

### **The Passage:**

**20** If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at 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 sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud."

### **The Explanation:**

Peter has been talking about false teachers. They have come into the church and began teaching harmful things that do not help people see, hear, and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. These false teachers refuse to repent (be sorry for their sins) and believe the gospel (the good news of Jesus' death on the cross, burial, and resurrection for our sins). They are teaching other people in the church to do the same thing. Peter explains that the worst thing we can do is, like the false teachers, become entangled in sin and instead of turning to Jesus to save us, go deeper into our personal sinful cravings. The second point that Peter makes is that we must be willing to leave sin behind and pursue a relationship with Jesus through faith in him. Peter ends this passage by basically saying, "we must not return to sin and the same lifestyle we've always lived and refuse Jesus like the proverbs about the dog and the pig". We come to Jesus as we are, and after that, we leave a new person who loves and believes in Jesus.

### **The Discussion:** (Study the passage for the answer to these questions)

1. How do we escape the corruption of the world?
2. What do these three phrases mean that Peter is using? (hint...they're all talking about the same thing)
  - a. "knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"
  - b. "the way of righteousness"
  - c. "the sacred command"