

## II Peter 2:20-22

**20-22.** For if, after **they have ESCAPED the POLLUTIONS of the WORLD** through the KNOWLEDGE of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, **they are AGAIN ENTANGLED in them** and **OVERCOME, the LATTER END is WORSE for them** than the beginning. For it would have been better for them **not to have known the WAY of RIGHTEOUSNESS**, than having known it, to TURN FROM the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: 'A dog returns to his own vomit, ' and 'a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.'"

- **II Timothy 2:4** "No one engaged in warfare \_\_\_\_\_ himself with the \_\_\_\_\_ of this \_\_\_\_\_, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier."
- **Hebrews 6:4-6** "For it is \_\_\_\_\_ for those who were once enlightened, and have \_\_\_\_\_ the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have \_\_\_\_\_ the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they \_\_\_\_\_, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame."
- **Hebrews 10:26-27** "For if we sin willfully \_\_\_\_\_ we have received the \_\_\_\_\_ of the truth, there \_\_\_\_\_ longer remains a \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries."
- **Proverbs 26:11** "As a \_\_\_\_\_ returns to his own \_\_\_\_\_, so a fool \_\_\_\_\_ his folly (foolishness, sin)."

**Definition: "After they have ESCAPED the POLLUTIONS of the WORLD"** - Peter is speaking about false prophets and **the people whom they ensnare, entrap, and lure into following their sinful ways.** The word of God does not say that these people are true believers in Jesus Christ. Rather, these are people who **APPEAR** to be Christians on the surface, but have only **become involved in a FORM of Christianity, and have cleaned up their lives to some degree**, but are not delivered out of the devil's kingdom, and have never truly been saved (II Timothy 3:5). They never had a heart-change by surrendering to the Lord and being born again. These people who remain in false teachings have a temporary "escape from the pollutions of the world", but they will ultimately go back to their old ways and be **"AGAIN ENTANGLED in them and OVERCOME."** A true Believer in Jesus Christ has the PROMISE of having "escaped the corruptions of the world" permanently. **It may take a while for us to GROW in our walk with Christ, and we may have a few SLIPS back into sin, but the "slip" is what is temporary, and the escape from the pollution and corruptions of the world is what is real and permanent for us.** Verse 22 says, "...a sow (pig), after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire" which sounds to me like the pig was always a pig. In other words, an unsaved person was always an unsaved person. They may have joined a church, been baptized, and done a lot of the **outward things** Christians do, but they never had a new birth by giving their heart and life to Christ. If a true Christian takes a few trips back to the old pig pen, he will be miserable about it, and will eventually repent and turn away from it. He doesn't feel "at home" in the old pig pen and the mire (mud) anymore, because he is no longer a pig!

- **II Peter 1:4** "By which have been given to us exceedingly \_\_\_\_\_ and precious \_\_\_\_\_, that through these \_\_\_\_\_ may be \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ nature, having \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ that is in the \_\_\_\_\_ through lust."

**Definition: "The LATTER END is WORSE for them than the beginning"** - This is used by some to "prove" that a Christian can lose their salvation by falling back into sin and being "overcome" by it. However, nowhere in these verses does it say these people are saved, chosen, or redeemed, nor does it call them saints or Christians. Even if it did mean some true Christians, it would only mean that they are worse off in THIS LIFE by turning back to their old sins. It doesn't say that they are going to hell or referring to their eternal state. Either for a Christian or a non-Christian, to **clean up one's life and follow God's directions for a while, and then fall back into sin would certainly be WORSE** than before they ever knew the difference. For a true Believer, if they persist and continue in sin, it may mean an early physical death, but that person is still going to heaven when they die. What then makes it "worse" for a true Believer who is still going to heaven? Well, that person will receive little or no rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and they will wish they had served the Lord more faithfully while in this life on earth.

- **Matthew 12:43-45** "When an unclean \_\_\_\_\_ goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will \_\_\_\_\_ to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it \_\_\_\_\_, swept and put in \_\_\_\_\_. Then he goes and takes with him \_\_\_\_\_ other spirits more \_\_\_\_\_ than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the \_\_\_\_\_ state of that man is \_\_\_\_\_ than the \_\_\_\_\_. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."
- **I Corinthians 3:12-15** "Now if anyone \_\_\_\_\_ on this \_\_\_\_\_ with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's \_\_\_\_\_ will become manifest; for the Day (of judgment) will declare it, because it will be \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_; and the \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ each one's \_\_\_\_\_, of what sort it is. If anyone's \_\_\_\_\_ which he has built on it (on the foundation of Christ) endures, he will \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_. If anyone's \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ he will suffer \_\_\_\_\_; but he \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_, yet so as through \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Revelation 3:1b-2** ".....I know your \_\_\_\_\_, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have \_\_\_\_\_ found your \_\_\_\_\_ perfect before \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Revelation 22:12** "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My \_\_\_\_\_ is with Me, to \_\_\_\_\_ to every one \_\_\_\_\_ to his \_\_\_\_\_."
- **I John 5:16** "If anyone sees his \_\_\_\_\_ (another Christian) \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ which does \_\_\_\_\_ lead to \_\_\_\_\_, he will ask [God], and He will give him \_\_\_\_\_ for those who commit sin \_\_\_\_\_ leading to death. There is \_\_\_\_\_ leading to \_\_\_\_\_. I do not say that he should pray about that."

**Definition: "There is SIN leading to DEATH"** - This refers to Christians only, because it says "his brother", which means another Christian. What this means is that a Christian may DIE PHYSICALLY before their time **as a result of CONTINUED SIN**. There is no particular sin that is "the sin unto death" on a list of sins. It is **whatever sin in that particular person's life** that has a HOLD on them, and which they will not surrender to the Lord. They have already set their course on a particular path or direction of life, and have resisted the Lord's warnings. If they WILL NOT REPENT, they will have to **SUFFER the CONSEQUENCES** for their sin (see I Corinthians 5:1-5). They are still saved and going to heaven (see I Cor. 3:15), but God has had to remove them from the earth before they cause more damage to other Christians and bring reproach to the name of Christ. However, we don't know who has committed that sin, only God knows, so you should not give up on praying for someone. You can't judge a person and say they've committed the sin unto death **until they DIE**, in spite of all your prayers for them. As long as a Christian is alive and in their right mind, they

can REPENT at any time, and God will forgive them, and may spare their life. But remember, **there will ALWAYS be consequences to a life of sin and disobedience**, even if God spares the person's life.

- **Galatians 6:7-8** "Do not be deceived, \_\_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_; for whatever a man \_\_\_\_\_, that he will also \_\_\_\_\_. For he who sows to his \_\_\_\_\_ will of the \_\_\_\_\_ reap \_\_\_\_\_, but he who sows to the \_\_\_\_\_ will of the Spirit reap everlasting \_\_\_\_\_."
- **I Chronicles 10:13-14** "So Saul \_\_\_\_\_ for his unfaithfulness which he had committed \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, because he did not \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance. But he did \_\_\_\_\_ inquire of the \_\_\_\_\_; therefore He (God) \_\_\_\_\_ him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse."

**Definition: "The LAST STATE of that man is WORSE than the FIRST"** - Jesus is speaking about literal demon possession, but it can also apply to any condition of sin in a person's life, such as sexual immorality as described in Proverbs 5:1-14. In the case of a non-Christian who has some form of demon possession, you would not want to cast out his demons unless that person comes to faith in Jesus and has the Holy Spirit come to dwell inside of him. **If the HOLY SPIRIT is DWELLING in us, He is the one who is STRONGER than the devil, and HE will keep his evil spirits from returning.** Also, Jesus said, "**when he comes, he finds it EMPTY, swept and put in order**", so **the Believer in Jesus Christ is NOT EMPTY**, because God's Spirit is dwelling within him.

- **Luke 11:26** "Then he goes and takes with him seven other \_\_\_\_\_ more \_\_\_\_\_ than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the \_\_\_\_\_ state of that man is \_\_\_\_\_ than the \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Proverbs 5:1-5** "My son, pay \_\_\_\_\_ to my \_\_\_\_\_; lend your ear to my understanding, that you may preserve discretion, and that your lips may keep knowledge. For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil; but in the \_\_\_\_\_ she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as any two-edged sword. Her feet go down to \_\_\_\_\_, her steps lay hold of \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Proverbs 5:7-14** "Therefore, hear me now, my children, and do not \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ of my mouth. Remove your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, lest you give your honor to others, and your \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ one; lest aliens be filled with your wealth, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner; and you \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, when your flesh and your body are consumed, and say: 'How I have hated \_\_\_\_\_, and my heart \_\_\_\_\_ reproof! I have not \_\_\_\_\_ the voice of my \_\_\_\_\_, nor inclined my ear to those who \_\_\_\_\_ me! I was on the verge of total \_\_\_\_\_, in the midst of the congregation and assembly.'"

**Definition: "BETTER NOT to have KNOWN the WAY of RIGHTEOUSNESS"** -

These are people who heard the gospel, sat in church and listened to God's word preached Sunday after Sunday. They "**KNEW** the way of righteousness"**INTELLECTUALLY**, but never actually surrendered their lives to Christ and entered His kingdom. Judas Iscariot is an example of this kind of person. He sat under the personal teaching of Jesus Himself, and yet never truly believed, because Jesus called him the "**son of perdition (hell)**," meaning that Judas belonged to the devil all along. But did Judas act like and look like the rest of the disciples? Yes, up until the point of the betrayal, because the other disciples didn't even know who Jesus was talking about when He said one of them would betray Him. Judas must have

healed the sick and cast out demons along with the other disciples, because if not, they would have known something was suspicious, and would have suspected Judas as the betrayer.

- **John 17:12** "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. \_\_\_\_\_ whom You \_\_\_\_\_ Me I have \_\_\_\_\_; and none of them is \_\_\_\_\_ except the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, that the Scripture might be fulfilled."
- **John 6:64 & 70-71** "But there are \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ who do \_\_\_\_\_ believe.' For Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ who they were \_\_\_\_\_ did \_\_\_\_\_, and who would betray Him." "Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and \_\_\_\_\_ of you is a \_\_\_\_\_?" He spoke of \_\_\_\_\_ Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve."

**Definition: "If they FALL AWAY, to renew them again to REPENTANCE"** - The ones to whom "it is impossible to renew them again to repentance" are the ones who have heard the gospel, even seen and felt the working and convicting power of the Holy Spirit (Heb. 6:4), but they only "tasted" of the gift of salvation - **they never actually RECEIVED Christ!** They "**tasted**" of **God's precious gift** of salvation, but then "spit it out" by turning their backs on Christ and going back to a religion of "dead works" (Heb. 6:1). These warnings were being given to Jews who had been exposed to the gospel of Christ, but then went back into Judaism, even **to the point of offering animal sacrifices in the temple!** The warning to these people was that **if they "fell away" from the teachings of the New Covenant in Christ**, the animal sacrifices would no longer cover their sins, as they had in the Old Testament. Jesus was the FINAL SACRIFICE for SINS! **If a person rejects JESUS, then there is NO OTHER SACRIFICE that can take away their sins.** Hebrews 10:12 says, "but He (Jesus), **having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time**, sat down at the right hand of God", and Heb. 10:18 says, "Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is **no longer any offering for sin**" (meaning the animal sacrifices of the Old Covenant). These people were saying that the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross was not sufficient, or didn't count at all, and **they were going back to the Old Covenant sacrifices.** There were also people in the early days of Jesus' ministry who started to follow him, but later left him, because His teaching became too difficult to apply to their lives. There were also the Jewish leaders, Pharisees and Scribes, who heard His teaching, but **resisted the convicting of the Holy Spirit on their hearts**, and hardened their hearts in unbelief.

- **Acts 7:51** "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_! You always \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_....."
- **John 6:60 & 65-68** "Therefore many of His \_\_\_\_\_, when they heard this, said, "This is a \_\_\_\_\_; who can understand it?" (Vs 65-69) "And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that \_\_\_\_\_ can come to Me \_\_\_\_\_ it has been \_\_\_\_\_ to him by My Father. From that time many of His disciples went \_\_\_\_\_ and walked with Him \_\_\_\_\_ more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go \_\_\_\_\_?" Then Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

**Definition: "This is a HARD SAYING; WHO can UNDERSTAND IT?"** - Many of the people who had become "disciples" or followers of Jesus because of His healings and miracles (the feeding of the five thousand, etc.), were now struggling with His teaching. Remember, people who believe because of miracles and signs are usually **SHALLOW** in their belief, and **as soon as things get tough, or the teaching is difficult to understand**, they fall away.

- **Matthew 13:20-21** "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ receives it with \_\_\_\_\_; yet he has no \_\_\_\_\_ in himself, but \_\_\_\_\_ only for a \_\_\_\_\_. For when tribulation or \_\_\_\_\_ arises because of the \_\_\_\_\_, immediately he \_\_\_\_\_."