

KNOW BETTER
KNOW THE LIE: DON'T FALL FOR IT
2 Pet 2:17-22
4.21.24

Real doom is often shown rather than sensed

Four kinds of lies of false teachers that Godly fear helps us to see through:

#1 EMPTY PLEDGES: SOUL-THIRST IS *UNAVOIDABLE*, BUT FALSE 'THIRST-QUENCHERS' ARE (17a)
See through the doom they cannot rescue you from & *quench your thirst where God is truly found*

Three deficiencies show how empty their offers truly are:

#1 A LACK OF ANY TRUE SUBSTANCE: They *can't* help you at all — '*...these are waterless....*' (17a¹)

#2 A LACK OF ANY TRUE PURPOSE: They show they have *no point* — '*...waterless springs....*' (17a²)

#3 A LACK OF ANY TRUE ASSISTANCE: They keep offering *false hope*, but never deliver — '*...mists driven by a storm....*' (17a³)

#2 FALSE PEACE: COMFORT NOW DOES NOT MEAN COMFORT *LATER* (17b)
See through the doom they cannot escape from & *take comfort in the sole place provided by God*

Two warnings show how tragic their false sense of assurance truly is:

#1 THE UNSPEAKABLE MISERY OF THE PLACE THEY'RE HEADED: Their eternal destination will be *utterly horrid* — '*...for them the gloom of utter darkness....*' (17b¹)

#2 THE UNAVOIDABLE CERTAINTY OF THE APPOINTMENT THEY HAVE: Their eternal destination will be *appropriately suited* — '*...has been reserved....*' (17b²)

#3 PERVERTED PROMISES: TRUE FREEDOM IS NOT FREEDOM *FROM* GOD, BUT *UNTO* GOD
See through the doom they entice others into & *refuse to settle for less than true freedom* (18-19)

Five tells show how warped their promise-making truly is:

#1 THE VANITY OF THE APPEALS THEY MAKE: They make *big boasts* — '*...for speaking loud boasts of folly....*' (18a)

#2 THE FLESHLINESS OF THE PLAYBOOK THEY USE: They *lure with the flesh* — '*...they entice by sensual passions of the flesh....*' (18b)

#3 THE VULNERABILITY OF THE PREY THEY STALK: They *aim for the weak* — '*...those who are barely escaping from those who live in error....*' (18c)

#4 THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE PITCH THEY TOUT: They use the right words — '*...they promise them freedom....*' (19a)

#5 THE SEVERITY OF THE PROBLEM THEY HAVE: They're stuck in their sin — '*...but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved....*' (19b)

#4 **BACKWARDS 'PROGRESS':** TRUE FORWARD PROGRESS COMES ONLY WHEN GOD IS INVOLVED
See through the doom they're drawn back to & exercise your new God-given nature to experience true change (20-22)

Two terrifying fates show the consequences of going backwards:

#1 THE UNSETTLING FUTURE THEY'VE WORSENERED: THEY ARE WORSE OFF THAN THEY WERE BEFORE (20-21)

Four ways they are worse off:

#1 The experiment they've abandoned: They're rejecting Christ knowingly — '*...for if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ....*' (20-21)

#2 The enslavement they've accepted: They've surrendered to evil entirely — '*...they are again entangled in them and overcome*' (20-21)

#3 The endpoint they've arrived at: They've not only reverted, they've regressed — '*...the last state has become worse for them than the first.*' (20-21)

#4 The outrage they've awakened: They're more culpable, thus in greater peril — '*...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....*' (20-21)

#2 THE UNCLEAN NATURE THEY'VE PROVEN: THEY ARE MORE CLEAR ABOUT WHO THEY REALLY ARE (22)

Two kinds of cleansings that prove ineffective at securing genuine long-term change:

#1 Their fleeing internal 'cleansing': They swallow the very vomit they've previously thrown up — '*...what the proverb says has happened to them: "they dog returns to its own vomit...."*' (22a)

#2 Their fleeing external 'cleansing': They wallow in the very mud they've previously washed off — '*...the sow after washing herself returns to wallow in the mire....*' (22a) (22b)