

Sound Words in difficult times:

False Assurance

2Peter 2:10-22

Living out of the knowledge of God, while continuing to pursue God, produces a growing assurance that we belong to God.

2Peter 2:10-22

¹⁰This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; ¹¹yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. ¹²But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they will perish. ¹³They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you.

14With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning, they seduce the unstable, they are experts in greed-and accursed brood! **15**They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Boer, who loved the wages of wickedness. **16**But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey- a beast without speech- who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness. **17**These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. **18**For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. **19**They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves to depravity- for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered them.

20If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off in the end than they were at the beginning. **21**It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. **22**Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” and, “A snow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.”

1. KNOWLEDGE OF GOD (vs. 10-16)

2. PURSUIT OF GOD (vs. 17-19)

3. POSSESSION OF GOD

1John 2:15-17

¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For everything in the world- the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does- comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

Hebrews 12:1-3

1Therefore since we are surrounded by by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked for us. **2**Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3**Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

As we live out of the knowledge of God, while continuing to pursue God, it produces in us an assurance that we belong to God!

-Amen