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## II Peter 2:20-22

20. “For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

21. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.

22. It has happened to them according to the true proverb, ‘A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT,’ and, ‘A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.’”

In this passage, again the Lord’s Word speaks out against the false doctrine of eternal security, commonly referred to as “once saved, always saved.” This doctrine of men supposes that once an individual is saved by the Lord from the world, he can never be lost again.

In verse 20 Peter matter-of-factly states that some people will be saved by Jesus, and then be lost back to the world. To substantiate that these people are initially saved, consider the following words in verse 20: “They have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” They

knew Christ as Lord and Savior--and had thus been empowered to overcome the world. Then in verse 21, this same point is repeated, that they “have known the way of righteousness.” Clearly these folks were Christians at one point.

Verse 20 goes on to say: “For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.” Here we find that if a sinner becomes a Christian and then falls away from the Lord and is again entangled in the defilements of the world--Quote: “The last state has become worse for them than the first.”

As a matter of fact, the Scriptures go on to point out in the next verse: “It would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment.” God commands us, as His people, to be holy. If we escape the defilements of the world by knowing Christ as our Lord and Savior, then turn back to the world we are in worse shape than if we never had come to know Christ.

If the teaching of “once saved, always saved” is true, then II Peter 2:20 and 21 doesn’t make any sense. If it doesn’t matter if a Christian goes back into the world, because he will be saved anyway, why would the Scripture say this last state is worse than the first? And if a Christian can turn away from the holy commandment

and be overcome again by the defilements of the world and still make it to heaven, how can it be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness? Sounds like the promoters of this “once saved, always saved” teaching are totally depraved to me!

Verse 22 of II Peter, chapter 2 concludes by giving us two graphic pictures of how a saved person turning back to the world looks to God. The first comes from a quote from Proverbs: “It has happened to them according to the true proverb: ‘A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT.’” Proverbs 26:11 in its entirety reads: “Like a dog that returns to its vomit, is a fool who repeats his folly.”

The other picture God gives in verse 22 is that of a big, old pig that returns to the mud and filth after being cleansed--Quote: “A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.”

So, whose Word are you going to follow?