

# Living in the Waiting

2 Peter 2:10b-22

## What's at stake?

What's at stake here? In Peter's reminder and warning, what's at risk? Yes, in Peter's day but also in our own. In your and my life personally? But also, corporately in the church? If we don't listen, if we don't respond to Peter's encouragement and warning, what's at stake?

## Rebuke for false teachers

### 1. Bold, arrogant, and \_\_\_\_\_ (10b-13)

These guys have no regard for the reality of the spiritual realm. They don't believe it! Thus, they persuade those around them to not believe it. They lack any reverence or regard for God and for the spiritual battle that is taking place around them.

### 2. Insatiable, sinful, and \_\_\_\_\_ (14-16)

Their eyes are not on Christ. Their desire is not for Christ, his church, or his purposes. Their desire is for sin. They can't get enough of it. What drives Peter mad is how they go after those unsteady in the church. Those new to the faith, those with lots of questions, those unsure. There is no filling the sin appetite of these guys.

### 3. Deceptive, foolish, and \_\_\_\_\_ (17-19)

“Waterless springs” is an image that points to the appearance of someone who is supposed to bring refreshment, life-giving water. But they are empty. They have none. They appear to be a source of refreshment and life, but in the end, they are a source of death.

### 4. Entangled, hardened, and \_\_\_\_\_ (20-22)

These false teachers had head knowledge about Jesus. But they were never truly saved. They were never born again by grace through faith in Jesus. They heard but like the seed planted among the thorns, they were choked out. They turned and became entangled with the world, the pleasures, and the lusts of the flesh that the world offers.

Peter clearly articulates their tragic state. They are far worse now than when they even began. For now, their hearts are hardened. They have heard Christ, they have heard the holy commandment of God, but they have rejected it.

### Direction for true followers

Imagine how the church in Peter’s day would have responded. It is clear to me that Peter is writing to invoke a response. He wants to protect the church. He wants the church to be aware. Notice in this chapter from what we studied last week and now this week, Peter doesn’t get into much detail about the actual content of the false teaching. Here he focuses on the fruit, the actions of those who are false.

While we are living here in the waiting. Waiting for the fulfillment of Christ’s return, how should we live? How do we discern who to listen to, who to follow, who is going the right way? ***Those who hold true to the Word of God.***

Consider the opposite of what we’ve studied this morning. As we think about what kind of people we should grow to be and those whom we should follow:

Instead of the bold, arrogant, and ignorant, how about the humble, equipped, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Instead of the insatiable, sinful, and cursed how about those who are growing in contentment, giving, and equipped, and \_\_\_\_\_ others.

Rather than the deceptive, foolish, and corrupt, seek and follow those who are trustworthy, wise, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Don’t follow those entangled, hardened, and senseless, but see those who are growing in true freedom found in Jesus, tender-hearted, and ever aware of their great need for the grace of Christ at work in their lives.

### So, our answer...

What’s at stake? If these false teachers have their way, what’s at risk of being lost? Our testimony! The witness of the true believers and followers of Christ. The gospel message! These false teachers declare a false gospel that life is found in sin. Peter calls the church to remember and declare in their lives that true life is only found in Christ!

**True freedom and life are not found anywhere else but in Christ.**