

2 Peter - Week 7

Real Truth Will Bring Out Counterfeits

3 Peter 2:9 The Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the Day of Judgment, while continuing their punishment. 10 This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; 11 yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. 12 But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish. 13 They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done.

15 They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. 16 But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—a beast without speech—who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

1 Cor 2:15 But the spiritual man tries all things [he examines, investigates, inquires into, questions, and discerns all things.

- Peter is challenging the nation and the church to know what is **real**.
- So much of what we face today is **artificial**---not the real thing.
- Peter starts his letter with a **positive** word about salvation.

Peter **Condemns** the Apostates

➤ **Negative** reviling

- They show no respect for authority and are not afraid to attack and **slander** men in authority.
- What should be our response to bad authority? **Pray!**
- Pray that those leaders would use their authority to **conform** to the will of God.

➤ Reviling was caused by man's **flesh**

- Our human nature, depraved or saved alike...neither wants to **submit** to that King of authority.

Several things Peter wants us to see:

1. The fallen, fleshly nature encourages this **pride**.
 - To **overestimate** oneself--thinking too highly of what we can do
 - To **underestimate** oneself--what you think you can't do is equally pride
2. These are men of **self-will**. You cannot truly serve God outwardly unless you're **submitted** inwardly.

3. These are men of unbridled **tongues**.

- Man's **ignorance** is the cause of evil-speaking, and
- **Destruction** will be the effect of it.
- Our **focus** determines our **reality**.
- God can get His point across even using a **donkey**.

Final thoughts:

- Those who continually walk after the flesh and cannot control their tongues are **uncontrolled** by God.

Ezek 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

- These folks are also **unchanged** by God.

- They are **unlikely** to succeed.

1 Cor. 3:13 The work of each [one] will become [plainly, openly] known (shown for what it is); for the day [of Christ] will disclose and declare it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test and critically appraise the character and worth of the work each person has done 14 If the work which any person has built on this Foundation [any product of his efforts whatever] survives [this test], he will get his reward.15 But if any person's work is burned up [under the test], he will suffer the loss [of it all, losing his reward], though he himself will be saved, but only as [one who has passed] through fire.