

*The last state worse than the first*

LAST SUNDAY: **WHAT TO KNOW:** (about ourselves)

- 1) We all need protection from the exploitation of “*false teachers*” and their “*false words*.”  
**2 Peter 2:1,2** ESV ... there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies...  
 (... and about God)
- 2) God is so very great in power and wisdom and justice that he is able and willing to judge and punish people.
- 3) God is so very great in grace that he is able and willing to rescue his own people.  
**2 Peter 2:9,10** ESV ... the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and ***especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.***

THIS SUNDAY: **WHAT TO KNOW** (about these false teachers)

- 1) The Lord especially punishes false teachers who “*despise authority.*” (Vs. 10)  
**2 Peter 2:10-13** ESV ... Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing...
- 2) The Lord especially punishes false teachers who “*indulge in the lust of defiling passion.*” (Vs. 10)  
**2 Peter 2:13-19** ESV ... They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, but ***they themselves are slaves of corruption.*** For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.

And then Peter “summarizes.”

**2 Peter 2:20-22** ESV For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For ***it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness*** than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”

- 3) “It would have been better” for false teachers “*never to have known the way of righteousness.*”  
**2 Peter 2:20-22**

**Matthew 7:21-23** ESV “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’” “But you ***KNEW*** the way of righteousness, and yet you enslaved yourselves to your passions rather than serving me, and you despised authority!”

**WHAT TO DO** (to protect ourselves from such a terrible fate.)

In addition to LAST WEEK'S "making certain that God has called and chosen you"

a) Diligently keep on growing in the grace and the knowledge of Christ.

As Peter began this letter: **2 Peter 1:2** ESV May grace and peace be multiplied to you **in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.**

As Peter set out the point of his letter... **2 Peter 1:3-8** ESV His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of him who called us** to his own glory and excellence... For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful **in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

And as Peter concluded this letter: **2 Peter 3:17-18** ESV You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. **But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

What difference would it make to know Christ better?

*We would not despise authority.*

*We would not enslave and corrupt ourselves.*

*BECAUSE* we'd love Christ more and more.

More and more we'd desire to serve him (rather than sin).

**[Romans 6:16-18]**

And wouldn't we be harder to deceive?

And how DO we do this?

For starters:

b) Diligently pay attention to what God says in His Word.

**2 Peter 1:19** ESV And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, **until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts...**

→ "...you will do well to pay attention..."

**John 8:31-36** ESV So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

"**Pay attention**" to learn the difference between false words and the truth.

"**Pay attention**" to learn the difference between false teachers and true teachers.

e.g. "slaves of sin" vs. "slaves of righteousness"

"*despising authority*" vs. submissiveness to God and to human authorities

**John 14:21** ESV "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and **I will love him and manifest myself to him.**"

→ "**and the morning star rises in your hearts...**"?

**Revelation 22:12-16** ESV "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, **the bright morning star.**"

**NEXT SUNDAY:** November 16 **DILIGENCE.7** **2 Peter 3:1-7** (Pastor Jude)

## DIGGING DEEPER

**2 Peter 2:9,10** ESV ... the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and *especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.*

→ On the topic of indulging “*the lust of defiling passion,*” think over the Apostle Paul’s words about the difference in attitude and action towards temptation and sin that we can (and should) be experiencing as people who belong to Christ. Upon reflection, what do you see are the barriers to following the instructions in this passage?

### **Romans 6:11-19** ESV

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

→ On the topic of despising authority, consider these plain statements of our obligation to submit to the people whom God has placed in authority over us. Again, upon reflection, what do you see are the barriers to following the instructions in this passage?

### **Romans 13:1-7** ESV

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

### **Ephesians 6:1-4** ESV

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

### **Hebrews 13:7-17** ESV

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith... Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

### **Ephesians 5:22-24** ESV

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

### **Ephesians 6:5-8** ESV

Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.