

2 Peter 2:10-22

The Gravity of Sin and the Glory of the Gospel

In this passage, Peter describes the sinfulness of false teachers and teachings. We need to see sin for what it is: when we stray from God and His truth by “going our own way,” *There will always be God-ordained consequences and conditions.*

Peter, nearing death, does not mince any words here. “Anyone who enjoys reading a chapter like this must surely be abnormal” (Martyn Lloyd-Jones)

Ungodliness: “A refusal in any shape or form to live entirely to God’s glory and to the praise of His holy name” (M. Lloyd-Jones). **Godliness:** “Devotion (fear and love) to God, which results in a life that is pleasing to Him. (Jerry Bridges)

The Gravity of Sin (v.9-11): Exposes not just the content of false teaching, but the character and heart underlying it.

- Indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires: (Indulgent)
- Despise authority: (Arrogant)
- Daring: (Impetuous):
- Self-willed: (Self-absorbed)
- They do not tremble:(Irreverent)

“These people will not submit to anyone, being supremely confident of their own intellectual ability.” (Schreiner)

The Pollution of Sin (v.12-22) What to expect when going the way of ungodliness

1. **Sin is Dumb** (Not Wise but Foolish). (v.12a)
 - a. They are like unreasoning animals. Irrational animals (ESV) (*a-logic*)
 - i. Creatures of instinct; no thought or reason or rationale. (read Psalm 8)
 - ii. To be captured and killed: live and die . .yet made in His image; glory
 - iii. Blaspheme against matters they know nothing about (v.12)
 - iv. Madness of the greedy prophet (v.16), *sin renders us delusional*
 - v. *In the end, he will be a fool (Jeremiah 17:11)*

2. **Sin is Destructive** (Not Edifying but Harmful) (v.12b-16)
 - a. These will, in the destruction of those creatures, also be destroyed.
 - i. Suffering wrong and harm as wages: self-sabotage
 - ii. Accursed children! Forsaking the right way, gone astray
 - b. It's costly, unhealthy for the soul, body, and mind. It calls for judgment and harmful effects both now and later. (See Psalm 32 and 51)
 - c. Every sin will cause trouble. It may bring momentary pleasure, but it will never lead to happiness. *Sin will take you farther than you want to go; keep you longer than you want to stay; cost you far more than you have to pay.*
 - d. (JAMES 1:14-16): "Each one is tempted when he is carried away by his own lust; when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death."
 - e. Numbers 32:23: "Be sure your sin will find you out."

3. **Sin is Disappointing** (Not Fulfilling, but Unsatisfying) (v.17-18)
 - a. Dry wells. Springs without water: here, there is disappointment and emptiness (A big letdown)
 - b. Mists driven by the wind
 - i. Sin makes a promise, yet never delivers, and compounding disappointment
 - ii. O. Chambers: "Dejection springs from one or two sources. I have either satisfied a lust, or I have not. Lust means *I must have it at once*. Spiritual lust means *I must have it at once*. I demand an answer from God rather than seeking God who gives an answer."
 - c. Moses, Hebrews 11:24-26: Chose affliction with the people of God rather than enjoying the passing pleasures of sin. The reproaches of Christ were greater riches than the treasures of Egypt.
 - d. "But pleasures are like poppies spread, You seize the flow'r, its bloom is shed; Or as the snow falls in the river, A moment white—then melts forever; (Robert Burns)

4. **Sin is Dominating** (Not Freedom, but Bondage) (v.19-20)
 - a. "Promising freedom, while they themselves are slaves."
 - i. Sin is oppressive, not empowerment; enslavement and entrapment
 - b. Sin is entanglement: not certain addictions only, but rather our condition.
 - c. "Not bondage to sins (particular weaknesses or habits) but the state of being wholly dominated by an inbred attitude of enmity to God. This is vital, since the index of the soundness of a man's faith in Christ is the genuineness of the self-despair from which it springs (JI Packer)

- d. God to Cain: “If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.” (Gen. 4)
 - e. You were called to freedom, not to use freedom as fleshly indulgence (Gal. 5:13)
 - f. Escape the defilements of the world through lust (2 Peter 1)
 - g. Sin shall not be master over you, for you are no longer under law, but grace. (Rom. 6:14)
5. **Sin is Disgusting** (Not Beautiful, but Ugly) (v.20-21)
- a. Dogs and Hogs: were of an unclean nature, unchanged on the inside. Messy, gross, miserable
 - b. Our sin is disgusting, and the sins we commit in the future will be disgusting.
 - c. The conscience works best proactively: I know how I would feel the next day, I know what I would lose . .
 - d. **Perseverance is the proof of authenticity:** the faith that does not finish was flawed from the first, *like the sown on rocky soil or among the thorns, and the heat of life or the cares of the world burn it up or choke it out*

*Thus, seeing sin for what it is, we then have a sharp and dark backdrop, a contrast for the beauty and perfection of the rescue of our redeemer, Jesus

The Glory of the Gospel: The Perfection of Jesus Our Righteous Redeemer:

God is merciful and patient, wishing for all to come to repentance

2 Peter 3:9: God is patient, not wishing for any to perish, but repent

There is a way of escape: in this text, there are some diamonds in the rough, stars in the darkness, guiding us to turn from self and ungodliness to Christ in repentance and faith:

Points of the Perfect Righteousness of Christ

- A. Forsaking the right Way (v.15)
- B. The knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (v.20)
- C. Know the way of righteousness. (v.21)
- D. The holy commandment was delivered to them. (v.21)

- a. They had denied the Master who bought them; now they had an even greater accountability:
 - i. He is just and the justifier; the righteousness from God by faith
 - ii. Know Him and do not turn away from Him. Cling to Him
 - iii. Deny yourself, take up your cross daily, follow Jesus

- The righteous Son of God comes down and lives sinlessly, perfectly righteous
- He became sin for me to be counted and made (become) righteous . . (2 Cor. 5:21)
 - In Christ, I am forgiven from the penalty of sin
 - In Christ, I am being set free from the power of sin
 - In Christ, I will be saved from the presence of sin in future glory (2 Pet. 3:13)

So now, the motive to cling to the master who bought us is LOVE- as bad as sin is, the greater and purer motive is LOVE! Not because sin is dumb, destructive, etc, but because His grace is glorious and beautiful, and grace makes us as He is

"Sin scorches us most after it comes under the scrutinizing light of God's forgiveness and not before." (Karl Barth)

"Living for Jesus" : Thomas Chisolm, 1917

O Jesus Lord and Savior, I give myself to thee; for thou in thine atonement
 Didst give thyself for me; I own no other master, my heart shall be thy throne
 My life I give henceforth to live, O Christ for thee alone