

# POWER HOUR

4/19/2026

Lesson Text:  
2 Peter 2:10b-22

Background Scripture:  
Matthew 7:15-23; 12:43-45;  
Jude 1:8-16

Devotional Reading:  
Numbers 22:1-35; Revelation 2:12-17

“THE DECEPTION OF FALSE  
TEACHERS”

NLT TRANSLATION

**Golden Text:** So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment. 2 Peter 2:15 NLT

**Time:** between A.D. 63-64

**Place:** unknown

## 2 Peter 2:10b-22 NLT

<sup>10b</sup> These people are proud and arrogant, daring even to scoff at supernatural beings without so much as trembling. <sup>11</sup> But the angels, who are far greater in power and strength, do not dare to bring from the Lord a charge of blasphemy against those supernatural beings. <sup>12</sup> These false teachers are like unthinking animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed. They scoff at things they do not understand, and like animals, they will be destroyed. <sup>13</sup> Their destruction is their reward for the harm they have done. They love to indulge in evil pleasures in broad daylight. They are a disgrace and a stain among you. They delight in deception even as they eat with you in your fellowship meals. <sup>14</sup> They commit adultery with their eyes, and their desire for sin is never satisfied. They lure unstable people into sin, and they are well trained in greed. They live under God's curse. <sup>15</sup> They have wandered off the right road and followed the footsteps of Balaam son of Beor, who loved to earn money by doing wrong. <sup>16</sup> But Balaam was stopped from his mad course when his donkey rebuked him with a human voice. <sup>17</sup> These people are as useless as dried-up springs or as mist blown away by the wind. They are doomed to blackest darkness. <sup>18</sup> They brag about themselves with

empty, foolish boasting. With an appeal to twisted sexual desires, they lure back into sin those who have barely escaped from a lifestyle of deception. <sup>19</sup> They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves of sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you. <sup>20</sup> And when people escape from the wickedness of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up and enslaved by sin again, they are worse off than before. <sup>21</sup> It would be better if they had never known the way to righteousness than to know it and then reject the command they were given to live a holy life. <sup>22</sup> They prove the truth of this proverb: "A dog returns to its vomit." And another says, "A washed pig returns to the mud."

## **INTRODUCTION**

Before entering into the odd details of this passage, it is important to examine the context and the overall meaning. Doing that will help us gain insight into how it applies to us today. We do not need to perfectly understand every detail to know what a passage means! While Peter's main concern was false teaching, his purpose was to urge the recipients of his letter to examine their faith and to avoid false teachers leading them astray. Peter summed up the positive purpose of his letter: to bear fruit in keeping with a right knowledge of Jesus, thereby confirming being saved (2 Peter 1:5-11). That provides the context for 2 Peter 2:10b-22, which shows the fruitlessness of false teachers and their final destruction.

**1. The ignorance of false teachers (2 Peter 2:10b-12).** Peter described false teachers as presumptuous, arrogant, and "not afraid to speak evil of dignities" (vs. 10). Jude 1:8-10 reveals false teachers speaking evil of powerful spiritual beings, something not even angels do. False teachers seek authority that rightly belongs only to Jesus. Like Simon in Acts 8:18-19, they treat the Lord like a being they can manipulate. In contrast, angels know they are not God and demonstrate that power is His alone by not speaking presumptuously (cf. Jude 1:9). Some think you need to follow a specific formula in prayer for something to happen. However, we need to be humble and remember that God has all power.

**2. The immorality of false teachers (2 Peter 2:13-16).** False teachers blaspheme and act immorally. Peter said they follow the way of Balaam, who was greedy (cf. Num. 22). False teachers in Peter's day led people into sin, particularly at the "love feasts" of the church, times of fellowship that usually culminated in the Lord's Supper.

**3. The end of false teachers (2 Peter 2:17-22).** Peter went on to discuss their true nature—emptiness. Their teachings are like clouds without rain. The Lord will cast them out into darkness away from His presence. The point of Peter's letter is to pursue faith and reject all false teaching so that your salvation is made sure.

### **PRACTICAL POINTS**

Pride leads to consequences beyond our control (2 Peter 2:10-13).

Giving in to sin can lead to an appetite for more sin (vs. 14).

God's examples in Scripture serve as warnings, but some do not listen (vss. 15-16).

Without God, human wisdom cannot provide spiritual benefit (vs. 17).

The allure of physical pleasure can lead us away from God (vs. 18).

True freedom is found only in Christ (vs. 19).

Knowing Christ is the path to overcoming sinful desires (vs. 20).

Once a person rejects God's righteousness, only God can prevent further ungodliness (vss. 21-22).

### **CONCLUSION**

The apostle Peter graphically warned and admonished the recipients of his letter about the character of false teachers and their ultimate end. In doing so, he encouraged fellow Christians to pursue the truth of the gospel alone, enduring and persevering in the faith so that they do not reject it. Spend some quality time this week examining your own life. Are there any sins that tempt you away from your devotion to Jesus, whether in obvious or subtle ways? Ask God to reveal those to you and to cleanse you of them.

## QUESTION(S)

1. What are possible interpretations of the term "dignities"?
2. To whom did Peter compare false teachers?
3. Why is this comparison appropriate?
4. Why is Balaam another good comparison to false teachers?
5. What practice did both Balaam and false teachers in 2 Peter 2 advocate?
6. Who are the primary targets of false teachers?

**Next week**, we continue to see how the wrath of God is satisfied. We will first consider how His judgment of sin is righteous. **"God's Righteous Judgment"**

**Romans 2:1-16.**

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