

Slaves of Depravity

Esclavos de la Depravación

How can we escape the slavery of sin?

¿Cómo podemos escapar de la esclavitud del pecado?

1. Let's live for _____ pleasure.

Vivamos para el placer de _____.

2 Peter 2:13 (2 Pedro 2:13)

Jude 1:12 (Judas 1:12)

2 Peter 1:3-4 (2 Pedro 1:3-4)

2. Let's stay away from _____.

Mantengámonos alejados del _____.

2 Peter 2:14-15 (2 Pedro 2:14-15)

2 Peter 2:18 (2 Pedro 2:18)

Romans 13:13-14 (Romanos 13:13-14)

3. Let's remain in _____.

Permanezamos en _____.

2 Peter 2:20 (2 Pedro 2:20)

John 15:4-6 (Juan 15:4-6)

2 Peter 3:17 (2 Pedro 3:17)

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2 Peter 2:13-22



Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 15: January 4-11

2 Peter 2:12-22

In 2 Peter chapter 2, Peter warns us about the destructive heresies of false teachers (2:1). However, he also tells us about the sinful lifestyles of the false teachers. He says that they “seduce” and “entice” people with sinful temptations (2:14, 18). “They promise freedom,” but in reality, they are enslaved by their own sins (2:19). Peter tells us how to guard against the deception of false teachers. But he also gives us important principles that will help us escape the slavery of sin.

Read 2 Peter 2:12-22

1. How did Peter describe the false teachers in verse 13?
2. What were the false teachers doing while they were eating together with Christians? (2:13; see also Jude 1:12)

Michael Green comments,

This daylight revelry is carried on *while they feast with you*. If one well-attested reading... is accepted, it took place at the *Agapae* or “love-feasts” which accompanied the Holy Communion (see 1 Cor. 11:20ff.). This is certainly the right reading in the parallel passage in Jude 12 and would make good sense here. We know from 1 Corinthians that immorality and greed had broken out at the love-feasts in Corinth in the fifties, and the dangers of this sort of abuse later led to the discontinuance of the *Agapae*. (Green, 132-133)

3. How did Peter describe the false teachers in verse 14?

Green notes,

They lust after every girl they see; they view every female as a potential adulteress. Peter makes another shrewd psychological observation. Lascivious thoughts, if dwelt upon and acted upon, become dominant. It becomes impossible for them to look at any woman without reflecting on her likely sexual performance, and on the possibilities of persuading her to gratify their lusts. (Green, 133)

4. What Old Testament character did Peter mention in verse 15? Why?

5. How was Balaam's donkey better than a false prophet? (2:12, 16)

Allen Black writes,

The assumption is that Balaam had decided to prophesy against Israel for the money. So, the “brute beast” (from verse 12) proved more reasonable than the man who, like the false teachers, was following his worst impulses. The donkey acts as the man should, and the man acts like the donkey, that is, irrationally (“madness”). (Black, 199)

6. How did Peter describe the false teachers in verse 17?

7. Who were the false teachers trying to seduce and entice? (2:14, 18)

Black observes,

Perhaps a word is in order at this point about those who appeal to the worst in people in order to further their personal agendas. Modern Christian leaders who preach the health and wealth gospel would be good examples. Similarly, those who deny biblical teachings on sexual matters regarding premarital sex and homosexuality may also fall into this category. (Black, 201)

8. To what were the false teachers enslaved? (2:19)

The “freedom” of the false teachers was just an illusion. They refused to admit it, but they were slaves to their sinful lifestyles (John 8:34). Like many false teachers today, they were twisting the doctrine of grace into an excuse to continue in sin (Rom. 6:1-2; Gal. 5:13; Jude 1:4).

9. How did Peter say a person could escape the corruption of the world? (2:20; see also 1:2-4)

Raymond Kelcy notes,

Peter refers to those who have previously been genuine Christians, not pretenders. He says they have escaped the defilements of the world, a statement that could not refer to pretenders. Moreover, they had made such escape through the knowledge of Christ (see 1:2-4). (Kelcy, 150)

10. What did Peter say about those who came to know Christ but later turned away from the way of righteousness? (2:20-21)

Black explains,

Restating in stronger terms what he has just written, Peter argues that they would be better off if they had never experienced the Christian life than to “turn their backs” on holy living. The general import of the statement is clear—it would be better at the judgment never to have been a Christian, because God will punish more severely those who knew the truth but gave it up. (Black, 203)

11. To what animals did Peter compare the backsliders in verse 22?

12. Why does the Bible give us such strong warnings to watch out for false teachers?

Green writes,

One must still face the fact that these men are said to have known (and knowledge means personal acquaintance in Peter’s usage, see 1:2; 2:20; 3:18) the way of righteousness and to have escaped, once upon a time, from the world’s defilements. The parallels with 1 Corinthians 10:1-12; Hebrews 3:12-18; 6:6; 10:26, 38f.; Jude 4-6, are clear and unmistakable. Apostasy would seem to be a real and awful possibility. (Green 142) [See also 2 Peter 3:17]

13. How can we protect our eyes from sinful temptations?

14. How can we guard against being seduced or enticed by sinful people?

15. How is slavery to sin often disguised as a promise of freedom?

16. How can you help someone escape the corruption of the world?

17. What will you do to avoid the slavery of sin this week?

18. What can you do to grow closer to Jesus this week?

Sources cited:

Black, Allen, and Mark Black. *1 & 2 Peter*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 1998.

Green, Michael. *2 Peter and Jude*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2009.

Kelcy, Raymond. *The Letters of Peter and Jude*. Austin, TX: Sweet, 1972.