

VGROUP STUDY GUIDE
"WHAT FALSE TEACHING PRODUCES"
2 PETER 2: 17-22
FEBRUARY 11, 2024

FOCAL POINT: Do you have any stories that would fit the statement “too good to be true”? The message Sunday used the story of the fake “low calorie” donuts. False teaching in the church is essentially the same thing. Can you think of any examples of spiritual things being taught that are “too good to be true”?

TEXT:

*These people are springs without water, mists driven by a whirlwind. The gloom of darkness has been reserved for them. **18** For by uttering boastful, empty words, they seduce, with fleshly desires and debauchery, people who have barely escaped from those who live in error. **19** They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption, since people are enslaved to whatever defeats them. **20** For if, having escaped the world's impurity through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in these things and defeated, the last state is worse for them than the first. **21** For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy command delivered to them. **22** It has happened to them according to the true proverb: A dog returns to its own vomit, and, “a sow, after washing itself, wallows in the mud.”*

Many people were being led astray by some of the false teaching that was invading the church at this time. Peter's intent was to pull the veil off the false teaching to let believers see what was actually being produced by teaching that was contrary to Scripture.

Peter shared false teaching produced:

Emptiness (vv. 17-18)

1. Go through these 2 verses and share what you notice. What was the claim being made and what was the product? This made me think of clickbait. Clickbait is a text or a thumbnail link designed to attract attention and to entice users to follow ("click") that link and read, view, or listen to the linked piece of online content, being typically deceptive, sensationalized, or otherwise misleading (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clickbait>).

a.If you've ever clicked on a link like this, what did you discover? The typical result is a let down. It wasn't all it claimed to be.

2.Why are people deceived to follow after things that don't deliver? Read v. 18 again. The appeal was made to the basest instincts of man. The lie being told was that you could indulge in the flesh and not be guilty before God. Attractive? Yes! True? No! Can you name some Scriptures that would refute this?

3.Read Jesus' words in Matt. 16: 24-27. Share the challenge of this. Then share why it's a blessing.

Bondage (vv. 19-20)

1.What kind of freedom is culture selling these days? How would you articulate how culture defines "freedom"?

2.Read Gen. 3: 1-5. How do you see this being an example of the world's definition of freedom? What was the result, in this instance, of going after this definition of "freedom"?

3.The things mentioned in Gal. 5: 19-21 (read) are things we're encouraged to indulge in today. But where does it lead? Read Gal. 5: 22-23. What's the difference between these 2 lists? Can you share how self-control (which would mean a form of denial) could actually bring about freedom?

Unrepentant spirit (vv. 21-22)

1.These verses were referencing the false teachers themselves. They had the appearance of godliness but they were not godly. They knew the lingo. They went to church. But their lives were NOT different. They turned their back on God's leadership and followed their own desires. In other words, they had no repentance. Define repentance.

2.Look in your Bible and find where repentance is mentioned and share why it's necessary. Why is it necessary for salvation? How does the idea of repentance not follow with the idea of living as you please?