

**A Study of The Epistle of 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter**  
**Theme: “Grow in Grace and Knowledge”**

Trinity Lutheran Church - Norman, OK.

Pastor David R. Nehrenz – [www.tlcnorman.org](http://www.tlcnorman.org)

**Lesson: 14 Chapter 2:12-22 Date: 10-31-21**

**BIBLE TEXT and STUDY NOTES**

(12) But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, (13) suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. (14) They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children!

**(Ps 49:12; Jer 12:3; Rom 13:13; 1 Cor 11:20,21; Eph 2:3; Php 3:19; 1 Thess 5:7; 1 Tim 4:7;**

**James 1:8-14; 5:5; Jude 10-16)**

(15) Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, (16) but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. (17) These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved.

**(Num 22:4-30; 31:16; Dt 23:4; Neh 13:2; Ezek 14:11; Rev 2:14)**

(18) For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. (19) They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.

**(Lk 11:24-26; Jn 8:31-34; Rom 6:16; 1 Cor 6:12,13; Gal 5:13; Jas 1:25)**

(20) For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of **our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

**(Mt 12:45; Php 3:7,8; Heb 10:26,27)**

(21) For it would have been better for them never to have known **the way of righteousness** than after knowing it to turn back from **the holy commandment** delivered to them. (22) What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”

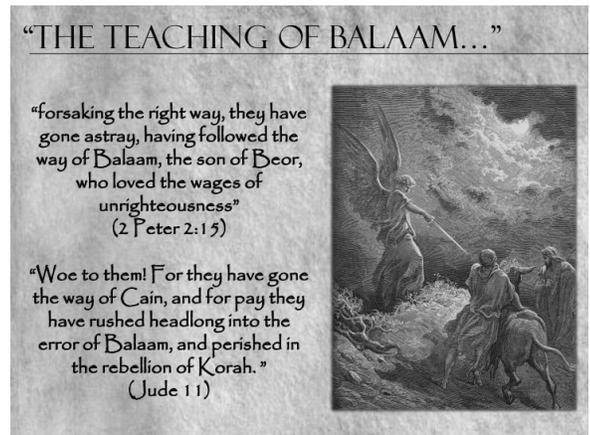
**(Prov 26:11; Ezek 18:24; Mt 28:20; Lk 12:47,48; Ac 9:2; 18:25; 19:9,23; 22:4; 24:14,22; Rom 7:2; 1 Tim 6:14; Heb 6:4-6; 10:26,27; Jas 4:17)**

**LUTHER’S WORKS – VOLUME 30**

12. *But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and killed, reviling in matters of which they are ignorant, will be destroyed in the same destruction with them,*

13. *suffering wrong for their wrongdoing.*

Peter calls them “irrational animals,” since they do not have in them even a tiny spark that reflects the spirit and do not administer a spiritual office, which should be their duty, but live like sows and are completely absorbed in their carnal way of life. But the apostle’s statement that they are “born to be



caught and killed” can be understood in two ways. In the first place, they are people who catch and kill, like wolves, lions, bears, sparrow hawks, and eagles, since they scrape and tear from the people everything they can, property and honor. In the second place, these words can be understood to mean that they are to be caught and killed for **the judgment on the Last Day**.

*They are blots and blemishes.*

They are convinced that they adorn **Christendom** as the sun and the moon adorn the heavens, and that they are the noblest and best treasures, like gold and precious stones. But St. Peter calls them “blots and blemishes.” The truly Christian life goes along in faith, serves everybody through love, and bears the holy cross. This is the true color, adornment, treasure, and honor of **the Christian Church**. But these people have substituted sensual pleasure and a life of ease for the cross. Instead of love for their neighbor they seek their own advantage. They seize everything for themselves and let nothing of theirs benefit another person. Moreover, they are totally ignorant of faith. Therefore they are nothing else than “blots and blemishes,” and **Christendom** has to suffer disgrace and mockery on their account. This, I think, is adequate rebuke for our spiritual lords.

*Reveling in their dissipation, carousing with you.*

What has been given out of **Christian love** in the first instance to maintain a common treasury for widows, orphans, and other poor people, lest anyone among **the Christians** suffer want or have to beg—all such property has now been devoted to foundations and cloisters. From this our clerics fatten their bellies. They live in the utmost luxury and squander everything on good times. Furthermore, they say that they are entitled to this and that no one should reproach them for it. **The Holy Spirit** does not want to tolerate a state of affairs where the servant of the church lives a life of luxury at the expense of other people’s labor, for in any case it is impossible for craftsmen and the common man with wife and child to do this.

14. *They have eyes full of adultery.*

This is the inevitable consequence when, as stated above, the body has enough to eat and guzzle and is idle. But why does St. Peter not say that they are adulterers instead of saying: “They have eyes full of adultery”? He wants to say that they think constantly of whoring and that they can never curb their knavery or become sated with and weary of it. Hence they constantly carouse and live in luxury. They want to continue this mode of life freely, with impunity, and unhampered. This we see from what follows.

*Accursed children!*

This is a Hebrew way of saying that they are damned people under **the curse of God**, that before **God** they have neither happiness nor salvation and only become worse from day to day, and constantly blaspheme **God** all the more, in order that they may bring **the wrath of God and His terrible judgment** upon themselves in abundance. This is surely a statement that is harsh and terrible enough. In view of this it is high time for him who can to flee and hasten out of this accursed estate. It is surely terrible to have such a title; for when **the Sublime Majesty** rebukes, curses, and condemns in this way, who will bear it?

15. *Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray.*

They should have taught the right way: how one must cling to **Christ** and come to **God** through faith and through love for one’s neighbor, and then bear the holy cross and suffer whatever befalls us on this account.

#### **LIFE APPLICATION**

How do we **not** forsake the right way, so that we do **not** go astray?