



2 Peter 2:1-22 (ESV)

False Prophets and Teachers

2 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 them, 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^[a] and committed them to chains^[b] 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;^[c] 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,^[d] and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, ¹⁰ and especially those who indulge^[e] 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. 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,^[f] while they feast with you. ¹⁴ They have eyes full of adultery,^[g] 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^[h] 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, 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."

2 Peter 2:1-22 (HCSB)

The Judgment of False Teachers

2 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, and will bring swift destruction on themselves. ² Many will follow their unrestrained ways, and the way of truth will be blasphemed because of them. ³ They will exploit you in their greed with deceptive words. Their condemnation, pronounced long ago, is not idle, and their destruction does not sleep.

⁴ For if God didn't spare the angels who sinned but threw them down into Tartarus^[a] and delivered them to be kept in chains^[b] of darkness until judgment; ⁵ and if He didn't spare the ancient world, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others,^[c] when He brought a flood on the world of the ungodly; ⁶ and if He reduced the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes and condemned them to ruin,^[d] making them an example to those who were going to be ungodly;^[e] ⁷ and if He rescued righteous Lot, distressed by the unrestrained behavior of the immoral ⁸ (for as he lived among them, that righteous man tormented himself day by day with the lawless deeds 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 especially those who follow the polluting desires of the flesh and despise authority.

Bold, arrogant people! They do not tremble when they blaspheme the glorious ones; ¹¹ however, angels, who are greater in might and power, do not bring a slanderous charge against them before the Lord.^[f] ¹² But these people, like irrational animals—creatures of instinct born to be caught and destroyed—speak blasphemies about things they don't understand, and in their destruction they too will be destroyed, ¹³ suffering harm as the payment for unrighteousness. They consider it a pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, delighting in their deceptions^[g] as they feast with you. ¹⁴ They have eyes full of adultery and are always looking for sin. They seduce unstable people and have hearts trained in greed. Children under a curse! ¹⁵ They have gone astray by abandoning the straight path and have followed the path of Balaam, the son of Bosor,^[h] who loved the wages of unrighteousness ¹⁶ but received a rebuke for his transgression: A donkey that could not talk spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's irrationality.

¹⁷ These people are springs without water, mists driven by a whirlwind. The gloom of darkness has been reserved for them. ¹⁸ For by uttering boastful, empty words, they seduce, with fleshly desires and debauchery, people who have barely escaped^[i] from those who live in error. ¹⁹ They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption, since people are enslaved to whatever defeats them. ²⁰ For if, having escaped the world's impurity through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in these things and defeated, the last state is worse for them than the first. ²¹ For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy command delivered to them. ²² It has happened to them according to the true proverb: A dog returns to its own vomit,^[j] and, "a sow, after washing itself, wallows in the mud."

2:1-22 Evaluation of False Teachers. In this fourth main section of his letter, Peter engages in a polemic against the false teachers, using biblical analogies to do so.

2:1-3 Influence of False Teachers. Just as there arose false prophets alongside the true prophets of God in OT times, so also there will arise false teachers who will try to mislead the church.

2:1 Peter describes the false teachers. **secretly**. They will subvert the truth by surreptitiously bringing **destructive heresies** into the church. These heresies will be contrary to what Christ and the apostles laid down as foundational doctrines (cf. [Eph. 2:20-22](#)), resulting in spiritual ruin rather than life. The false teachers will even deny the truth about the **Master** (Jesus Christ) **who bought them**. Peter apparently uses the language of redemption (“bought them”) here in the same way that he describes the counterfeit “salvation” of the false teachers at the end of [ch. 2](#): that is, they claimed to be “redeemed” and “saved” because they were part of the church, but their apostasy showed that they were not truly believers. Another interpretation is that Christ’s death paid the penalty for their sins (“bought them”) but God did not apply this payment to them because they rejected Christ.

2:2 The heresy will be characterized in part by **sensuality** (Gk. *aselgeia*, “lack of self-constraint, abandonment to immoral behavior”), which most often refers to sexual sin.

2:3 Greed drives the false teachers as well. They **exploit** believers with their **false words** for the sake of material gain. False teachers throughout history have been marked by sexual sin, a lust for money, and dishonesty. All such teachers face **condemnation** and **destruction**.

2:4-10a Judgment of False Teachers. Peter turns to a detailed argument proving God’s certain judgment on the false teachers. He uses a rabbinic form of proof that moves from minor premise to major premise (if A is true, how much more is B also true), and his analogies in [vv. 4-8](#) amount to minor premises leading to the major premise of [vv. 9-10a](#).

2:4 First minor premise: **if God did not spare angels**. If (A) God has eternally condemned the sinful angels, then (B) how much more certainly will he condemn the false teachers and their followers (major premise, [vv. 9b-10a](#)). (See note on [Jude 6](#).)

2:5 Second minor premise: **if (A) he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah... with seven others**, then (B) will he not even more certainly judge the false teachers (major premise, [vv. 9b-10a](#)) while at the same time preserving the godly (major premise, [v. 9a](#)). Christians may be a small minority, but God will protect them.

2:6 Third minor premise: Peter sees the judgment of **Sodom and Gomorrah** as a “type” (a divine foreshadowing) of judgment by fire on the last day ([3:10-12](#)), an event that will be denied by false teachers ([2:4](#)). If (A) God condemned Sodom and Gomorrah, then (B) how much more certain it is that the same thing will **happen to the ungodly** who reject the gospel.

2:7-8 Fourth minor premise: if (A) God **rescued righteous Lot**, who was **greatly distressed** and even tormented by the **conduct of the wicked** in Sodom ([v. 6](#)), then (B) how much more will he “rescue the

1. Lane T. Dennis, ed., *ESV Study Bible, The: English Standard Version*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Bibles, 2008), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: “2 Peter 2”.

godly” (major premise, [v. 9a](#)). Some have questioned whether Lot was truly **righteous**, given the serious sins he committed ([Genesis 19](#)). But the righteous are never considered to be perfect. Moreover, Scripture distinguishes Lot from the citizens of Sodom in that he received the angelic visitors and attempted to protect them from harm—a crucial and courageous action in his lawless and morally depraved environment.

[2:9-10a](#) Having stated his minor premises, Peter moves now to his major premise (see note on [vv. 4-10a](#)): “If” [vv. 4-8](#) are true, **then** how much more true are [vv. 9-10a](#). God indeed knows how to **rescue the godly from trials**. In the case of Peter’s audience, this would have evoked hope of divine deliverance from the false teachers and their influence. God also will certainly **keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment**. He will punish them in a partial, preliminary way before the final day of judgment (cf. [Luke 16:23-24](#); [Heb. 9:27](#)). This applies **especially** to those who engage in **defiling passion** and who **despise authority**—probably a reference to false teachers (cf. [2 Pet. 2:12, 18](#); [3:3](#); [Jude 8, 16, 18](#)).

[2:10b-16](#) *Character of False Teachers*. Peter gives a lengthy description of the debased character of the false teachers.

[2:10b-11](#) The false teachers are **bold** (in a reckless, foolhardy way) **and willful** (stubborn and arrogant), behaving in ways that even the **angels** avoid. They **blaspheme the glorious ones**, probably evil angels (cf. [v. 11](#); [Jude 8-9](#)). In so doing, they recklessly dismiss any thought that these demonic forces have power or that their willful sins will open them to demonic attack. But good angels, like wise humans, do not take these evil powers lightly.

[2:12-13](#) The false teachers operate in **irrational** ways. They act **like... animals**, following neither reason nor truth but **instinct**, ignoring even the most basic of human values. Yet they behave like this while posturing as Christians, even to the point that **they feast with you**, probably a reference to the Lord’s Supper. They are guilty of profound blasphemy and live licentiously.

[2:14](#) Their **eyes** desire **adultery** with virtually every woman they meet. **insatiable for sin**. Their appetite for sin is never satisfied. Even worse, they **entice** (Gk. *deleazō*, “lure with bait”) **unsteady** people to join them in their debauchery. Sexual sin and greed characterize these false teachers (cf. [v. 3](#) and [note](#)). **Accursed children!** Peter assures his readers that the heretics will face God’s curse.

[2:15-16](#) **They have followed the way of Balaam** ([Numbers 22-24](#)), which is a life spent gaining things at other people’s expense by means of wrongdoing. Balaam was particularly condemned for his greed. He was supposedly a man of spiritual insight, but God can use even a **donkey** to restrain someone who is following the way of **madness** rather than living as a rational, responsible human being.

[2:17-22](#) *Influence of False Teachers Revisited*. False teachers lead astray weaker people, enticing them back into lives of sin.

[2:17](#) The false teachers are **waterless springs** (they promise refreshment and bring none) and **mists driven** by the wind (they sow confusion wherever they go), devoid of any inherent value. The **gloom of utter darkness has been reserved** (Gk. *tēreō*, “keep, guard, hold, preserve”) for them, as for the evil angels (“kept,” [v. 4](#)) and the unrighteous (“keep,” [v. 9](#)).

[2:18](#) The false teachers **entice by sensual passions... those who are barely escaping** from the clutches of sin. They prey on newly professed Christians, teaching that they can do whatever they wish sexually and no harm will come of it.

[2:19](#) The false teachers operate under the guise of **freedom**, but in actuality they entice others to become as they are, **slaves of corruption**, once again overcome by evil.

[2:20-22](#) **It would have been better** for these false teachers never to have **escaped** the world in the first place, than to follow in the path of the **knowledge of... Christ** only to abandon that path and return to a life of sin and darkness. One reason it is better not to have known about the **holy commandment** is that those who turn away after falsely confessing the Christian faith will not be inclined to consider Christ again. Another reason is that their knowledge and experience of the Christian life makes them more accountable before God (cf. [Luke 12:47-48](#)). Some understand these verses to teach that true believers can lose their salvation. It is more likely that Peter refers to those who *appeared* to be Christians but then showed by their apostasy and their behavior that they never truly belonged to Christ (see notes on [John 6:66](#); [15:2](#); [Gal. 2:3-4](#); [1 John 2:19](#)). God promises that those who truly know him will never fall away because he will keep them by his grace (cf. [John 10:27-29](#); [Rom. 8:28-39](#); [Phil. 1:6](#)). Those who do **turn back** show that their true character is like that of a **dog** (cf. [Prov. 26:11](#)) or a **sow**. They appeared to have been saved, but by returning to the vomit and mire of the world, they demonstrated that they were never truly regenerated.

The Deity of Jesus Christ in 2 Peter

1:1	our God and Savior Jesus Christ
1:11	our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
2:20	our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
3:18	our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

2:1-3 Not only were Spirit-moved men of God present in OT Israel, but **false prophets** (Gk *pseudoprophetai*) also arose among the people, just as **false teachers** (Gk *pseudodidaskaloi*) were even now present among Peter's readers. Peter's warning describes these "false teachers" as those who spread **destructive heresies**, or teachings destructive to the faith. The effect of their teaching was so far-reaching that they even denied **the Master** ("sovereign Lord"; Gk *despotes*) who bought them. Though many followed the heretics' shameful immorality and the **way of truth** was **blasphemed**, little did the false teachers realize that denying the Lord would **bring swift destruction on themselves** (cp. [v. 3](#)). Driven by greed, the false teachers invented deceptive stories (the exact opposite of Peter in [1:16](#)) with which they exploited their listeners.

2:4-10a In order to warn his readers and urge them to action, Peter recalled three examples of God's judgment and deliverance: (1) God judged **the angels who sinned** (cp. [Gen 6:1-4](#)). **Tartarus** is a Greek name that means a subterranean place of punishment lower than Hades and reserved for the wicked. (2) God also judged the ancient world at the time of the flood (cp. [Gen 7:17-23](#)), but protected **Noah** and **seven others** (cp. [Gen 7:13-16](#)). (3) He judged the immoral cities of **Sodom** and **Gomorrah** (cp. [Gen 19:23-29](#)), yet rescued **righteous Lot**, who was distressed and tormented by the immoral behavior of the ungodly (cp. [Gen 19:29](#)). Peter then pointed out to his readers that God was capable of delivering them, **the godly**, from the destructive false teachings of heretics in their midst. Peter further assured his readers that despite the false teachers' immorality, the unrighteous, especially those who followed the **polluting desires** of the flesh and despised **authority**, would not escape God's sovereignty or punishment.

tartaroo

<i>Greek Pronunciation</i>	[tahr tah RAH oh]
<i>HCSB Translation</i>	throw down into Tartarus
<i>Uses in 2 Peter</i>	1
<i>Uses in the NT</i>	1
<i>Focus passage</i>	2 Peter 2:4

The verb *tartaroo* means *to throw down into Tartarus*. Its only NT occurrence ([2Pe 2:4](#)) refers to God casting disobedient angels into *Tartarus*, an idea with a Homeric parallel. Well before NT times, Homer (ca 8th c. B.C.) spoke of *Tartarus* as a subterranean place of punishment where Zeus banished the Titans (a family of ruling gods; Hom. *Il.* 14.279). Hesiod (ca 8th c. B.C.) remarked that "a brazen anvil falling from earth nine nights and days would reach Tartarus upon the tenth" (Hes. *Theog.* 724-5). It is a dark, dank place "under misty gloom," surrounded by a bronze fence—a place "which even the gods abhor" (Hes. *Theog.* 730, 739). Eventually, *tartaroo* made its way into Jewish apocalyptic literature, retaining the idea of a place of punishment. It appears closely equivalent to Jewish *gehenna* [*hell*] (Syb. *Or.* 4:186), that supplies the Jewish background alluded to in [2Pe 2:4](#).

2. Jeremy Royal Howard, ed., *HCSB Study Bible*, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2010), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "2 Peter 2".

[2:10b-22](#) Peter further described the false teachers. They were rash, **arrogant**, and, in contrast to the behavior of the more powerful angels, slanderously insolent. They were brute-like and **irrational** in their understanding, blasphemous, and ruled by lust and greed. Peter compared the false teachers to **Balaam** ([Num 22-24](#)). Like Balaam, these false teachers had abandoned the straight path, were consumed by greed, and would receive the wages of their unrighteousness; Balaam's donkey showed more moral sense than Balaam did. The false teachers are described as **springs without water** and **mists driven by a whirlwind**. In other words they were unsatisfactory and unstable. As punishment, **the gloom of darkness** was reserved for them. With their empty boastful words, and despite their promises of freedom to others, these false teachers led their hearers into the same spiritual slavery and corruption to which they themselves were enslaved. Although these heretics had once claimed to know Christ and even experienced some freedom from sin, they returned to their old practices and became **entangled** again. They were worse off in the end with their rejection of Christ than they were at the beginning when in a state of ignorance; indeed, it would be better for them **not to have known** the way of **righteousness**. Just as a **dog returns to its own vomit** and a pig returns to wallow in the mud, so also these false teachers reverted to the immoral lifestyles they preferred by nature. The immoral behavior of the false teachers shows that they had never been genuinely converted.

NLT Life Application Study Bible³

2 Peter 2:1-22

[2:1](#) Jesus had told the disciples that false teachers would come ([Matthew 24:11](#); [Mark 13:22, 23](#)). Peter had heard these words, and at this time he was seeing them come true. Just as false prophets had contradicted the true prophets in Old Testament times (see, for example, [Jeremiah 23:16-40](#); [28:1-17](#)), telling people only what they wanted to hear, so false teachers were twisting Christ's teachings and the words of his apostles. These teachers were belittling the significance of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Some claimed that Jesus couldn't be God; others claimed that he couldn't have been a real man. These teachers allowed and even encouraged all kinds of immorality, especially sexual sin. We must be careful to avoid false teachers today. Any book, tape series, or TV message must be evaluated in the light of God's Word. Beware of special meanings or interpretations that belittle Christ or his work.

[2:3](#) Peter gives three warning signs for identifying false teachers:

(1) *Immorality*. Do their lives contain or condone immoral practices? Does the group listening to the false teachers have a lot of immoral sexual relationships?

(2) *Greed*. Teachers have a right to financial support ([1 Corinthians 9:1-14](#); [Galatians 6:6](#); [1 Timothy 5:17, 18](#)), but is money the teacher's or group's prime motivation? Before you send money to any cause, evaluate it carefully. Is the teacher or preacher clearly serving God or merely promoting his/her own interests? Will the person or organization use the money to promote valid ministry, or will it merely finance further promotions or extravagant lifestyles?

(3) *Lying*. Is the leader offended when you ask for the scriptural backing behind his/her statements? Does he/she fudge on the facts when asked for evidence?

3. *Life Application Study Bible*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1988), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 2140-2139.41

Believers today would do well to heed Peter's warnings against false teachers; the danger is great.

2:4-6 If God did not spare angels, or people who lived before the Flood, or the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah, he would not spare these false teachers. These words that promised justice were a great comfort to those who were oppressed. God will punish all evildoers. These words also served as a warning to wanderers to not stray away from the truth. Some people would have us believe that God will save all people because he is so loving. But it is foolish to think that God will cancel the last judgment. Don't ever minimize the certainty of God's judgment on those who rebel against him.

2:7-9 Just as God rescued Lot from Sodom, so he is able to rescue us from the temptations and trials we face in a wicked world. Lot was not sinless, but he put his trust in God and was spared when Sodom was destroyed. For more information on Lot, see his Profile in [Genesis 13, p. 25](#). God also will judge those who cause the temptations and trials, so we need never worry about justice being done.

2:10-12 The "supernatural beings" may be angels, all the glories of the unseen world, or more probably, fallen angels. A similar passage is found in [Jude 1:8-10](#). Whoever they are, the false teachers slandered the spiritual realities they did not understand, taking Satan's power lightly and claiming to have the ability to judge evil. Many in our world today mock the supernatural. They deny the reality of the spiritual world and claim that only what can be seen and felt is real. Like the false teachers of Peter's day, they are fools who will be proven wrong in the end. Don't take Satan and his supernatural powers of evil lightly, and don't become arrogant about how defeated he will be. Although Satan will be destroyed completely, he is at work now trying to render Christians complacent and ineffective.

2:13, 14 The fellowship meal may have been part of the celebration of the Lord's Supper—a full meal that ended with Communion. The false teachers, although they were sinning openly, took part in these meals with everyone else in the church. In one of the greatest of hypocritical acts, they attended a sacred meal designed to promote love and unity among believers, while at the same time they gossiped and slandered those who disagreed with their opinions. Paul told the Corinthians, "So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord" ([1 Corinthians 11:27](#)). These men were guilty of more than false teaching and promoting evil pleasures; they were guilty of leading others away from God's Son, Jesus.

2:15 Balaam was hired by a pagan king to curse Israel. He did what God told him to do for a time ([Numbers 22-24](#)), but eventually his evil motives and desire for money won out ([Numbers 25:1-3; 31:16](#)). Like the false teachers of Peter's day, Balaam used religion for personal advancement, a sin that God does not take lightly.

2:19 A person is a slave to whatever controls him or her. Many believe that freedom means doing anything we want. But no one is ever completely free in that sense. If we refuse to follow God, we will follow our own sinful desires and become enslaved to what our body wants. If we submit our lives to Christ, he will free us from slavery to sin. Christ frees us to serve him, a freedom that results in our ultimate good.

2:20-22 Peter is speaking of people who have learned about Christ and how to be saved but then reject the truth and return to their sin. These people are worse off than before because they have rejected the only way out of sin, the only way of salvation. Like someone sinking in quicksand who refuses to grab the rope thrown to him or her, the person who turns away from Christ rejects the only means of escape (see the note on [Luke 11:24-26](#)).

Study and Discussion Questions



False Teachers and Their Destruction - [2 Peter 2:1-22](#)

Open It

1. What is your favorite proverb or wise saying (for example, "Haste makes waste")?
2. *What activities or pursuits are popular today?
3. In what ways do people today abuse their freedom?

Explore It

4. What did Peter warn his readers that false prophets would attempt to do? ([2:1](#))
5. What did Peter say would happen when people followed false prophets? ([2:2](#))
6. What did God do to the angels who had sinned? ([2:4](#))
7. Whom did Peter say God protected? ([2:5](#))
8. What did God use as an example of what will happen to the ungodly? ([2:6](#))
9. *What effect did living among immoral people have upon Lot? ([2:7-8](#))
10. How did Peter say the Lord would deal with the godly and the unrighteous? ([2:9](#))
11. What kind of people are unafraid to slander celestial beings? ([2:10-15](#))
12. How did God rebuke Balaam? ([2:16](#))
13. What did Peter say was reserved for people who rebel against God? ([2:17](#))
14. *How did the evil people of whom Peter wrote affect others? ([2:18](#))
15. What did such sinful men promise? ([2:19](#))
16. To what were sinful people slaves? ([2:19](#))
17. *How did Peter say a person could escape the corruption of the world? ([2:20](#))
18. In what way would it have been better for ungodly people to have never heard of God? Why? ([2:21](#))
19. What proverbs did Peter apply to the blatantly ungodly? ([2:22](#))

Get It

20. *What effect does living and working among sinful people have upon you?
21. *How do you deal with the influence of immoral or rebellious people around you?
22. What false prophets attempt to influence the church today?
23. Why is it important to know how God has dealt with unrighteous people in the past, including angels?
24. When and why have you felt like Lot—distressed by the filthy lives of lawless people?
25. Why and how could someone who has known Christ return to the unrighteousness from which he or she had been rescued?
26. When are you tempted to return to some sinful activity or attitude? Why?
27. What lustful desires entice people today?
28. When and how does slavery sometimes appear to be a promise of freedom?
29. To what sorts of desires can we become unknowingly enslaved?
30. Why might it be important for us to know what Peter wrote about angels?
31. What false teachings do you need to expose as untrue?

Apply It

32. Beginning today, from what sinful desire will you ask God to help you escape?
33. What steps will you take today to ensure that you don't allow your exercise of freedom to result in your enslavement to sin?
34. *How will you deal with the effect of living in a sinful world today?