2Thess #153

Believer, do not become entangled and overcome!

Let me open with an apology. I just realized I had not completed my Venmo profile with my cell number. So, anyone who wanted to do a cell phone donation on Venmo may have been blocked.

I set Venmo up on my lap top initially, but never finished verifying my cell phone. So, I think that froze the account for a week or longer.

That problem should be rectified now.

Open back up today in 2Peter chapter two where we left off RF.

We left off in 2Peter chapter two, where the Apostle Peter is warning of the coming counterfeit systems and false teachers in Christianity.

2Pet 2:14 having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having hearts trained in greed, accursed children;

The eyes of the soul are what is in view – the soul, the true motivation, the depth of the soul is the true YOU!

These are teachers and leaders who prey on unstable people – Bels and Unbels, who are easily swayed by emotions and deceptions that resemble the truth.

[2Pe 2:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2pe/2/15/s_1158015) abandoning the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the *son* of Beor, who loved the reward of unrighteousness;

/The false prophet Balaam counseled Balak, the king of Moab, to invite the Israelites to participate with his people in a feast to honor Moab's gods. Balaam is believed by many scholars to have been a Bel and yet he was led by greed and power lust. Balaam became so insensitive toward the truth and pushed so far away from God, that God had to use his donkey to wake him up from his negativity. (Num 22)\

The Apostle Peter was seeing a similar trend among the false prophets and false teachers infecting the early church.

[2Pe 2:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2pe/2/16/s_1158016) but he received a rebuke for his own offense, *for* a mute donkey, speaking with a human voice, restrained the insanity of the prophet.

[/2Pe 2:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2pe/2/17/s_1158017) These are **springs without water** and **mists driven by a storm**, for whom the black darkness has been reserved.

The false teachers appear to understand a great deal, they give forth an illusion of satisfaction and truth to the unstable soul. Yet they never truly deliver what they speak of. God will hold them accountable in the end.\

Many may have even been Believers which is really troubling.

[/2Pe 2:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2pe/2/18/s_1158018) For, while speaking out **arrogant *words* of no value they entice by fleshly desires**, by indecent behavior, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error,

False teachers are very clever at tickling the emotions, whether by legalistic rhetoric or carnality woven into their messages. Present tense they keep on teaching deception.\

Those who just barely became born again and saved, meaning new Bels are affected by this teaching.

The way this is written in the original language points out lips speaking eloquent and with intelligence but the result is emptiness.

They know the right vocabulary but in the end they feed you nothing!

Remember two powerful trends in the OSN are - asceticism which is a hyper form of legalism. Or lasciviousness, which is offering a license to sin, certainly in the immoral realm.

Many false teachers also trend in one or two of these attitudes in their messages.

/ False teaching is often very attractive for not only the Unbeliever, but the Believer as well. The Bel who has fallen backward and wants to come back toward GOD. Or the Bel who seeks a teaching style or message that makes them FEEL a certain way. Legalistic teaching, guilt and works programs appeal to many Christians. Others lean toward a much more liberal teaching, which allows them no challenge in the area of sins. \

Its interesting the apostles were seeing this 2,000 years ago and warning about this and it truly has increased since then, just as they warned.

[2Pe 2:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2pe/2/19/s_1158019) promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what anyone is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

Many of these false teachers are hypocrites. The truth of this statement is very powerful.

It holds truth today as it did back then!

As I already said - some false teachers may even be Bels yet they either do not have the gift of pastor-teacher. Or, they are driven by greed and power lust so they teach whatever is popular.

Then you also have the seeds of Satan behind many pulpits.

Verse 19 points to what really drives a person deep within. Whatever controls your life, whatever occupies your time, talent and treasure the most has a grip on you!

Jesus spoke about this exact issue and HE gave us a positive view on this fact.

/Mat 11:29 “**Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me**, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 “For **My yoke is comfortable**, and My burden is light.”

Jesus invited everyone to take their free will and allow the YOKE of HIS nature to take center stage in their life.\

Something or someone will put a harness upon you and it is only our union with Christ that brings out the positive results.

The yoke of the ancient world was a harness to help guide the working animals.

The foolish person claims they are not influenced or controlled by anything or anyone.

Everyone born in this lost and dying world will come under a yoke, usually more than one in a lifetime.

 REPEAT

You are under a yoke on your job or in your marriage.

You are under the yoke of law and order to survive in a civilized community.

Those who seem to have no yoke and act out however and whenever they want, are simply under the yoke of their own lust patterns.

You are never truly free until TLJC is occupying your life – that is true freedom!

The result of false teaching and counterfeit systems are now highlighted by the Apostle Peter.

It happens subtly but it always happens once you are fooled by Satan’s counterfeits.

[/2Pe 2:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2pe/2/20/s_1158020) For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, **they are again entangled in them and are overcome**, the **last state has become worse for them than the first.**

For the Unbel, they have remained lost and most become more confused by false teachers. For the Bel they have rejected the accuracy of the WORD and fall further backward in reversionism.\

There is some teaching concerning this set of scriptures, that claim it is speaking about Unbels only.

Yet there is a deeper principle within this for the Bels to fully digest.

The whole concept of 2Peter chapter two points out false teachers, as well as those who sit under them.

[2Pe 2:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2pe/2/21/s_1158021) For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.

[/2Pe 2:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2pe/2/22/s_1158022) It has happened to them according to the true proverb, **“A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT**,” and, “A sow, after washing, *returns* to wallowing in the mire.”

The Bel who falls away from BD and then returns, but now seeks teaching that is antithetical toward accurate doctrine, is digesting the vomit of Satan’s system.\

They are actually going backward and accepting cosmic lies and really, accepting communion with the devil.

They are headed back to a state of where they were as an Unbel – the only difference is they cannot lose their salvation.

 REPEAT

They are walking the path of the loser Believer.

 Until or unless, they cleanse themselves of the negativity and get back into a steady diet of accurate doctrine. They have become useful idiots for the plan of Satan, not soldiers for Christ.

/Prov 26:11 Like a dog that returns to its vomit, So is a fool who repeats his foolishness.

When a Christian repeatedly follows the OSN and cosmic ideology, they begin a steady, backward motion away from GOD. They can barely be distinguished from the Unbeliever at some point.\

 The reversionistic Believer is under demon influence. The Believer cannot be demon possessed, but he can come under demon influence.

/In demon influence, the soul of the reversionistic Believer is infiltrated by false doctrine, called the “doctrine of demons” (1Tim 4:1). This comes through the vacuum left in the soul after abandoning the truth. Reversionism, is a term to explain that there are degrees of failure in the Christian life, just as there are degrees of success.\

Reversionism and Carnality both have differing definitions – the Bel in carnality might not be in reversionism.

Yet the Bel in reversionism is living a lifestyle of carnality.

 REPEAT

Reversionism must be distinguished from carnality.

/Carnality is an absolute which describes the Christian out of fellowship with God. They are under the control of the old sin nature;

Rom 7:15 For I do not understand what I am doing; for I am not practicing what I want *to do,* but I do the very thing I hate.\

We looked at the Apostle Paul (Roman 7) giving examples from his own walk concerning the struggles with the OSN.

 Turn to 1Corinthians chapter 3 RF.

Reversionism - It is a relative state of apostasy and decline described by the various categories of the failure. In reversionism, you are perpetually carnal.

If you have a day where the OSN gets a hold of you several times, you are struggling with carnality but not in reversionism.

 REPEAT

That is a large portion of the spiritual battle we are all called to fight after salvation.

/The Bels in your life who are fighting the good fight of faith will have good days and bad, just as you do. They are not to be evaluated and eradicated because of a sign of carnality. The call for the doctrine of Separation should always be carefully and precisely applied as a last resort. When a Bel has consistently distracted you and hindered your relationship with GOD, then you can evaluate, through prayer, if separation is needed.\

Always remember you may be the one who distracts and hinders the walk of another Christian sometime in the future.

Within the church of Corinth are wonderful lessons on dealing with Bels who test your faith. The Apostle Paul never gave up on those Bels who were negative toward him and often times blatantly negative toward the WORD.

The church at Corinth is also a good example that even with good, solid, Bible Doctrine being taught it still comes down to positive volition.

Let us close today looking at one great example right here in 1Cor 3;

/1Cor 3:1 And I, brothers *and sisters,* **could not speak to you as spiritual people** (*pneumatikos*), but *only* as fleshly, as to **infants** (*nēpios*) in Christ.

They are not Spirit filled, meaning they lack spiritual guidance. They operate in the flesh and not in the new nature, they are carnal.\

NEW-MONTE-CUS, means filled by God the HS – it is a reference to a soul which is spirit filled, spirt controlled, meaning the nature of Christ is active.

NEPH-EE-US, meaning not only an infant but one who is simple minded. Someone lacking intellect.

The Apostle Paul is really using a kind word here, infant - but he is pointing directly to carnality.

[1Co 3:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/3/2/s_1065002) I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to consume it.* But even now you are not yet able,

The Apostle Paul knows they had received the teaching, they simply were not operating within the two power options habitually.

The Apostle Paul also knew the majority were fluctuating in and out of carnality, yet most of them were at least attempting to remain positive.

Never lose sight, that everyone grows at a different pace, just as everyone has good days and bad days – you don’t throw the baby out with the bath water!

/[1Co 3:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/3/3/s_1065003) for you are still fleshly. For since there **is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly**, and are you not walking like *ordinary* people?

The outside presence of sins is truly the inside problem of a soul structure in need of continual washing of the word and the power of the SPIRIT.\

[1Co 3:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/3/4/s_1065004) For when one person says, “I am with Paul,” and another, “I *am* with Apollos,” are you not *ordinary* people?

The Bels at Corinth often got involved in petty arguments and inordinate competition.

They also indulged in immoral degeneracy from time to time.

Which are all signs that the flesh is in control.

Apollos was a very eloquent speaker and had a greater presence in person then the Apostle Paul.

So, a handful of arrogant Bels at Corinth, were arguing of how great their spiritual growth was because Apollos had taught them. Inordinate competition or inordinate ambition is nothing but the OSN taking control.

/Always become alert that your sins may well be touching the lives of others in your periphery. Carnality is the illness of the OSN which should be swiftly dealt with, by adjusting to the justice of GOD, which is mentally touching back to the Cross of Christ. Carnality unchecked, begins negative steps backward into backsliding. This leads to reversionism which ends in apostasy.\