

2 Peter 2:4-9 "For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but threw them into hell and locked them up in chains in utter darkness, to be kept until the judgment, ⁵ and if he did not spare the ancient world, but did protect Noah, a herald of righteousness, along with seven others, when God brought a flood on an ungodly world, ⁶ and if he turned to ashes the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah when he condemned them to destruction, having appointed them to serve as an example to future generations of the ungodly, ⁷ and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man in anguish over the debauched lifestyle of lawless men, ⁸ (for while he lived among them day after day, that righteous man was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard). ⁹ —if so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from their trials, and to reserve the unrighteous for punishment at the day of judgment, ¹⁰ especially those who indulge their fleshly desires and who despise authority.

God is a God of love, mercy, and compassion. As a matter of fact the Bible says the following:

“Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.” (**Deuteronomy 7:9**)

But because He is perfect in love He must deal with sin and wickedness. Obviously sin has been dealt with once and for all on the cross at the expense of the Lord Jesus but not all will take advantage of the gift.

Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter through the narrow gate, because the gate is wide and the way is spacious that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴ How narrow is the gate and difficult the way that leads to life, and there are few who find it!”

When God deals with sin it does not diminish His character or His love, it completes it!

Rescue and punishment

We must be careful not to redefine God according to our own opinion.

Brazen and insolent, they are not afraid to insult the glorious ones, ¹¹ yet even angels, who are much more powerful, do not bring a slanderous judgment against them in the presence of the Lord. ¹² But these men, like irrational animals—creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed—do not understand whom they are insulting, and consequently in their destruction they will be destroyed, ¹³ suffering harm as the wages for their harmful ways. By considering it a pleasure to carouse in broad daylight, they are stains and blemishes, indulging in their deceitful pleasures when they feast together with you. ¹⁴ Their eyes, full of adultery, never stop sinning; they entice unstable people. They have trained their hearts for greed, these cursed children! ¹⁵ By forsaking the right path they have gone astray, because they followed the way of Balaam son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness, ¹⁶ yet was rebuked for his own transgression (a dumb donkey, speaking with a human voice, restrained the prophet's madness).

In Psalms 14:1 it says the fool in his heart says there is no God. The heart of man is has the potential to be insolent and proud to the point that they brazenly oppose God!

They become like Balaam and Balak

¹⁷ These men are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm, for whom the utter depths of darkness have been reserved. ¹⁸ For by speaking high-sounding but empty words they are able to entice, with fleshly desires and with debauchery, people who have just escaped from those who reside in error. ¹⁹ Although these false teachers promise such people freedom, they themselves are enslaved to immorality. For whatever a person succumbs to, to that he is enslaved. ²⁰ For if after they have escaped the filthy things of the world through the rich knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they again get entangled in them and succumb to them, their last

state has become worse for them than their first. ²¹ For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than, having known it, to turn back from the holy commandment that had been delivered to them. ²² They are illustrations of this true proverb: “A dog returns to its own vomit,” and “A sow, after washing herself, wallows in the mire.”

The scriptures are the inspired word of God. It's all true and amazing and we are encouraged and built up by verses like:

- Psalm 23 The Lord is my Shepherd...
- Matthew 6 Our Father ...
- Numbers 6 The Lord bless you...
- Romans 8 In all these we are more than conquerors...

But then there are these verses, I love it that God does not fake, feign, or flatter. He is not a politically correct being.

²¹ For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than, having known it, to turn back from the holy commandment that had been delivered to them.

- We as humans need to be careful not to give up on anyone.
- God absolutely has the right to judge final outcomes.
- We can take heed to avoid such men only not determine their destiny.
- It is a stern warning to the believer though.

We realize that God the Father must choose us first!

John 6:44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 15:16 “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that remains,...”

But then to take advantage of the gift we must choose Him!

John 1:12 “But to all who have received him—those who believe in his name—he has given the right to become God’s children .”

Romans 10:8-13 “But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we preach), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and thus has righteousness and with the mouth one confesses and thus has salvation. ¹¹ For the scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between the Jew and the Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all, who richly blesses all who call on him. ¹³ For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

It’s all about choice

Deuteronomy 30:19 “Today I invoke heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set life and death, blessing and curse, before you. Therefore choose life so that you and your descendants may live!”

Acts 26:18 “To open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”