



BIBLE TALK

Mike King

Question: What is meant in 2 Pet. 2:20, 21, "*the last state is worse than the first*"?

Answer: It is possible that Peter's betrayal of the Lord is still looming in his memory. It seems that those to whom he was writing had been taught and had obeyed the gospel (became Christians), but had become unfaithful, returning to their former lifestyle. For a person to experience a "taste of heaven on earth" and return to a form of "hell on earth," something has to become warped in their value system to the point that their heart has been permanently affected. Luke stated that "*no man having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God*" (Lk. 9:62). Peter also said that some false teachers had "*forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor*" (2 Pet. 2:15). They were called "*...wells without water, clouds that are carried with the tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever*" (v.17).

Calvin's teaching of the "impossibility of apostasy" can only be viewed as false in the light of the above passages. The term "*fallen from grace*" appears in Gal. 5:4, referencing those who had returned to former erroneous beliefs. Some had knowledge of Christ and His resurrection, had fellowship in suffering, and conformed to His death. It was worse because they knowingly turned from the truth (Jas. 4:17) with malicious intent resulting in committing "*willful sin*" (Heb. 10:25ff) for which there is no forgiveness, but a looking forward fearfully to a fiery judgment. It is bad because of it being deliberate and premeditated sin.

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