

Three States

2 Peter 2:18-21

Background

The Author

- ◇ Peter is a Christian (1:1)
- ◇ An apostle (1:1)
- ◇ An elder (1 Peter 5:1)

Background

Addressed to those of a "like precious faith." (1:1)

- ◇ Those who shared in the knowledge of Jesus Christ
 - ◇ 2 Peter 1:4, *"whereby he hath granted unto us his precious and exceeding great promises; that through these ye may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust."*

Background

Theme – Beware of False teachers

- ◇ These Christians are told by Peter to beware of false teachers
 - ◇ 2 Peter 2:1, *"But there arose false prophets also among the people, as among you also there shall be false teachers, who shall privily bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master that bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction."*

Background

Theme – Beware of False teachers (continued)

- ◇ These are among them
 - ◇ 2 Peter 2:1, *"But there arose false prophets also among the people, as among you also there shall be false teachers, who shall privily bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master that bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction."*

Background

Theme – Beware of False teachers (continued)

- ◇ Danger is apparent and lurking, waiting to pounce
- ◇ Considering his impending death, he wanted them to remember some important things (1:13-15)
 - ◇ The apostles were eyewitnesses of His Majesty (1:16)
 - ◇ They have the word of prophecy (1:19)
 - ◇ They (of like precious faith) should heed it (1:19)

Context

Chapter 2

- ◇ False teachers will come (2:1)
- ◇ Characteristics are clear (2:2-17)
- ◇ They shall entice those who are just escaping (2:18-19)

Three States

- ◇ 2 Peter 2:20, "For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the last state is become worse with them than the first."
- ◇ The defilement of the world
- ◇ The escape through knowledge
- ◇ Entangled again

The Defilement of the World

- ◇ The first state they "escaped the defilements ..."
- ◇ They were lost in the world before they escaped

The Defilement of the World

- ◇ In this condition man is separate from God and has no hope
- ◇ Isaiah 59:1-2, "***Behold, Jehovah's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, so that he will not hear.***"

The Defilement of the World

- ◇ Ephesians 2:12, "***that ye were at that time separate from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world.***"

The Defilement of the World

- ◇ Man is dead in trespasses
- ◇ Ephesians 2:4-5, "***but God, being rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace have ye been saved)***"

The Defilement of the World

- ◇ In this condition, man needs redemption and reconciliation
- ◇ Colossians 1:14, *"in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins."*
- ◇ Colossians 1:20-22, *"and through him to reconcile all things unto himself, having made peace through the blood of his cross; through him, I say, whether things upon the earth, or things in the heavens. And you, being in time past alienated and enemies in your mind in your evil works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh, through death, to present you holy and without blemish and unreprouable before him."*

Obtained the Knowledge

- ◇ These have escaped the trap of sin and been set free
- ◇ They have become Christians
 - ◇ 1 Peter 4:16, *"but if a man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name."*

Obtained the Knowledge

- ◇ They are members of the church
 - ◇ Acts 2:41, *"They then that received his word were baptized: and there were added unto them in that day about three thousand souls."*

Obtained the Knowledge

- ◇ They are members of the church (continued)
 - ◇ 1 Corinthians 12:13, *"For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free, and were all made to drink of one Spirit."*
 - ◇ Ephesians 1:22-23, *"and he put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all."*
 - ◇ To be baptized into the body is to be in the church, just like those in Acts 2. Those of like precious faith that were baptized are members of the church.

Obtained the Knowledge

- ◇ They are saints
 - ◇ Philippians 1:1, *"Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus that are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons."*

Obtained the Knowledge

- ◇ They have been washed with the blood of Christ
 - ◇ Acts 22:16, *"And now why tarriest thou? arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name."*
 - ◇ Romans 6:3, *"Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?"*

Entangled and Overcome

- ◆ They turned back
 - ◆ Luke 9:62, *"But Jesus said unto him, no man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*
- ◆ They were bound by iniquity, again
 - ◆ Acts 8:23, *"For I see that thou art in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity."*

Entangled and Overcome

- ◆ They fell away
 - ◆ Hebrews 3:12, *"Take heed, brethren, lest haply there shall be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God"*

Conclusions

- ◆ Three states are clearly described; lost, redeemed, lost again
- ◆ The last state is worse than the first, because of accountability; they had something and gave it up, turning from it
- ◆ You cannot turn back from something you never arrived at

What State Are You In?

- ◆ Lost?
 - ◆ Hear – Romans 10:17, *"So belief [cometh] of hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."*
 - ◆ Believe – Hebrews 11:6, *"And without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing [unto him]; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that seek after him."*

What State Are You In?

- ◆ Lost?
 - ◆ Repent – Acts 2:38, *"And Peter [said] unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*
 - ◆ Confess – Romans 10:9-10, *"for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*

What State Are You In?

- ◆ Lost?
 - ◆ Be Baptized – Mark 16:15-16, *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned."*

What State Are You In?

◇ Saved?

- ◇ Remain faithful – Revelation 2:10, “Fear not the things which thou art about to suffer: behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life.”

What State Are You In?

◇ Saved?

- ◇ Continue in the doctrine – Acts 2:42, “*And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.*”
- ◇ Receive more teaching – Matthew 28:19-20, “*Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*”

What State Are You In?

◇ Saved?

- ◇ Continue growing – 2 Peter 1:5ff, “*Yea, and for this very cause adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply virtue; and in [your] virtue knowledge*”

What State Are You In?

◇ Entangled again?

- ◇ Acts 8:20-21, “*But Peter said unto him, Thy silver perish with thee, because thou hast thought to obtain the gift of God with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right before God.*”
- ◇ Acts 8:22, “*Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray the Lord, if perhaps the thought of thy heart shall be forgiven thee.*”