

LESSON 3

SLIP SLIDING AWAY

2 PETER 2:1–22



1 Why might a person return something he/she bought from a store?

2 Why might a person give up on Christianity after following Christ for a number of years?



Read 2 Peter 2:1–22 and the following notes:

☐ 2:15 ☐ 2:19 ☐ 2:20–22

3 Who were the false teachers Peter wrote about (2:12–19)?

4 What made the false teachers “worse off than before” (2:20)?

5 What was the false teachers' worst mistake?



While we sometimes idealize the early church, backsliding happened in the early days of Christianity just as much as it does today. In fact, Peter devoted a third of this letter to warnings about former “believers.” For whatever reason, these people had given up midway through their pilgrimage, returning to their old ways and turning into vehement opponents of Christianity. Satan will do all he can to lure you away from Christ. He will entice you with money, pleasure, power, and anything else that plays to your weaknesses. But following Christ is more than worth the daily struggle.

6 Why do some Christians return to their old ways of life?

7 Why is it better never to have heard the message of Christ than to go back to your old ways?



8 What steps can Christians take to stay faithful to Christ?

9 How can Christians help one another stay loyal to Christ?

10 How can strong Christians help struggling Christians?

11 When do you feel drawn away from Christ?

12 How can you combat those temptations?

13 What activities renew your commitment to Christ?

14 What can you do this week to strengthen your commitment to Christ?



A Why should we take sin seriously (2:4–8)? In what ways can you change your lifestyle to better reflect Peter’s warning about the serious nature of sin?

B How do people “scoff at the glorious ones” today (2:10, 11)? What might cause someone to do so? How can you entrust yourself to God’s power over the spiritual world?

C What did Balaam love (2:15)? How does what a person loves determine his/her actions? What do your actions say about whom or what you love?

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