

## Stand Fast

2 Peter 2:17-22 - Returning to the Mire  
August 7, 2016

They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. –**2 Peter 2:19**

### I. AN ENSLAVED FREEDOM

- Peter concludes his denunciation of the false teachers and their teaching. They have no foundation, and hell awaits them (vs. 17; Jude 12-13).
- Again we are reminded that false teaching generally strikes at the young and at new believers most directly (vs. 18; Matt. 18:5-6).
- Satan promises us what we love most—the freedom to do as we choose. It is a lie that brings with it misery and slavery (John 8:44; Gal. 3:1-5).

### II. ENTANGLED AGAIN - WORSE THAN BEFORE

- Seeing Christ-followers who turn their backs on Christ is not merely a modern phenomenon; it's been happening since the beginning (vs. 20; Acts 8:17-24; 2 Tim. 4:10).
- Turning away from Christ after experiencing life as a follower has serious consequences; it leads to a state worse than the original lost state (vss. 20-21; Luke 9:62; Heb. 10:26-31).
- To know the truth and reject it only to go back to another way of life, is tantamount to returning to our vomit, or wallowing in the mud after having been cleansed (Prov. 26:11).

**KNOW:** Jesus called his potential followers to count the cost, and having done so, to never turn back. Those who lead new believers astray, and go astray themselves, place themselves in a dreadful position.

**DO:** Keep moving forward. Never turn back.

#### Suggested Reading:

*Gospel Assurance and Warnings*, by Paul Washer

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### Please read 2 Peter 2:17-22

1. As we wrap up four weeks going through 2 Peter 2, what are your general takeaways from Peter's strong warnings concerning heresy, false teaching, and apostasy?
2. Peter speaks of things that promise freedom when in reality they lead to slavery. Have you seen the truth of this statement in your own life in any way, or in the lives of those you know and love?
3. Can genuine Christians "agree to disagree" on whether a believer in Christ can apostatize or "fall away"? Is it a "first order" or an essential issue for the church?
4. How can we guard ourselves and others from both false teaching and the tendency to lose interest in our faith?
5. Talk a bit about "the holy commandment" that was delivered to Christians. What is that holy commandment? (see vs. 20)
6. What steps will you take to ground yourself more deeply in the faith and to help those around you to do the same?