

Recap of 4/3/16 (2 Peter 2:10-12):

- 1. Peter blunt treatment of false teachers in 2 Peter 2 reveals the inroads that Satan was already making in the church. The church is God's chosen vehicle to spread the gospel. If the church could be comprised, the message of the gospel could be stopped. Let those who would reject God's Word for their own "truth" take a lesson from the angels, the world of Noah's Day and Sodom and Gomorrah. God will bring judgment upon these deniers of the truth all the while rescuing the righteous.**
- 2. "...a false teacher, whether disguised as an 'angel of light' (2 Cor. 11:14-15) or openly depraved, always constitutes a serious threat to Christ's church." (Lawrence Richards)**
- 3. These false teachers promoted some form of sexual defilement, rather than the purity which the church emphasized. They promoted and practiced gross immorality. Secondly, they were contemptible of authority. They rejected the authority of the Lord, of the Word, and of church leaders. The word Peter uses is "despised" authority. That is to literally "look down on." They looked down their noses at the teaching of the Lord and of the church. They thought themselves too wise, too intellectual, too sophisticated, too enlightened to be hemmed in by biblical morality.**
- 4. "The evil men who were corrupting the church did not regard themselves as enemies of the church and Christianity; they regarded themselves as advance thinkers, a cut above the ordinary Christian, the spiritual elite." (William Barclay)**
- 5. Peter describes them as "brute beasts." They are slaves to animal passions/instinct; they can't be reasoned with; they live like animals with no desire for or awareness of the spiritual world—only the physical world. Peter does not mince words in describing these blots upon the church.**
- 6. "When men's eternal souls are at stake, the church cannot be passive and indifferent. Nor can it hide behind false humility that fears being judgmental or behind false love that fears offending. Christ was supremely humble, yet He never called evil anything but what it was: evil. Christ was supremely loving, yet he never withheld a warning that might save His hearers from hell. And He had nothing but intense anger for those who by their false teachings led men away from God and directly toward hell." (John MacArthur)**