

2 Peter 2:1-22 Inductive Discovery Lesson 14

Standing in Hope The devil has two basic strategies in his unrelenting battle against the church: intimidation and infiltration. He tries to defeat it outwardly with fearful blows to weaken morale. And he tries to discredit it inwardly with corrupting lies to weaken resolve. From his assignment on the front lines of the early church, Peter tells Christians of every generation how to be combat-ready. If you want to stop the enemy's advance, outflank him with the truth.

In his first letter, Peter encouraged suffering believers to keep their hearts and hopes focused on Jesus. If they would do that—in spite of troubles and persecution that dogged them—they would be a true witness in their homes and communities. In this second letter, Peter writes with urgency, knowing his earthly days are nearing an end. His legacy will be a stirring reminder that the authority of God's Word stands true and unchanging. Peter exposes the practices and motives of false teachers and sounds the warning to *keep your guard up*. Pretenders will slip in with persuasive ideas. *Don't fall for their smooth-talking promises*, Peter warns. Keep standing, alert and unwavering, in the truth of God's Word.

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them¹, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; 5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked 8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, 11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord.

⁻

¹ "Though Christ's death is sufficient payment for everybody's sins (1 John 2:1-2), only those who believe in Him receive the benefit of this salvation (John 3:16-18). The false teachers are in a particularly acute predicament, because although they have heard the preaching about Christ's salvation, they reject it, replacing it with false teachings about the Master. Because of this rejection, clearly, they are lost."

Charles R. Swindoll, *Insights on James*. 1 and 2 Peter, ©2010 (Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan), p. 288

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! 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. 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. 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,² the last state has become worse for them than the first. 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."

-

Charles R. Swindoll, Insights on James, 1 and 2 Peter, ©2010 (Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan), p. 306

² **Vs. 20-21**: "This doesn't mean that true believers can lose their salvation. In fact, just the opposite! It means that false believers never had salvation to begin with—a fact demonstrated by their failure to remain in the Way of truth. These people were intellectually aware of the truth but had never allowed it to transform their hearts. As a result, they are in a worse condition that those who had never heard."

OBSERVE

Start by reading the entire chapter at least once. Now read each section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you find in the Bible passage**. (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to keep track of information you get from other sources such as scripture references, a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions.** *Do your best to follow Peter's train of thought.* Does he use a word or phrase repeatedly, or emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Facts from the passage: My Research and Personal Observations:	2 Peter 2:1-3	
		My Research and Personal Observations:
2 Peter 2:4-11	2 Peter 2:4-11	
Facts from the passage: My Research and Personal Observations:		My Research and Personal Observations:

2 Peter 2:4-11 continued Facts from the passage:	My Research and Personal Observations:
2 Peter 2:12-22 Facts from the passage:	My Research and Personal Observations:

Key Words and Phrases

Write the definition of the following words and phrases	. Use a regular dictionary or a Bible
concordance with Greek Dictionary if you have one.	

"heresies" (vs. 1)	
"destructive, destruction" (vs.1,3)	
"judgment" (vs.4,9, 11)	

INTERPRET

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid? **State the lesson in one simple sentence**.

APPLY

We don't study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to *put it into action*.

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.

Lesson:	
Application:	
2 Peter 2 :4-11 Lesson:	
Application:	
2 Peter 2:12-22 Lesson:	
Application:	
Summary Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about	
Give a title to the chapter to help you remember what it says.	

Up close and personal

The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment.

2 Peter 2:9

● Memorize God's Word
Choose the translation you prefer to memorize the verse in and re-write it here.
Meditate on God's Word
While you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea—the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God's Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.
Challenge alert: You won't always see an obvious answer directly from the verse. Just <i>think and pray</i> about it and share what the Lord brings to your heart and mind.
Look up . What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)
Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?
Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?
Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

↑ Make God's	Word Your Prayer
examine your heart,	and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spincrease your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith a e truth of God's Word.
a .	
	God's Word Bearing Fruit
For you parsanally	God's Word Bearing Fruit
For you personally, put what you have le	what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will y
	what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will y
	what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will y
	what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will y
	what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will y
	what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will y
put what you have le	what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will y

God spares us because He is good, but He could not be good if He were not just.

- A.W. Tozer -

Message	Notes:
_	