

**Recap of 3/20/16 (2 Peter 2:5-9):**

- 1. Henry Halley in his Bible Handbook writes: “It is a terrible sin to corrupt the church.” For those who doubt that Peter gives the examples of God’s judgment of the fallen angels; the world of Noah and the flood; and the judgment and destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.**
- 2. The flood was significant in the writings of Peter. He mentions it in 1 Peter 3:20 (emphasizing God’s patience), and in 2 Peter 2:5 and 3:6. The account can be found in Genesis 6 where we are told that “every inclination of the thoughts of his [man’s] heart was only evil all the time.” Peter’s emphasis in 2 Peter 2:5 is the suddenness of the judgment. Life went on right up to the time of the flood (see also Jesus, Matt. 24:37-39). The world of that day was judged and destroyed, only Noah and his family (eight in all) were saved.**
- 3. Noah is called a “herald” of righteousness. Hebrews 11:7 says: “In holy fear [Noah] built an ark...by his faith he condemned the world.” He was faithful to God, he was different from the world around him, and by his words and life he announced judgment to his culture.**
- 4. The next example of God’s judgment of the wicked and deliverance of the righteous is the example of Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah. The cities were judged for their sin of homosexuality (see also Jude 7, a parallel to 2 Peter 2:6-8) Leon Morris explains: “In Genesis 19 angelic messengers in the form of men visited Sodom; and the men of the city, motivated by their homosexuality and supposing the messengers to be men, desired them.”**
- 5. Lot (described 3 times in this passage as righteous) was exhausted by the sin around him. Barclay points out that “Our great security against sin lies in being shocked at it” and “For the good of the world and of our own souls, we must keep alive the sensitiveness which is shocked by sin.” This is crucial because there is a desensitizing to sin that goes on, until many times we are no longer shocked by it. Dr. Ed Blum challenges believers when he writes; “the contemporary application is plain. To what extent are Christians living today in a godless society ‘tormented’ by what they see?” Oswald Chambers warns: “One of the penalties of sin is our acceptance of it. It is not only God who punishes for sin, but sin establishes itself in the sinner and takes its toll....the penalty of sin is that you gradually get used to it, until you finally come to the place where you no longer even realize that it is sin.”**