

TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE CRESCENT

Tuesday 28th February 1989

Series: "The climax of the ages"

An in-depth study of 2nd Peter

Subject: "Be alert!"

2 Peter 2: 17-22

1. The false freedom offered by the false teachers (v. 17-18);
 - (a) It is based on false promises; (i) Wells without water; (ii) Clouds carried with a tempest; (iii) The blackness of darkness.
 - (b) It is cleverly presented; (i) They appeal through clever speaking; (ii) They appeal to the base appetites of the old nature; (iii) They appeal to immature people who are just escaping error.
2. It is offered by false Christians (v. 19-20):
 - (a) They offer freedom but are themselves slaves.
 - (b) Their last state is worse than their first (Luke 11; 24-26; Matt. 12; 43-45).
3. The false freedom involves a false experience (v. 21-22).
 - (a) The dog "cleaned up" on the inside but remained a dog.
 - (b) The pig "cleaned up" on the outside but remained a pig.
4. True Christianity is not a question of external washing but is nothing short of a completely new life received and with it a new life and a new nature.
5. Christians in Scripture are likened to sheep; they may fall and get dirty but they will never willingly wallow in it. The mark of a true believer is that he or she will not persist in sin, unrepentantly, all the time. Peter fell but he reminds us that he is Simon Peter (1; 1) because Christ gave him a new name and a new nature. When he fell, he repented and the Lord restored him.

"Conversion does not set me free to do as I wish but to do as God wishes."

Derick Bingham.

