

Living Hope, a study of 2 Peter

Wk #41: Enslaved or Free

2 Peter 2:17-19 NKJV

¹⁷ These are wells without water, clouds(mists) carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

¹⁸ For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped (are barely escaping) from those who live in error. ¹⁹ While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption (depravity); for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage (slavery).

Once again, we are addressing false teachers within the church. I also want to remind you that in our current social media world that we need to expand this teaching to anyone to whom you yield influence.

Three quick characteristics to help you evaluate false teachers/influencers, especially in the church of Jesus Christ.

1. Authoritarian in style. Ruling in a domineering fashion and strongly denouncing anyone who would question their authority or decision making.
2. Minister in a humanistic manner. Teaching is catered to what they think people want to hear and experience. Often use their own visions and experiences as foundational truth that can easily promote a health, wealth, prosperity, and success focus.
3. Mention but seem to overlook the teachings of the Bible. Instead of a biblical orthodox approach, it is overshadowed by a self proclaimed approach or interpretation that subtly becomes more important than scripture. New ways, better ideas, or more relevant/up to date version of the truth.

As we discussed last week, we cannot become complacent. We must be intentional and put forth effort on our own and as a family to guard ourselves for the sake of the gospel.

I want you to know several things about me if we have not been able to spend any extended time together. **As a leader in my home and in this church family, I do not have a need to be heard, to be seen, or to control anyone.**

If you don't want me involved in or helping with your life.....I am ok with that.

I am not trying to force my way in to anyone's life who does not want me present.

I am not looking for something to do.

(Look at the audience and repeat..... **As a leader in my home and in this church family, I do not have a need to be heard, to be seen, or to control anyone.**

This is in stark contrast to the three characteristics I mentioned earlier. *Also why we typically teach through a book of the Bible.*

The metaphor relating to water would have been a very understood example with someone living in the Middle East.

Wells that do not provide satisfaction to a parched tongue. (the idea of a mirage could also be considered)

I am told that in the Mediterranean region that it is not uncommon to have a moist mist or cloud cover move in to give one the impression that rain fall is imminent, only to have the wind blow and no precipitation to help the situation. We had some of those days here in Virginia when we needed rain so desperately. It would make you think that we were going to get rain and then the dryness would prevail.

John 7:37-39 NASB 1995

*³⁷ Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.' " ³⁹ **But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.***

Free, living, satisfying, life altering water that is available to anyone who would believe!

Beware of arrogant, vain, and self focused teachers are professing truths that are not what the Triune God has proclaimed and made known to us.

2 Peter 2:17-19 NLT

¹⁷ These people are as useless as dried-up springs or as mist blown away by the wind. They are doomed to blackest darkness. ¹⁸ They brag about themselves with empty, foolish boasting. With an appeal to twisted sexual desires, they lure back into sin those who have barely escaped from a lifestyle of deception. ¹⁹ They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves of sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you.

All of the phrases that are used in the various translations address the enticement of the sensual passions of the flesh.

There is a pervasive sensuality about our day and our world that constantly bombards on every level. There is nothing new under the sun regarding our humanity but the tools and methods of sensuality have expanded.

slaves or servants (Greek) one who gives himself up wholly to another's will

δουλόω (doo-lo-o) to make a slave of, reduce to bondage

There is nothing sexy or beautiful about the use of this Greek meaning

Who and what do you want to control you?

2 Peter 2:17-19 Amplified Bible

¹⁷ *These [false teachers] are springs without water and mists driven by a tempest, for whom is reserved the gloom of black darkness.* ¹⁸ *For uttering arrogant words of vanity [pompous words disguised to sound scholarly or profound, but meaning nothing and containing no spiritual truth], they beguile and lure using lustful desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error.* ¹⁹ ***They promise them liberty, when they themselves are the slaves of depravity—for by whatever anyone is defeated and overcome, to that [person, thing, philosophy, or concept] he is continually enslaved.***

I do not offer you a human philosophy to create freedom.

I offer you the Holy Spirit sent from the Holy Father because His Holy Son finished the work of salvation, forgiveness, and transformation on our behalf.

Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, was unjustly murdered, got up out of the grave, ascended to heaven so that the Holy Presence of heaven, The Helper would come to live in and with us.

John 16:5-15 Amplified Bible

⁵ *“But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’* ⁶ *But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts [and taken complete possession of them].* ⁷ *But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthenener, Standby) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you [to be in close fellowship with you].* ⁸ *And He, when He comes, will convict the world about [the guilt of] sin [and the need for a Savior], and about righteousness, and about judgment:* ⁹ *about sin [and the true nature of it], because they do not believe in Me [and My message];* ¹⁰ *about righteousness [personal integrity and godly character], because I am going to My Father and you will no longer see Me;* ¹¹ *about judgment [the certainty of it], because the ruler of this world (Satan) has been judged and condemned.*

¹² *“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear [to hear] them now.* ¹³ *But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth [full and complete truth]. For He will not speak on His own initiative, but He will speak whatever He hears [from the Father—the message regarding the Son], and He will disclose to you what is to come [in the future].* ¹⁴ *He will glorify and honor Me, because He (the Holy Spirit) will take from what is Mine and will disclose it to you.* ¹⁵ *All things that the Father has are Mine. Because of this I said that He [the Spirit] will take from what is Mine and will reveal it to you.*

John 17 records what is referred to as the High Priestly prayer of our Savior & Lord, Jesus the Son of the Living God.

John 17:14-17 NKJV

*¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. **16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them (set them apart) by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified (made holy or set apart) by the truth.***

The difference between enslavement and freedom in my life is my pursuit of the Holy Spirit. Asking, yielding, needing, and relying on the Holy Spirit to create a supernatural love and focus in my life that naturally breaks the bondage or enslavement of sin in my life.

For you are a slave to whatever controls you.

To whom or what are you passionately seeking in your life?

Is it sin or is it the Spirit of God?