

2 Peter

“Springs Without Water” – 2 Peter 2:12 – 19



Sermon Discussion Guide

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STUDY NOTES

Blots and blemishes (2:13).

These people are like animals unfit to be offered in sacrifice to God.

Their pleasures (2:13).

Literally, “deceits” or perversions of pleasure.

Way of Balaam son of Beor (2:15). See Numbers 22 – 24. Balaam was bent on cursing Israel, though God had forbidden it. He wanted the money Balak offered him. Similarly, these false teachers apparently were guilty of attempting to extract money from naïve listeners. For a donkey to rebuke the prophet’s madness reflects not only on the foolishness of Balaam but also on that of the false teachers of Peter’s day.

Springs without water (2:17). A picture of cruel deception. The thirsty traveler comes to the spring expecting cool refreshing

1. What activities or pursuits are popular today that people can’t seem to get enough of?

Read 2 Peter 2:12 – 19.

2. This chapter is like an “Out of Order” sign warning people that the drinking fountain no longer works when Peter writes that the false teachers are like “springs without water.” (2:17) Still people drink from it. How does Peter describe the teaching of these false teachers (v. 17 – 19)?
3. How does this compare to some of the strange thinking today?
4. Do you think these false teachers once were true followers of Christ? What do you think happened to cause them to stray from the faith?
5. How did the evil people of whom Peter wrote affect others, and what did such sinful men promise? (2:18 – 19)
6. Have you ever come close to drinking from a “spring (fountain) without water”? If so, what was being taught? What kept you from falling for this teaching?
7. How did Peter say a person could escape the corruption of the world? (2:20)

STUDY NOTES

water but finds it dry. So, the false teachers promise satisfying truth but in reality have nothing to offer.

Freedom (2:19). In light of the false teachers' denial of the Second Coming (2 Peter 3:4), this probably refers to the "freedom" from the moral implications of preparing for his imminent return. They may have used Paul's teaching on freedom in Christ (Romans 6:1 – 18) to justify their position (2 Peter 3:15,16).

A man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. (2:19).

This was a common saying based on what actually happened to people conquered in war (John 8:34; Romans 6:16). Their supposed "freedom" is simply slavery to sin.

8. What effect does living among sinful people have upon you?
9. How do you deal with the influence of immoral people around you?
10. What false teachers attempt to influence the church today?
11. When are you tempted to return to some sinful activity or attitude? Why?
12. Beginning today, from what "spring without water" will you ask God to help you escape?
13. How will you deal with the effect of living in a sinful world today?