

*Playing with Fire*  
*2 Peter 2:10-22*

*Probably we should understand Peter as using Christian terms to describe these false Christians because for a while, they gave every appearance of being Christians... Like the seed sown on the rocky ground and that sown on the thorny ground, for a while they gave the appearance of new life. But they did not persevere and bear fruit unto eternal life. Genuine saving faith perseveres on the path of righteousness. This is not to say that Christians never sin. Sometimes they sin big time. But when they do, they genuinely repent and get back on the path. False believers, like these false teachers, are like dogs that go back to their vomit or pigs that return to the mire. They cleaned up the outside, but their basic nature never changed. Eventually, they act according to their true nature. They do not love God or the way of righteousness described in His Word because they have not been born again. bible.org*

- I. False teaching takes on many forms with the underlying motive of keeping people from knowing and understanding the mind of Christ. There are churches that are fully apostate, churches that mix the truth of Scripture with falsehood, and churches that stand firmly on the Scriptures alone. Mature believers who work at making their calling and election sure can easily recognize apostacy and are better able to discern when teachers, pastors, elders, and evangelists mix the truth of Scripture with falsehood. Believers serious-minded about their faith understand the danger of false teaching, they test the spirits, and they make sure they stay in healthy Bible believing churches, all because they take the Lordship of Jesus Christ very seriously.

1 Peter 1:14-19

Matt 25:1-13

Matt. 7:2-23

**Acts 17:11** *Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*

**1 John 4:1** *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

- II. God looks for humble servant leaders who know and understand that they will be judged more strictly in how they treat his inspired inerrant Word (James 3:1). On the other hand, false teachers couldn't care less. Their root sin is pride. Their boldness and arrogance is appealing to those looking for answers. They are experts at appealing to emotion and the lustful desires of the sinful nature, and they pander to what they think their listeners want to hear and accept.

2 Peter 2:10-19

Jude 8,9

Jude 12a

Numbers 22:7

1 Peter 2:16

Gal. 5:13

**2 Timothy 4:3-4** *For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*

- III. Peter is not teaching that God's elect can lose their salvation. He is teaching that there are those who think they are saved and are not. They go to church and even possess some biblical knowledge, but they remain lost because they never truly believed in their hearts the message of the gospel. The evidence is seen in their lack of true-life changing repentance of sin, of lordship and of the Holy Spirit's fruit in their lives. In other words, in their hearts they are no different than the world and its ways because they never really wanted to be obedient to Christ and his word.

2 Peter 2:20-22

Matt. 11:21-22

Rev. 2:14-16

**Proverbs 26:11** *Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly.*