

II Peter 2:18-19

18. For when **they SPEAK great SWELLING WORDS of EMPTINESS**, they **ALLURE through the LUSTS of the FLESH**, through LICENTIOUSNESS, the ones who have actually ESCAPED from those who LIVE in ERROR.

- **Ephesians 5:6** "Let no one _____ you with _____ words, for because of these things the _____ of _____ comes upon the sons of disobedience."
- **Ephesians 4:17-18** "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should _____ longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the _____ of their _____, having their _____ darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening (blindness) of their _____. Who being past feeling, have given themselves over to _____, to work all _____ with _____."
- **Ephesians 2:3** "Among whom also we all once _____ ourselves in the _____ of the _____, fulfilling the _____ of the _____ and of the _____; and were by nature the children of wrath, just as others."
- **Matthew 5:27-28** "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit _____.' But I say to you that whoever _____ at a woman to _____ for her has already committed _____ with her in his _____."

Definition: "They SPEAK great SWELLING WORDS of EMPTINESS" - Again, the "they" that Peter is referring to are the false teachers and false prophets that he has been talking about in this whole chapter. A modern, sort-of-slang word we use today for "**great SWELLING WORDS of EMPTINESS**" would be **PSYCHO-BABBLE**. It means a lot of talk and great-sounding words, but with little or no real substance or meaning. A "sales pitch" or a lot of hot air. Politicians, many so-called preachers, motivational speakers, and so forth, can pump up people's self-esteem and get them excited about something, but many times there is no truth or substance to what they have said, and only disappointment follows.

- **Jude 16** "These are murmurers, _____, walking according to their own _____; and they _____ great _____ words, _____ people to gain advantage."
- **Matthew 15:18-20** "But those things which proceed out of the _____ come from the _____, and they defile (make dirty, filthy) a _____. For _____ of the _____ proceed _____ thoughts, murders, _____, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man...."

Definition: "VANITY OF THEIR MINDS" - Depending on your translation, it could say "futility" of their minds", but it means emptiness and stupidity of their minds; **not thinking right**, not able to understand the things of God. The reason these false teachers "**speak great SWELLING WORDS of EMPTINESS**" is **because their MINDS and HEARTS are EMPTY**, and they do not know God or understand the things of God.

- **I Corinthians 2:14-15** "But the natural (unsaved) man does not _____ (understand) the things of the Spirit of God, for they are _____ to him; nor can he _____ them, because

they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges (discerns) all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one."

- **II Corinthians 4:3-4** "But even if our gospel is veiled (hidden), it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose _____ the god of this age (Satan) has _____, who do not believe, lest the _____ of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should _____ on them."
- **Proverbs 12:15** "The way of a _____ is _____ in his _____, but he who heeds [godly] counsel is _____."
- **Proverbs 16:25** "There is a way that _____ to a man, but its end is the way of _____."

Definition: "SONS of DISOBEDIENCE" - These are NOT Christians, and they never were! According to Ephesians 2:2, the "sons of disobedience" are UNBELIEVERS; those **who are still under Satan's control, and have NOT been BORN AGAIN**. These are the ones who fall for the false teaching of the cult leaders and STAY in the cult. In Ephesians 2:3 **they are also called "children of WRATH."** Since they have NOT accepted God's way of forgiveness for their sins, they have nothing to look forward to except the WRATH of GOD and eternity in HELL.

- **John 3:18** "He who believes in Him (Jesus) is NOT _____; but he who does _____ believe is _____, because he has _____ believed in the name of the only begotten _____ of _____."
- **I Thessalonians 5:9** "For God did not appoint us to _____, but to obtain _____ through our _____."
- **I Thessalonians 1:9-10** "For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you _____ to God from _____ to serve the _____ and _____ God, and to wait for His _____ from _____, whom He _____ from the _____, even Jesus who _____ us from the _____ to come."

Definition: "They ALLURE through the LUSTS of the FLESH, through LICENTIOUSNESS" - To "allure" means to lure, tempt, entice, attract. With the false teachers, their luring and enticing is by deception, and through the lusts of the flesh. Lusts of the flesh usually means sexual desires, but can also mean the desire for money and possessions (greed), or even the desire for food, alcohol and drugs, power, and other things that appeal to our fleshly nature. In the Old Testament, we see examples of **men who were PRIESTS in God's temple**, yet the word of God calls them "**sons of Belial" or sons of Satan**. Some translations call them wicked men or worthless men, but the literal translation of the Hebrew is "sons of Belial" (Belial is another name for the devil). The sons of Eli were so corrupted, they even had sex with women right in the temple of God! God says that these false prophets and evil shepherds will be judged and punished in the end, but in the meantime, He also promises that **He will raise up GOOD SHEPHERDS**, and we must be careful who we follow! Anyone who has ever ended up in a cult for a while knows that they usually LOOK like a Christian group when you first go in. It is only as you get deeper into the cult that you realize how far off from the Bible they really are! Also, the sexual perversions do not usually appear on the surface, but those who are deceived and get sucked into a cult find out later that they are commanded by the leaders (the false teachers) to commit adultery, to give their wives and daughters to the leaders as "wives" or sexual partners, and sometimes even prostitute themselves to make money for the cult. We know personally a woman who was in a well-known cult for years, **before she came out of the cult and was saved**. While she was in the cult,

she was forced to go out on the street and sell herself as a prostitute to make money for the cult, and she was forced to commit sexual perversions with the leaders of the cult, and give her children to those who sexually abused them, also. Finally, it was in reading II Peter Chapter Two that she saw clearly what was going on, and she escaped with her children and ran for her life. She knew the teaching of the cult was wrong, but it was not until a few years later that the Lord brought her into our lives, and we were able **to lead her to salvation in Jesus Christ.**

- **II Corinthians 11:13-15** "For such are _____ apostles, _____ workers, transforming (DISGUISED) themselves into _____ of _____. And no wonder! For _____ himself transforms (DISGUISES) himself into an _____ of _____. Therefore it is no great thing (not surprising) if his _____ also _____ themselves into ministers of righteousness; whose _____ will be according to their works."
- **I Samuel 1:3 & 2:12 & 22** "...And the two _____ of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the _____ of the Lord, were there." (Vs. 12) "Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial, and they did _____ know the Lord." (Vs. 22) "Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they _____ with the _____ that assembled at the door of the Tabernacle of the congregation."

Definition: "LICENTIOUSNESS" - Lacking or deficient in discipline; without restraint (not wanting to follow any rules or laws that restrain their impulses), doing whatever feels good at the time, **LAWLESSNESS.**

- **Matthew 7:23** "And then I will declare to them, 'I never _____ you; depart from Me, you who practice _____!'"
- **Romans 13:12-14** "The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of _____, and let us put on the armor of _____. Let us walk (conduct our lives) properly, as in the day, not in revelry and _____, not in _____ and _____, not in strife and envy, but put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the _____, to fulfill its _____."

Definition: "The ones who have actually ESCAPED from those who LIVE in ERROR" - In the first part of this verse, Peter says that the false teachers LURE and ENTICE people by deception, and through the lusts of the flesh. **A true Christian will either be able to DISCERN the FALSE teaching and RESIST the LURES and enticements,** or if they are weak, and fall for the false teaching, it will only be temporary, and God will awaken them to their error, and they will escape and get out of the cult. Either way, God's true children are those who **"actually ESCAPE from those who LIVE in ERROR" (the false teachers).** Go back to verse 14, where Peter says the false teachers **"BEGUILE UNSTABLE souls."** To "beguile" is the same as ALLURE, and it means to lure by means of deception, to trick and deceive. **It is a picture of a FISHERMAN throwing out a HOOK and line with a "lure" or BAIT to CATCH a FISH. We must be STRONG in the WORD of GOD, and be able to see the BAIT for what it is, and avoid it. "Unstable souls"** are those who are not strong in the word of God, and perhaps not even saved at all, and **by reason of their psychological and SPIRITUAL instability,** they are easily fooled and lured into false cults and religions by these false teachers. They fall for the BAIT "hook, line and sinker"!

19. While **they PROMISE them LIBERTY,** they themselves are **SLAVES of CORRUPTION;** for by whom a person is OVERCOME, by him also he is brought into BONDAGE.

- **Romans 6:16** "Do you not know that to _____ you present yourselves _____ to _____, you are that one's _____ whom you _____, whether of _____ to death, or of _____ to righteousness?"
- **John 8:34** "Jesus answered them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits _____ is a _____ of _____.'"

Definition: "They PROMISE them LIBERTY" - With their "**great SWELLING WORDS of EMPTINESS**" these false teachers **PROMISE** their followers **FREEDOM and LIBERTY**, but it only leads to **BONDAGE and SLAVERY to perversions and lusts of the flesh**. Remember the cry of the Hippies back in the Sixties? **It was FREE LOVE!** And the "false teachers" of the Hippie Movement taught that unrestrained sex and using drugs and taking LSD was **so LIBERATING and would SET you FREE!** Yet how many lives were destroyed through sexually transmitted diseases, addiction to those so-called freeing drugs, and other degradations? It was NOT liberating, but brought people into bondage. The false teachers can't deliver the liberty and freedom they promise their followers, because they themselves are "**SLAVES of CORRUPTION**" and in bondage to sin. They do not realize that they are in BONDAGE and **HELD CAPTIVE by Satan**. Only God Himself, through faith in Jesus Christ and the working of the Holy Spirit, can give us real freedom and liberty.

- **Luke 4:18** "The _____ of the _____ is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor, He has sent Me (Jesus) to _____ the _____, to preach _____ to the _____, and recovering of sight to the blind; to _____ at _____ those who are _____."
- **II Corinthians 3:17** "Now the Lord is the _____; and where the _____ of the _____ is, there is _____."
- **II Timothy 2:24-26** "And a servant of the lord must not quarrel, but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility _____ those who are in _____, if God perhaps will grant them _____, so that they may _____ the _____, and that they may come to their _____ and _____ the snare of the _____, having been taken _____ by him to do his will."

Definition: "Those who are in OPPOSITION" -- The King James says "**Those who OPPOSE THEMSELVES**." Have you ever felt like you were your own worst enemy? That is what it means to OPPOSE YOURSELF - you end up doing things that are ruining and destroying your life, and you don't understand why you are doing them, or you just don't know how to stop. God's word in Second Timothy says **REPENTANCE and a KNOWLEDGE of the TRUTH** are the **KEYS** to ESCAPING the SNARE of the DEVIL and BONDAGE to sin!

Definition: "That they may COME to their SENSES" - The Prodigal Son in Jesus' parable came to his senses, or "**came to himself**." The father in this parable represents God the Father, so **we have the word of Jesus Himself** that our Heavenly Father wants to receive us back from whatever "far country" we have wandered to (including false teaching), whenever we come to our senses. **You may not have had a good earthly father**, but your Heavenly Father wants to hug you and kiss you and welcome you back into His house as soon as you are ready.

- **I John 1:9** "If we confess our _____, He is faithful and just to _____ us our _____, and to _____ us from all unrighteousness."

- **Luke 15:17-19** "But when he _____ to _____, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "_____, I have _____ against heaven and before you, and I am no longer _____ to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'" And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had _____, and ran and fell on his neck (hugged him) and _____ him."