

# THE SECOND EPISTLE GENERAL OF PETER

## 2 Pet. 2:15-19

2 Pet. 2:15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam *the son* of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.

18 For when they speak great swelling *words* of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, *through much* wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.



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#### (1) Balaam's materialism, 2:15

2 Pet. 2:15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam *the son of Bosor*, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

Original Word: καταλείπω

Transliteration: kataleipó

Definition: I leave behind, desert, abandon, forsake; I leave remaining, reserve.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2641.htm>



Original Word: εὐθύς

Transliteration: euthus

Definition: adj: (a) right, correct, or straight of direction, as opposed to crooked, (b) upright; adv: immediately.

*euthýs* – properly, *straight*, without unnecessary zig-zags (detours); *upright* (not crooked, bent); (figuratively) *without delay*; acting *immediately*, "straightway," taking a *direct* path from "God's point A" to "God's point B" which avoids *unnecessary delays* (deviations).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2117.htm>

Original Word: πλανάω

Transliteration: planaó

Definition: I lead astray, deceive, cause to wander.

*planáō* – properly, go astray, get off-course; to *deviate* from the correct path (circuit, course), *roaming* into error, *wandering*; (passive) be misled.

[(*planáō*) is the root of the English term, *planet* ("wandering body"). This term nearly always conveys the *sin* of roaming (for an exception – see Heb. 11:38).]

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4105.htm>



Original Word: ἑξακολουθέω

Transliteration: exakoloutheó

Definition: I follow after, imitate.

*eksakolouthéō* (from *ek*, "wholly out from," intensifying *akolouthéō*, "follow") – properly, completely follow (literally, "*wholly out from*"), i.e. closely imitating (emulating) someone as a model or leader. <http://biblehub.com/greek/1811.htm>

2 Pet. 2:15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following **the way of Balaam** *the son of Bosor*, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after **the error of Balaam** for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.



Rev. 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold **the doctrine of Balaam**, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

- The Way of Balaam = loving the wages of unrighteousness
- The Error of Balaam = settling for the permissive will of God
- The Doctrine of Balaam = worldliness compromise in joining the heathen

(2) Balaam's madness, 2:16

2 Pet. 2:16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.



Original Word: ἔλεγξις

Transliteration: elegxis

Definition: rebuke, reproof, refutation.

*élegksis* (a feminine noun) – the brand of *conviction* that *rebukes* the sin of double-mindedness. See 2 Pet 2:16 (the only occurrence of *élegksis*) where the rebuke fits, being upbraided by a *talking-donkey* (where the ass had more sense than Balaam)!

<http://biblehub.com/greek/1649.htm>

Luke 15:17 And **when he came to himself**, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

b. A biographical sketch, 2:17-19

(1) Their empty profession, 2:17

(a) Their description, 2:17a-b



- i. They sink to the deepest depths, 2:17a  
“These are wells without water...”

Jude 1:12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds *they are* without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; 13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

Mt. 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



1 Jn. 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

ii. They soar to the highest heights, 2:17b  
“...clouds that are carried with a tempest...”

(b) Their destruction, 2:17c “...to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.”



(2) Their empty preaching, 2:18

(a) Boastful words, 2:18a “For when they speak great swelling *words* of vanity...”

Jude 1:16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh **great swelling words**, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

(b) Beguiling words, 2:18b “...they allure through the lusts of the flesh, *through much wantonness*...”

Jas. 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and **enticed**.



2 Pet. 2:14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; **beguiling** unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

Original Word: δελεάζω

Transliteration: deleazó

Short Definition: I allure, entice by a bait

*deleázō* (from *delear*, "bait") – properly, to *bait* a hook or set a trap with bait; (figuratively) *entice* a victim into a moral trap, luring them in through their own *selfish impulses* <http://biblehub.com/greek/1185.htm>

### Wantonness

1. Done, shown, used, etc., maliciously or unjustifiably:
  2. Deliberate and without motive or provocation; uncalled-for; headstrong; willful:
  3. Without regard for what is right, just, humane, etc.; careless; reckless:
  4. Sexually lawless or unrestrained; loose; lascivious; lewd:
- <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/wanton?s=t>



(c) Baleful words, 2:18c “...those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.”

ὄντως

óntōs, on'-toce; adverb of the oblique cases of ; really:—certainly, **clean**, indeed, of a truth, verily.

1. truly, in reality, in point of fact, as opp. to what is pretended, fictitious, false, conjectural

2. that which is truly etc., that which is indeed

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=G3689&t=KJV>

Luke 23:47 Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, **Certainly** this was a righteous man.

Jn. 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free **indeed**.



### (3) Their empty promises, 2:19

(a) The trap, 2:19a “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption...”

(b) The truth, 2:19b “...for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”

Luke 6:39 And he spake a parable unto them, Can **the blind lead the blind?** shall they not both fall into the ditch?

Mt. 23:15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for **ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.**



## Conclusion

Eph. 2:1 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were **by nature the children of wrath**, even as others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, **for his great love wherewith he loved us**,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (**by grace ye are saved**;) )

6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in [his] kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8 For **by grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

9 **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.