

2 Peter 2:4–10a (God’s Judgment and Rescue)

- Peter is most likely pointing to Genesis 6 or to traditions about rebellious angels who crossed God’s _____. The word he uses for “hell” here is tartarōsas (tar-tar-OH-sas), a word borrowed from Greek mythology. It referred to the lowest, darkest prison of _____ imaginable.
- The Greek word here for preacher is kēruō (KAY-roox), meaning a herald or _____ announcer. Even if no one listened, Noah’s very life and _____ proclaimed God’s standard to the world around him.
- Lot wasn’t untouched by the culture around him...he was actually worn down by it, grieved in his spirit, and often _____. Sometimes we think being righteous means being flawless, but Peter reminds us that righteousness can look like being heavily _____ by sin and clinging to God in the middle of it.
- The verb for rescue is rhyomai (HROO-oh-my), which means to snatch, deliver, or draw someone safely out of danger. It’s the word Paul uses in Colossians 1:13 when he says God has “rescued us from the kingdom of darkness.” God doesn’t just warn us about the flood or the fire, He pulls us _____ it.
- Entire movements celebrate rebellion against God’s design. Just like in Peter’s day, _____ immorality and _____ of authority are often praised as freedoms. But Peter warns us that they are not freedoms, they are chains.
- we need to live with both _____ and compassion. Honest in that God’s judgment is real, and sin has consequences. Compassion because many people mocking truth today are like Lot’s neighbors, and they are blind to the danger they’re in. Our job is not to _____ at their destruction but to live as “preachers of righteousness,” warning by both our words and our example that another way is possible in Christ.

Personal Insight:

- **Where do I feel “tormented in my soul” by the brokenness of the world around me?**
- **How can I trust God’s power to rescue me...not just someday, but right in the middle of my trials?**

2 Peter 2:10b–16 (The Arrogance of False Teachers)

- Peter describes false teachers as scoffing at supernatural beings (doxas in Greek, meaning “glorious ones” or _____ powers). This is intense because Peter points out that even angels themselves, meaning beings far greater in power, approach such realities with humility and reverence.
- Peter then compares them to “unthinking animals, or creatures of instinct.” The Greek word alogos (ah-LOH-goss) means “without reason” or “_____.”
- Their eyes are full of _____ (moichalis in Greek points to both literal and spiritual unfaithfulness), and they lure the unstable into sin. Peter’s words remind us that sin doesn’t just _____ the sinner...it pulls others down with it.
- Though God did use Balaam at times, his greed compromised his _____, and his story became a warning throughout Scripture. Peter notes that even Balaam’s _____ had more spiritual sense than he did.
- Then, as now, false teachers often show their arrogance by dismissing spiritual realities, flaunting their freedom, and preying on the _____. In the early church, some twisted God’s grace into a license for sin. Today, the same patterns emerge: leaders who mock the authority of Scripture, _____ sin, exploit others for money or power, or use spiritual influence to indulge in immorality.
- Our call is not to live in fear of this, but to _____...to test teaching by _____, to value humility over charisma, and to remember that God rescues the humble even as He judges the proud.

Personal Insight:

- **Where in my life am I tempted to live by impulse instead of Spirit, like a “creature of instinct”?**
 - **How can I practice discernment when I hear or see spiritual teaching that feels flashy but may not be faithful?**
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2 Peter 2:17–19 (Empty Promises)

- The Greek word used for “springs” is pēgai (PAY-guy), meaning _____ or wells. Additionally, the word “mist” (homichlē in Greek) means fleeting, unstable, and quickly _____ away.
- The phrase “empty words” is mataiotēs (mah-tie-AH-tace) means meaningless, void of truth, or _____. What's their favorite strategy? Appealing to our sinful

desires, especially sexual temptation. This was common in the Greco-Roman world, where temple prostitution and sexual indulgence were often tied to _____.

- _____ Christians who have just left behind their old life are vulnerable, and instead of nurturing them, these teachers drag them back into chains.
- Peter unmasks the lie: if sin controls you, you're not free at all. You're _____. The phrase "slave of sin" echoes Jesus' words in _____ 8:34: "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin."

Personal Insight:

- **Where am I most tempted to chase promises of freedom that don't lead to life?**
 - **How can I help protect and strengthen newer believers from being lured back into old patterns of sin?**
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2 Peter 2:20–22 (The Danger of Turning Back)

- The word "tangled up" in verse 20 comes from the Greek emplekō (em-PLEH-koh), which means to be entwined, like being caught in a net or twisted up in _____. Once you're stuck, every move just pulls you tighter.
- Then he uses another strong word: "enslaved." That's douloō (doo-LOH-oh), meaning to be made a slave or bound in _____. The tragedy here is that false teachers promise eleutheria (el-yoo-THER-ee-ah), or freedom, but their followers end up bound instead.
- Peter isn't not saying ignorance saves people. What he means is that rejecting light after you've walked in it carries heavier _____ than never having seen it. Greater knowledge brings greater _____.
- Finally, Peter drives his point home with two proverbs: a dog returning to its _____, referencing Proverbs 26:11, and a pig returning to mud. Both images highlight the same truth: without genuine transformation, we go back to what we _____.
- The encouragement here is that God doesn't just warn us...He _____ us.

Personal Insight:

- **Where am I tempted to "return to the mud"...slipping back into old habits or thought patterns I know God has already freed me from?**

- **What practices or relationships help me stay anchored in the freedom Christ has given, rather than drifting back into bondage?**

Group Discussion Questions – Session 11 (Exiles Who Discern)

Peter warned that false teachers would secretly introduce destructive heresies. What are some subtle “false gospels” people face today (comfort, prosperity, self-fulfillment, etc.), and how can we discern truth from error?

God judged fallen angels, the flood generation, and Sodom, yet He rescued Noah and Lot. What does this teach us about His justice and His mercy operating together?

Peter describes false teachers as arrogant, boastful, and enslaved to their own desires. How can we guard ourselves against those same temptations in leadership or influence?

False teachers promise freedom but lead to slavery. Where do you see that tension in our culture...things advertised as freeing but actually binding?

Peter ends with the proverb about dogs and pigs returning to their old mess. What helps you personally keep moving forward in faith instead of drifting back into old patterns?

Prayer Challenge for the Group

Tonight, ask each person to name one “empty promise” they’ve been tempted to believe...whether from culture, false teaching, or even their own past habits. As each person shares, the group can pray over them specifically, asking God for discernment to recognize lies, courage to resist entanglement, and strength to walk in true freedom. Pray for the Spirit to make us a people who don’t just know the truth but live it out, standing firm together in a world full of counterfeits.

