



(2 PETER 2:18-22)

2 PETER

“THE CONSEQUENCES OF
FOLLOWING FALSE TEACHERS”

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To make
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and
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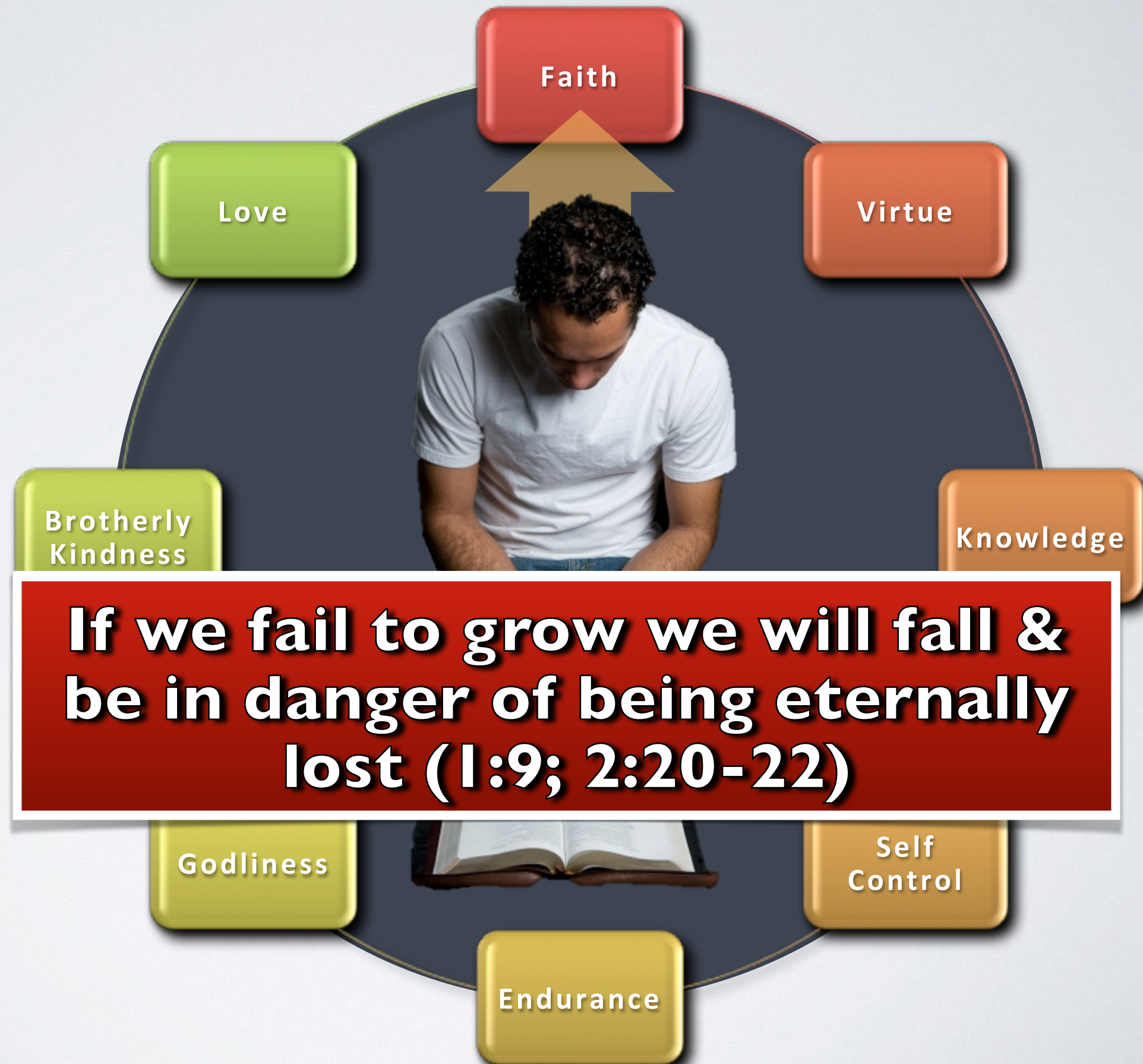
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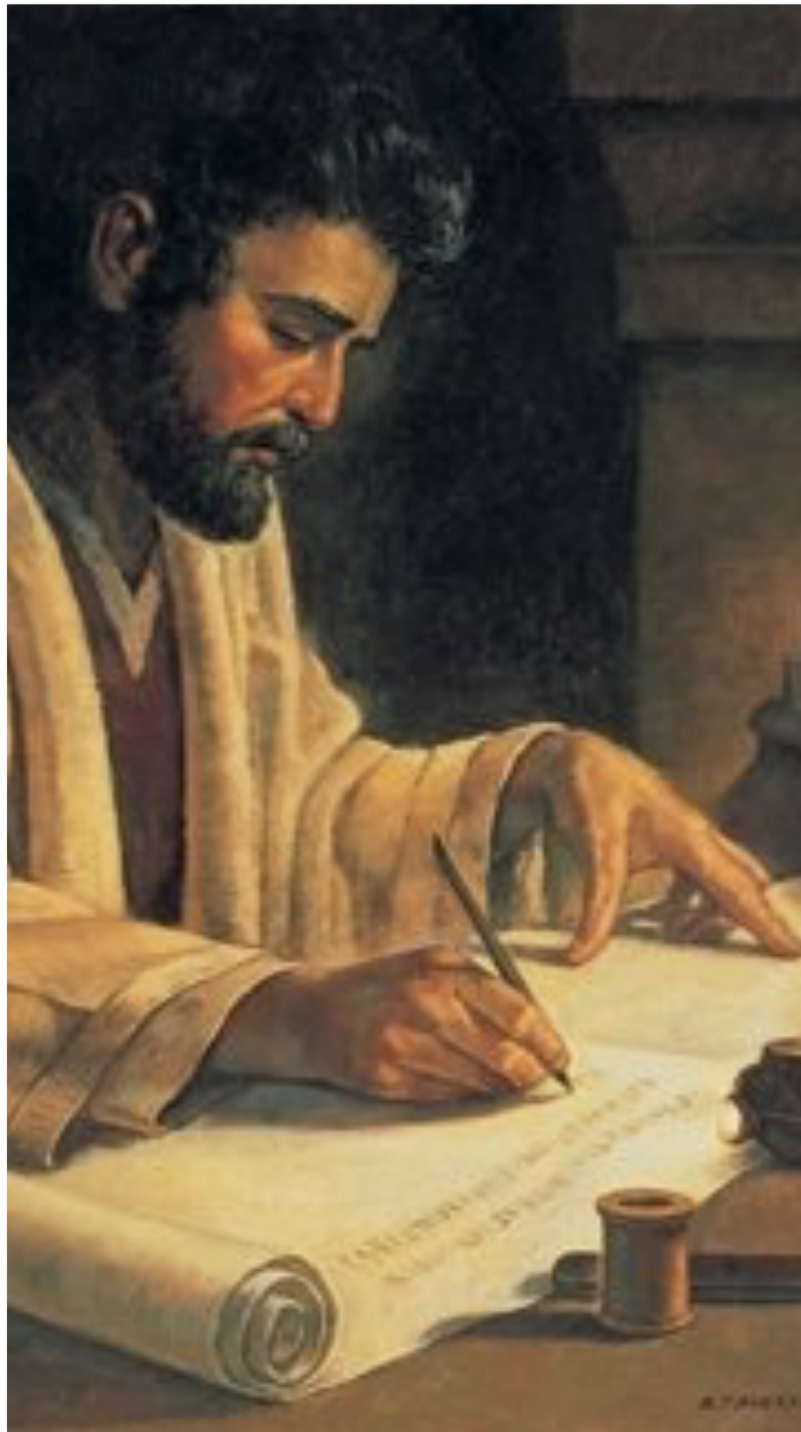
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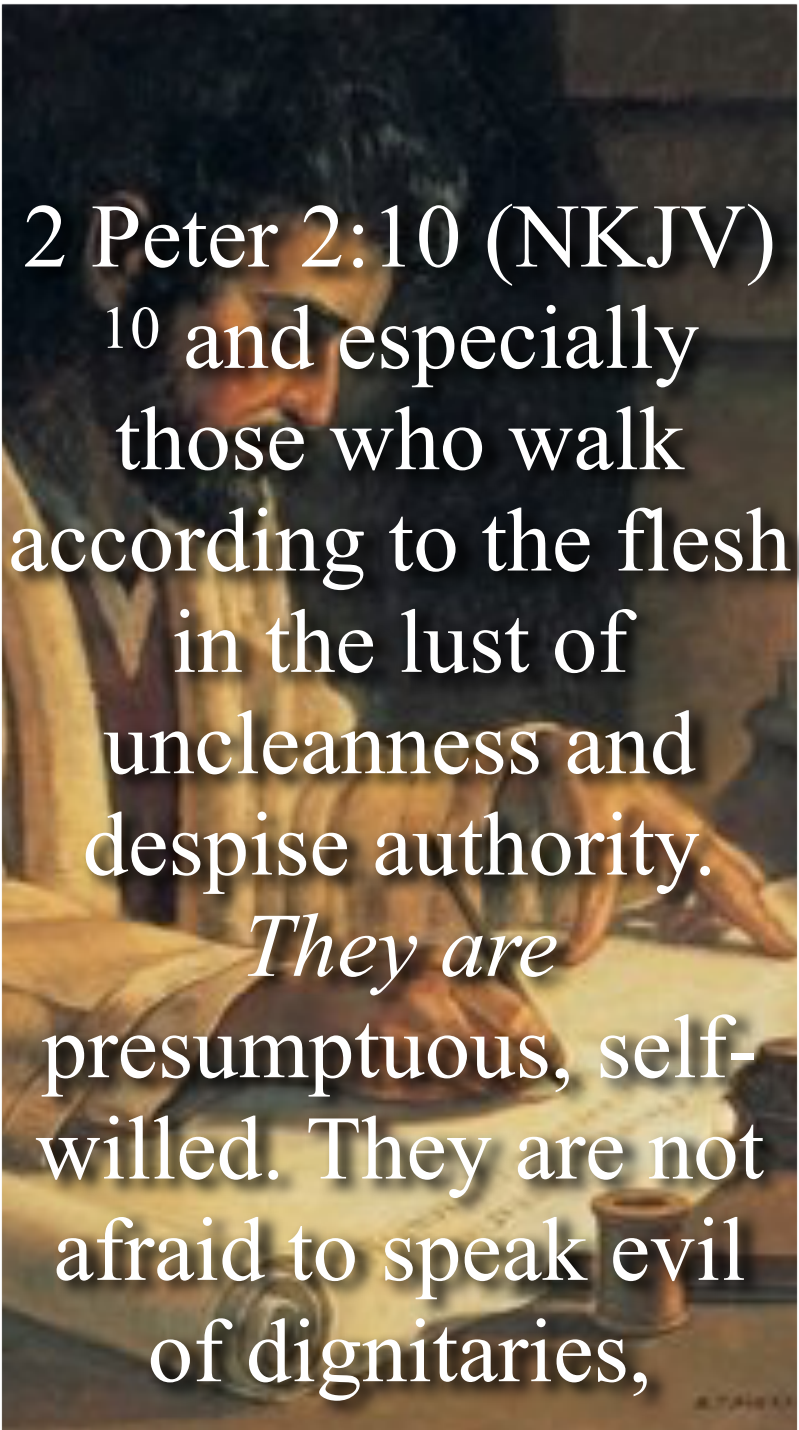
IN OUR LAST 3 LESSONS (2:1-11)



- ❖ False teachers will exist: **“there were also false prophets among the people”** (2:1)
- ❖ False teachers will HAVE ‘SUCCESS’: **“And many will follow their destructive ways”** (2:2)
- ❖ False teachers will Be DESTROYED: **“their destruction does not slumber”** (2:3)
- ❖ The destruction of false teachers is CERTAIN — Peter gives three historical proofs (2:4-11)

“THE CONSEQUENCES OF FOLLOWING FALSE TEACHERS”

IN OUR LAST 3 LESSONS (2:1-17)



2 Peter 2:10 (NKJV)
10 and especially
those who walk
according to the flesh
in the lust of
uncleanness and
despise authority.
They are
presumptuous, self-
willed. They are not
afraid to speak evil
of dignitaries,

◆ Attributes of the False Teachers

- **“Walk according to the flesh”** Their daily walk of life is to follow after sensual and debase appetites. (2:10-14)
- **“despise authority”** — They do not appreciate the principles of authority & submission (cf. 1Pe 2:13-17)
- **“Presumptuous and Self-willed”** - They are daring and arrogantly stubborn, doing whatever they want to do
- **“not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries”** – Lit. “glories” - angelic beings? human authorities? Points to pride (cf. Jude 8)

2 Peter 2:18–22 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For when they speak great swelling *words* of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. ¹⁹ While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

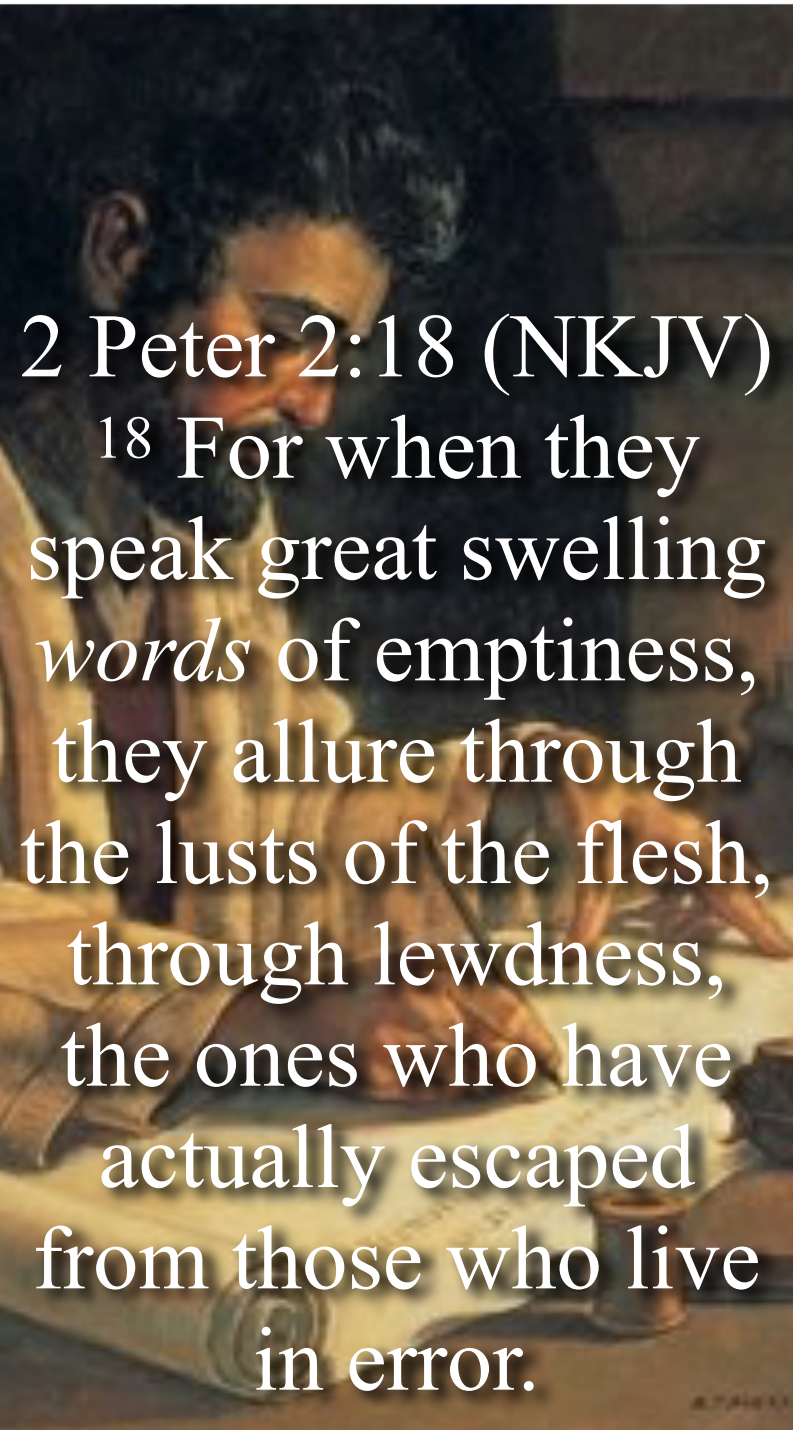
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2 Peter 2:18–22 (NKJV)

²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. ²¹ For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²² But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “*A dog returns to his own vomit,*” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

“THE CONSEQUENCES OF FOLLOWING FALSE TEACHERS”

TACTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS (2:18)



◆ For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness (18)

■ “**great swelling** – Lit. “over swelling”, bloated, exaggerated - Lit. Υπερογκα, ‘things puffed up with wind.’ — Using eloquent speech that sounds impressive and promising they deceive “with deceptive words” (2:3; Rom. 16:18; Eph. 4:14; 2 Cor. 11:13-15)

■ “**of emptiness**” — (*mataiotētos*, “futile, worthless, without results” — lacking substance (cf. cf. vs 17; Jude 12,13)

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❖ **“they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness” (18)**

■ **“by appealing to”** - *deleazousin*, “baiting, enticing,” also used in 2 Peter 2:14 “enticing souls”

■ **“the lusts of the flesh”** - natural desires, not necessarily sinful desires, but certainly includes sinful desires (eg., *the health & wealth gospel, entertainment, recreational activities / compromising on moral issues such as MDR / OSAS / same sex marriage / False doctrine of “easy believism,” etc ...*)

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■ **“through lewdness”** - aselgeia {as-elg'-i-a} which means “unbridled lust, excess, etc.” — They shamelessly flaunt their fleshly appeals as something proper and to be expected (E.g., displaying excessive wealth as something one might expect to receive as a follower of their teaching).

■ **“the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error”** - i.e., “people who have just escaped” (NET)

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◆ ““the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error” -

- NIV: “people who are just escaping from those who live in error.”
- ESV: “those who are barely escaping from those who live in error.”
- NASB: “those who barely escape from the ones who live in error,”
- “the oldest manuscripts and Vulgate read, “scarcely,” or “for but a little time”; scarcely have they escaped from them who live in error (the ungodly world)” - (JFB)

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◆ ““the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error” -

- Most modern scholars, influenced by their denominational and OSAS presuppositions, argue that these words should be understood as saying these people were not actually or fully saved.
- But, BENGAL notes, “The compound verb ἀποφεύγειν has of itself such force, that even without the adverb ὄντως, it denotes those who **truly escape**, **2 Peter 2:20**; **2 Peter 1:4**; but ὀλίγως, for a short time, added to the verb, adds remarkably to the sense of the passage.

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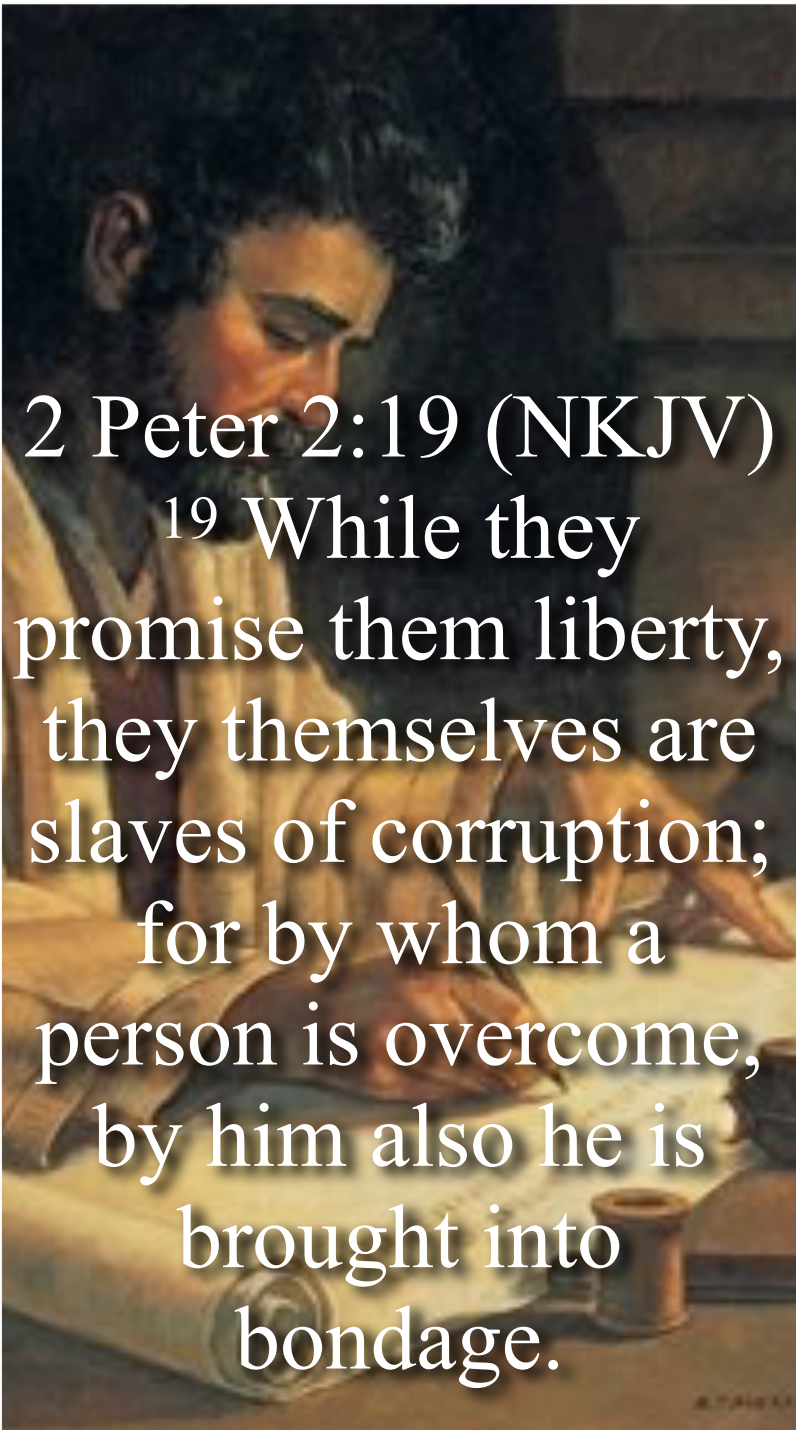
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◆ ““the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error” -

- “No sooner have some escaped from those who live in error, than these wretched men are afresh ensnared by them.” — (BENGAL)
- Peter is speaking of Christians, but not yet grown spiritually to the level he describes in 1:10 — “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.”
- This meaning is clarified in vss 20-22.

“THE CONSEQUENCES OF FOLLOWING FALSE TEACHERS”

RESULTS OF BELIVING FALSE TEACHERS (2:19-22)

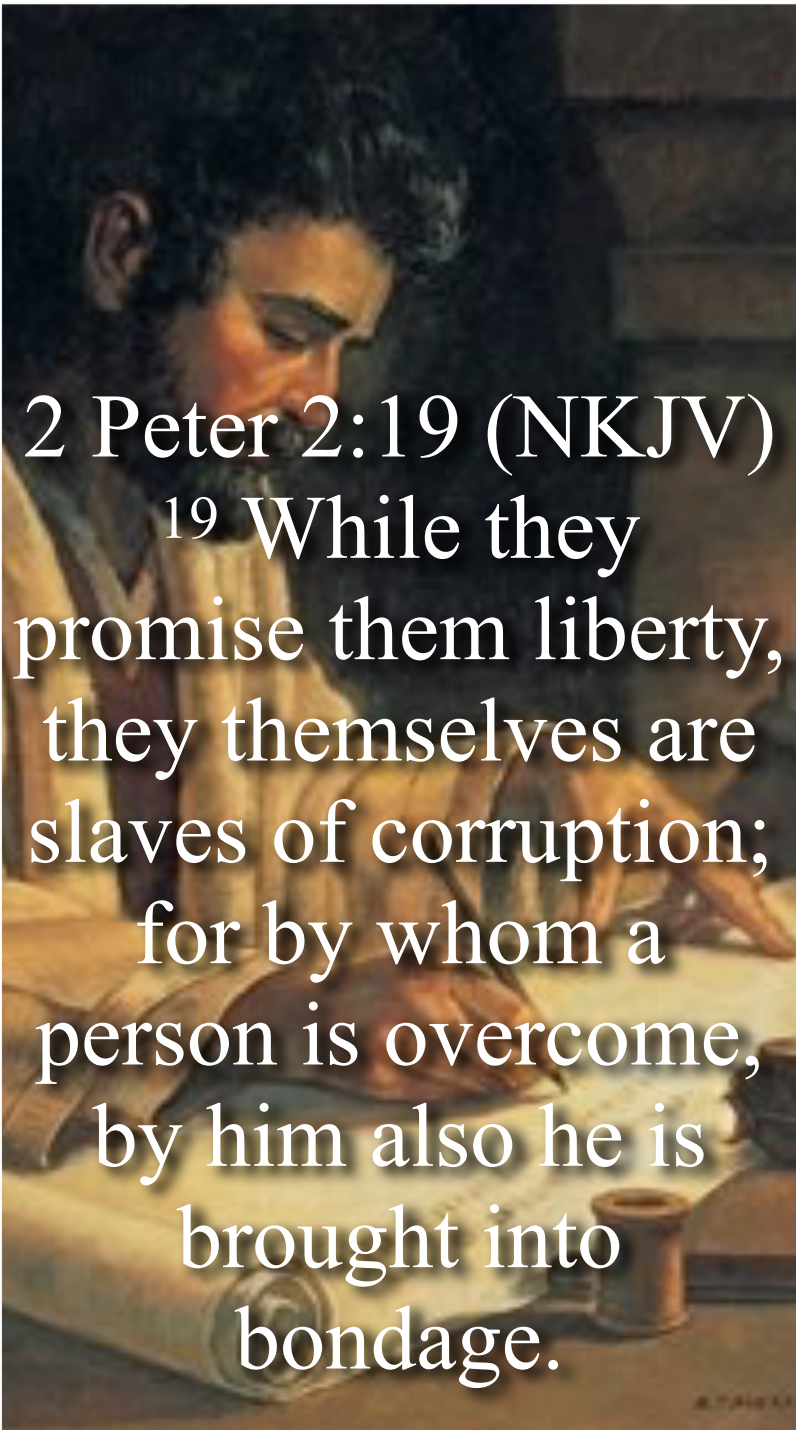


❖ **“While they promise them liberty” -**

- They promise liberation from God's rules and from accountability to God's rules, like the pre-agnostics addressed by John in First John.
- Just as many false teachers today who pervert the meaning and application of God's love and grace.
- The true gospel does liberate us from sin, but it does not give us liberty to sin! (Rom. 6:1,2; 1 John 1:5-2:6)
- We must stand fast in “liberty” (freedom from sin), by standing fast in the truth (Gal 5:1; 1 Cor. 15:58; Col.1:23)

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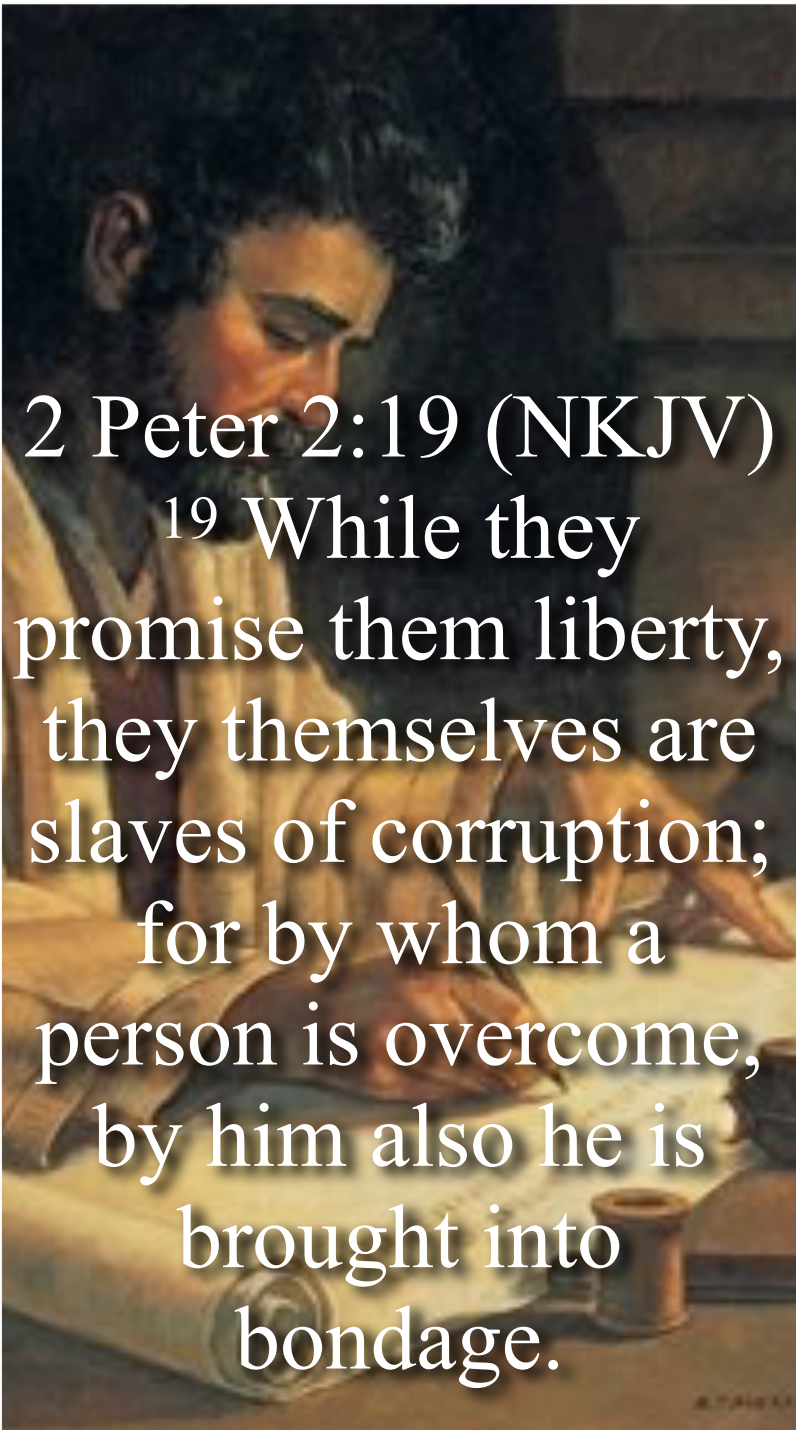


❖ **“they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.” -**

- The result of heeding false teachers is to return to sin, and whoever commits sin is in bondage to sin (Jn 8:34; Rm. 6:16-18)
- Just as Jesus taught, “if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch” (Mat. 15:14; cf. Is. 9:16; Mal. 2:8; Matt. 23:13,15)
- These Christians had escaped sin, but through the help of these false teachers, are led back into bondage. (Gal. 5:1-9)

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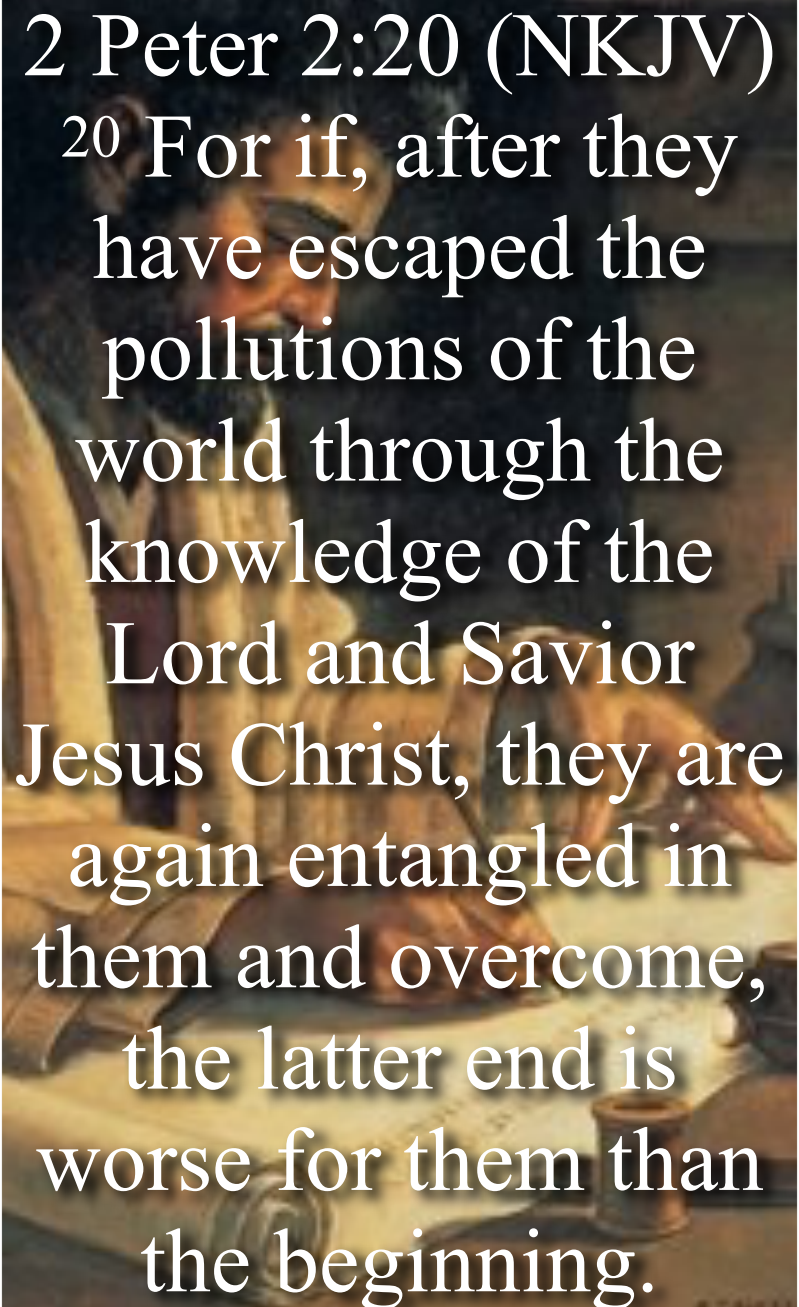


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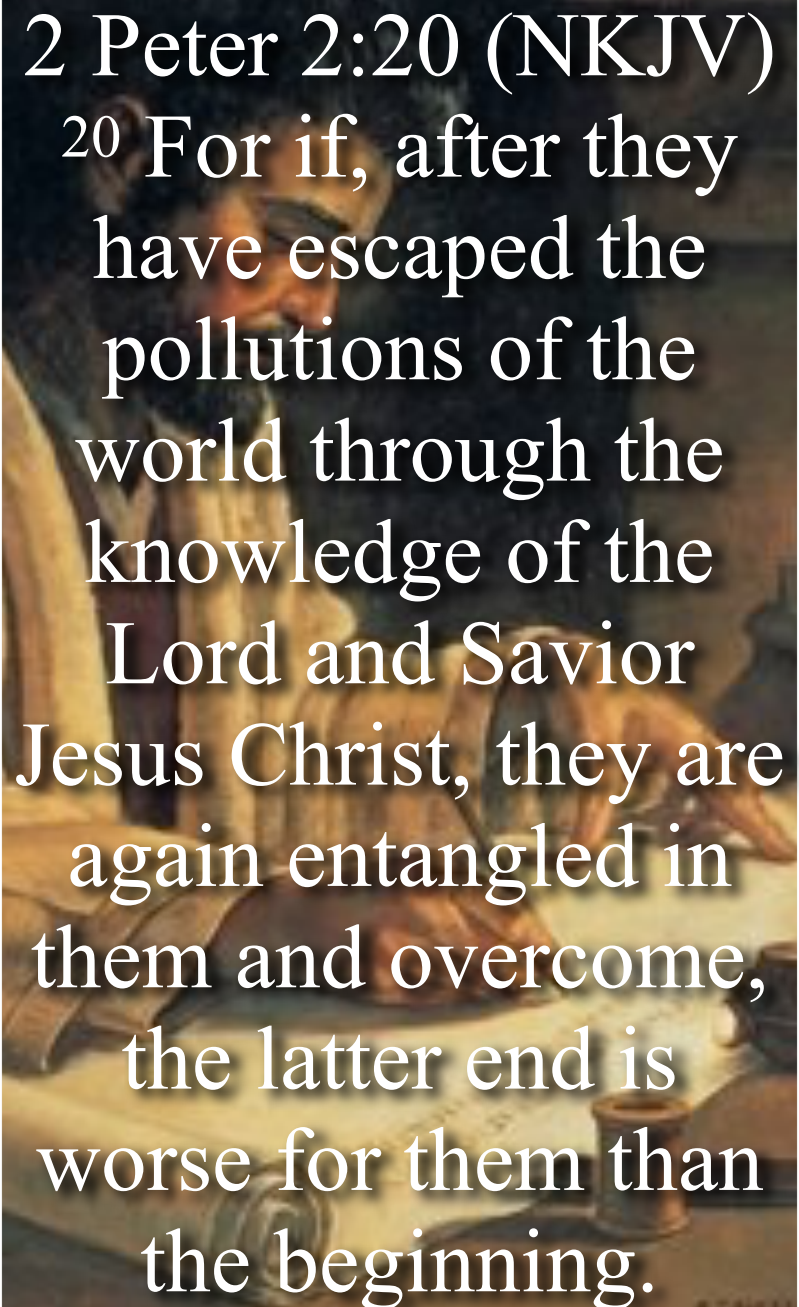
2 Peter 2:20 (NKJV)
20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.

◆ “For if, after they have escaped” -

- **From corruption** of the world (1:4)
- **From bondage** — they had been delivered from sin (2:18,19)
- **Through knowledge of Jesus (Vines: *epignosis* (ἐπίγνωσις, 1922), “full, or thorough knowledge, discernment, recognition, ...properly, “thorough knowledge”) (2:20) — They did not just know all about Jesus - they knew Jesus!**
- **From pollutions of the world**, i.e., they had been untangled from those pollutions, thus saved (2:20)

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✎ **“they are again entangled in them and overcome” (20)**

- They were untangled from the pollutions of the world but could be entangled AGAIN! (Gal. 5:4)
- They are overcome, i.e., they fell from grace, apostatized, and thoroughly given over to error and sin through deception. (Heb. 6:4-6; 10:26-31)
- The latter end is worse than the first - Before they were saved, they were lost – WHAT IS WORSE THAN LOST?

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✍️ **“the latter end is worse for them than the beginning” (20)**

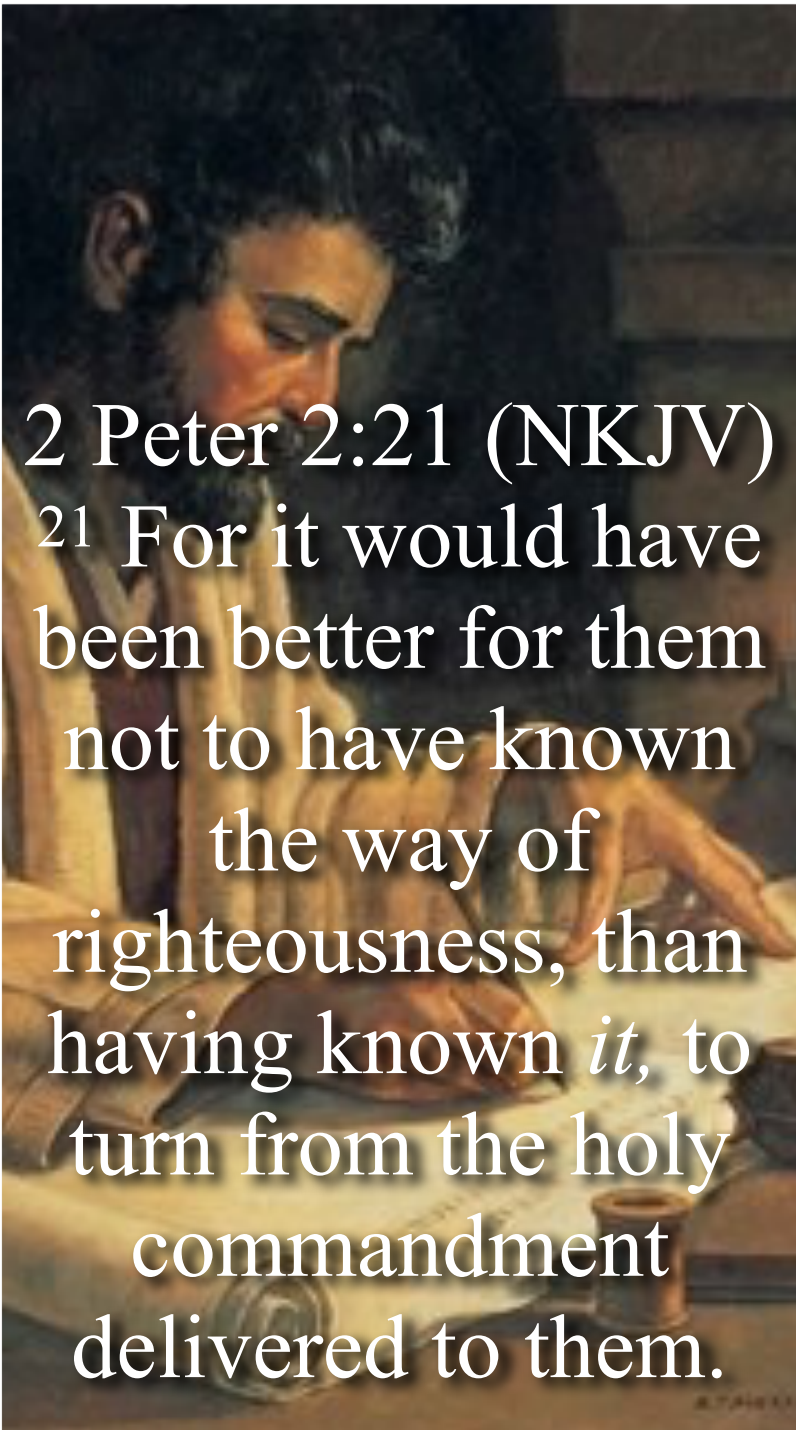
■ Their conscience becomes seared

■ Their hearts become hard
– (Heb 3:7-11, 15; 4:11; 6:4-8; 10:26-39)

■ They'll regret their decision for eternity!

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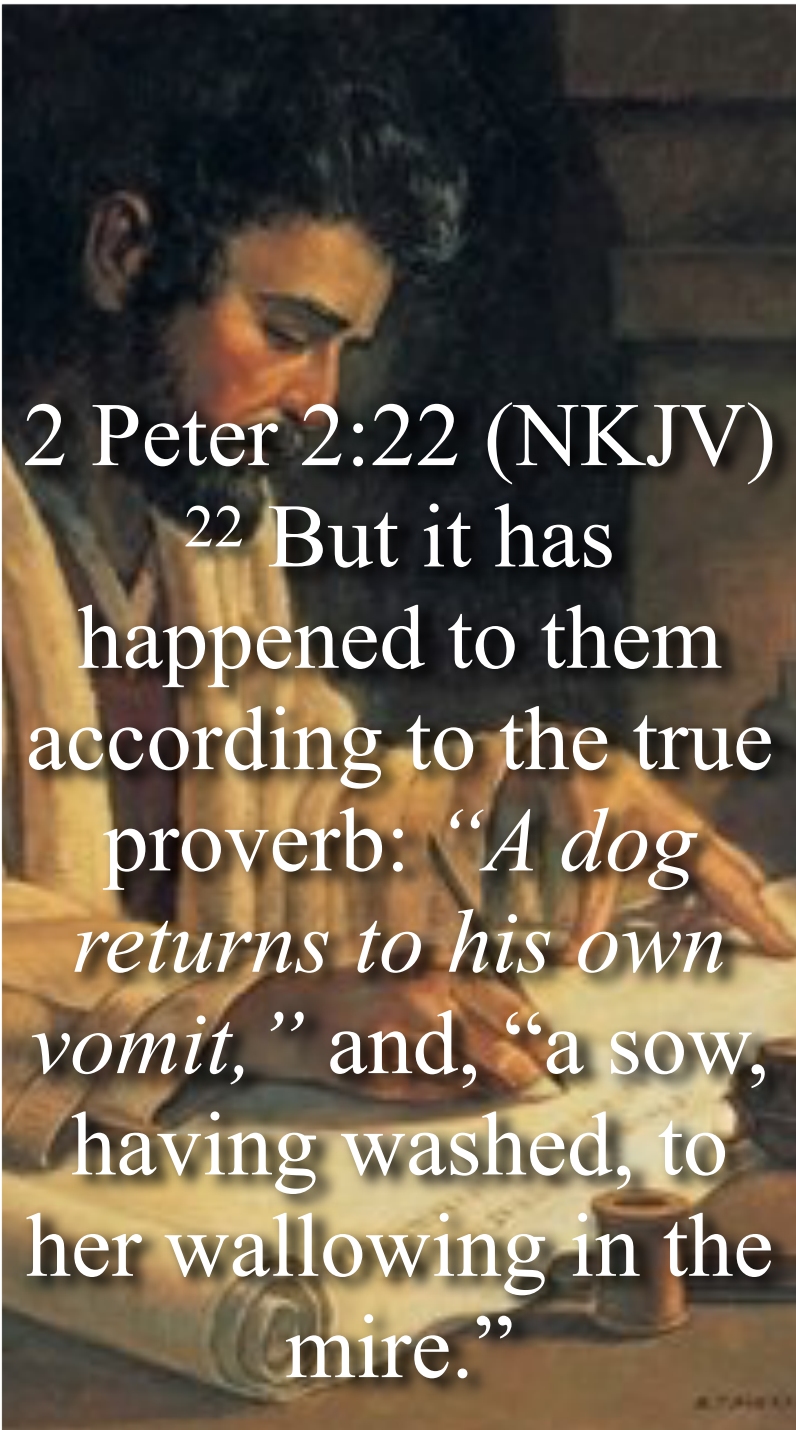
RESULTS OF BELIVING FALSE TEACHERS (2:19-22)



- ❖ **“For it would have been better” (21)**
 - **“for them not to have known the way of righteousness”** — i.e., to have not known, (*epiginosko*), the gospel (cf. Lk 12:47-48; Heb. 6:4,5)
 - **“than having known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them”** — i.e., they had obeyed the gospel but had now turned from it (Heb. 10:26-31; 1 Cor. 10:1-13)
 - The possibility of apostasy is a reality and the consequences are eternal!

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RESULTS OF BELIVING FALSE TEACHERS (2:19-22)



❖ **“But it has happened to them” (22)**

■ **“*A dog returns to his own vomit,*” —**

They had returned to what they had gotten rid of at one point — the guilt and pain of sin (Pr. 26:11; 1 Cor. 6:11)

■ **“*a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.*” —** they have returned to the world and have become defiled (John 8:34)

■ They were at ONE TIME clean BOTH INSIDE & OUT – But they REVERTED back to their LOST condition!

“THE CONSEQUENCES OF FOLLOWING FALSE TEACHERS”

THE DANGER IS REAL

Despite the efforts of some to rescue their theology from the plain teaching of 2 Peter 2:20-22, these passages prove that it is possible for those having come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ to return to a life of sin, abandon their faith, and perish in that hopeless state.



“THE CONSEQUENCES OF FOLLOWING FALSE TEACHERS”

THE DANGER CAN BE OVERCOME

- ❖ KNOW THE TRUTH
- ❖ RECEIVE AND USE GOD'S PROVISION (1:3)
- ❖ GIVE ALL DILIGENCE TO GROW (1:5-10)
- ❖ BE AWARE OF THE DANGER AND GROW IN THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST (3:18,19)



“THE CONSEQUENCES OF FOLLOWING FALSE TEACHERS”

THE DANGER CAN BE OVERCOME



Acts 17:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. ¹²

Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men .



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Matthew 12:43–45 (NKJV)

⁴³ “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. ⁴⁴ Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds *it* empty, swept, and put in order. ⁴⁵ Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”