

BAD LIKE BALAAM *from* 2 PETER 2:10B-16

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In chapter 2, Peter is teaching us a great deal about false teachers, and the development of that teaching continues into verses 10b-16. In verses 15-16 Peter compares them to Balaam.

The big idea in this passage is that there are some Christians who, if they don't get you abandon Christ through bad teaching, they get you through bad living. We must not accept as normal those who call themselves Christians but reject the Christian way of living. These kinds of "Christians" are dangerous. Peter lays out three general characteristics of dangerous Christians:

1. Dangerous Christians usurp authority (vv. 10b-11).
2. Dangerous Christians revel in sensuality (vv. 12-14a).
3. Dangerous Christians are trained in greed (14b-15).

Bold and arrogant, they do not tremble when they **slander** the glorious ones, where angels, while greater in might and power, do not bring a **slanderous** judgment against them before the Lord. But these, like irrational animals who are born creatures of instinct to be captured and **destroyed**, will also be **destroyed** in their **destruction**. **Slandering** about things of which they are ignorant (*cf.* 1:3, 5; 3:18), **being injured** as a wage for their **injustice**, **regarding it pleasure to revel in the day**, they are blots and blemishes (*cf.* 3:14), **reveling** in their deceptions while they feast together with you, **having** eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin, enticing weak souls, **having** hearts trained in greed—accursed children! Forsaking the straight **way**, they have gone astray, following the **way** of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved **unjust wages** but he had a rebuke for his own **evildoing**: a **speechless** donkey, speaking with a human **voice**, restrained the prophet's **madness**.

[Key: similar or same word used | phonetic device]