



Epistle of 2 Peter

2 Peter 2:13-16 - The Conduct of False Teachers Part 2

• *2 Peter 2:13 – “and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you,”*

- Notice that these false teachers *will receive the wages unrighteousness* – future tense and middle/passive participle.
- What do you envision are *the wages of unrighteousness*?
 - Let’s contrast the following verses:
 - *2 Thess 2:10-12 - and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*
 - *1 John 5:17 - All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.*



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- What's this *pleasure to carouse in the daytime*?
 - *Carouse* can be interpreted as *riot* – indicative of softness, effeminacy, luxurious living
- *They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you,*
 - Have you ever been called a *spot* or *blemish* (metaphors to contrast beautiful vs. ugly)?
 - *Eph 5:27 - that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, **not having spot or wrinkle** or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*
 - *1 Peter 1:19 - but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb **without blemish and without spot.***
 - What do you think it means that they *carouse (sporting themselves) in their own deceptions*?
 - These meals or love feasts among believers promoted mutual love within the body and typically occurred before the Lord's supper.
 - » Vincent says: 'The word originally conveys the idea of *sumptuous* feasting and



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is appropriate in view of the fact to which Peter alludes, that these sensualists converted the love-feast into a revel.;

»Jude 12 - *These are spots in your feasts of charity when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withered, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;*

- What about these types of gatherings before the Lord's supper?

»1 Cor 11:20-22 - *Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry, and another is drunk. What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.*

»Phil 3:19 - *whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.*

- Would such mannerisms be perceived at our fellowship meals?

•2 Peter 2:14 – “having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices and are accursed children.”



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- *Having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin enticing unstable souls.*
 - Is this literal *adultery* or as Strong states – ‘as the intimate alliance of God with the people of Israel was likened to a marriage, those who relapse into idolatry are said to commit adultery or play the harlot?’
 - What helps here is the more accurate interpretation is *having eyes full of an adulteress.*
 - Mayor – ‘Vivid picture of a man who cannot see a woman without lascivious thoughts toward her.’
 - McCalley – and all this is driven by ‘intellect, mind and emotion.’
 - » *Job 31:7 - If my step has turned from the way, Or my heart walked after my eyes, Or if any spot adheres to my hands,*
 - Describe an *enticing unstable soul.*
 - The idea here is like using bait to reach someone who is not firmly established in faith.
 - » *2 Peter 3:16 - as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, **which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction**, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.*



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- *They have a heart trained in covetous practices and are accursed children.”*
 - Notice what *has been trained (exercised)* here and the result!
 - Perfect participle, a past completed action having present results.
 - And remember, this was some of us.
 - *Eph 2:3 - among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*

•2 Peter 2:15 – “They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;”

- *They have forsaken the right way and gone astray.*
 - Better term is *abandoned the right way* – a process after previous exposure to truth.
 - *Acts 13:10 - “O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the*



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straight ways of the Lord?

- *Jude 11* also lists Cain and Korah but let's stick with *Balaam* here with some reference to him in *Jude 11*.
- What is *the way of Balaam the son of Beor (Bosor)*?
 - *Beor* or *Bosor* literally means *burning/torch* and *Balaam son of carnality*.
- *who loved (agapaō) the wages of unrighteousness*
 - **Way of Balaam** - love of reward irrespective of the means of obtaining it.
 - *Num 22:7,12,15,17 - So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the diviner's fee in their hand, and they came to Balaam and spoke to him the words of Balak (King of Moab – devastator).And God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.Then Balak again sent princes, more numerous and more honorable than they."for I will certainly honor you greatly, and I will do whatever you say to me. Therefore please come, curse this people for me."*
- Then what is *the error of Balaam*.
 - We need to turn to *Jude 11*.



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- » Jude 11 - Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the **error of Balaam** for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.
- » Num 25:3 - So **Israel was joined to Baal of Peor**, and the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel.
- » Num 31:16 - “Look, these women caused the children of Israel, **through the counsel of Balaam**, to trespass against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the Lord.
- » Rev 2:14 - “But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the **doctrine of Balaam**, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. – **Christ’s message to the church at Pergamos.**

- That God could curse what He had blessed was the **error of Balaam**.

• **2 Peter 2:16 – “but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man’s voice restrained the madness of the prophet.”**

- Wouldn’t this be a nice way for the Lord to *rebuke* us today?
 - *rebuke* means to *convict on testing*.
- The text that relates to this event is stated in *Num 22:22-33*.



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- Logos Bible commentary - *restrained*, 'literally *hindered*. It was not the words of the ass (for it merely deprecated his beating it), but the miraculous fact of its speaking at all, which withstood Balaam's perversity in desiring to go after God had forbidden him in the first instance. Thus indirectly the ass, and directly the angel, rebuked his worse than asinine obstinacy; the ass turned aside at the sight of the angel, but Balaam, after God had plainly said, Thou shalt not go, persevered in wishing to go for gain; thus the ass, in act, forbade his madness. How awful a contrast—a dumb beast forbidding an inspired prophet!'
 - **Was Balaam's appeal to God granted; yes, but God's truth, purpose and principle was violated and subsequently rebuked.**