



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- 2 Peter 2:20-22
- 2 Peter 1:9
- 1 John 3:4-10

DOG NATURE & PIG BEHAVIOR

- Don't Turn Back
- Dogs and Pigs
- Saint or Sinner

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

"He who lacks these things is blind, seeing only what is near, **having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins.**" 2 Peter 1:9

WEBUS

"But it has happened to them according to the true proverb, **"The dog turns to his own vomit again," and "the sow that has washed to wallowing in the mire."**" 2 Peter 2:22 WEBUS

"Another also said, **"I want to follow you, Lord, but** first allow me to say good-bye to those who are at my house." But Jesus said to him, **"No one, having put his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for God's Kingdom."**" Luke 9:61-62 WEBUS

"He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. To this end **the Son of God** was revealed: that he might **destroy the works of the devil.**" 1 John 3:8 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION: Dog Nature & Pig Behavior

Do you care how things look? The imagery is perfectly clear; you've probably witnessed it with your own eyes. Dogs vomit and dogs turn to eat their vomit, often immediately. And pigs always find their way back to the muck and mire, to wallow in a pool of slime, sludge, and filth—to take a mud bath. Both animals are acting from instinct. In other words, dogs will be dogs and pigs will be pigs.

Dogs instinctively cannot pass up an opportunity to eat their next meal, even if it forces their doggy intellect to ignore the obvious truth. They perceive their own vomit as a tasty morsel, regardless of the fact that it is the putrefied puked up mess just released from a cauldron of rejected organic matter. Pigs, on the other hand, are somewhat misunderstood. They aren't actually seeking to be dirty; it's simply that they can't resist wallowing in slime and filth as a social behavior. For them, it's a source of enrichment and enjoyment—a way to explore and engage in a natural, instinctual behavior. It is a return to filth nonetheless. Does that describe your natural behavior and your relationship with sin?

Peter refers to dogs as written in the true proverb, "As a dog that returns to his vomit..." However, Peter adds the pig to enhance his metaphor for what the proverb describes as a fool. "...so is a fool who repeats his folly. Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him." I would argue that this

is the true origin of the term pig-headed: someone who is stupidly or unreasonably stubborn—obstinate and unwilling to change his mind, in spite of the obvious truth.

And isn't that exactly what you are doing when you go back to your sinful ways—your past social behavior? Dogs will be dogs and pigs will be pigs—and sinners will be sinners. Peter locks in on why this happens. It's written as a clear warning; you are becoming nearsighted, approaching total blindness. It's because you've forgotten you've already been completely cleansed from your past sins. This tragic memory loss demands that you address two questions: Why would you forget you've been forgiven? And why would you continue to identify yourself as a sinner when God sees you as a saint? It's because you've been fed a steady diet of theological junk food—low quality fast food sermons that brainwash listeners, including those who identify as Christians, with doctrines of demons. "You are a dreadful sinner; you won't ever be freed from your proclivity to sin—your sin nature." Essentially, you are powerless over sin. No Bible teacher would actually admit this is precisely what they are saying, yet they steadily promote this pig-headed sentiment. Your future sinful behavior is a forgone conclusion; sin is mandatory because you are still in bondage to it.

I believe this theological misstep has become universal because a predominant number of weekly church services have

transformed into evangelical outreaches. Instead of a gathering of Christians who are maturing together as disciples, the purpose of “church” has become an attempt to convince the large number of unbelievers in attendance to make a confession of faith. It really is an absurd premise when you think about it soberly because the Church isn’t a service or building; it’s the Body of Christ. How can an unbeliever be in “the Church”? Evangelism should take place out in the unbelieving world and newly converted Christians should be invited to grow in their faith alongside their Christian brothers and sisters in fellowships, and with sermons, and with mentoring—all intended to disciple Christians. However, when the underlying message is preached to convert pagans, naturally there must be an emphasis on the human proclivity to sin. That truth is health food for a pagan; “You are a dreadful sinner who needs Jesus.” But, that message becomes junk food for the Christian who is blasted week-after-week with the same words; “You are a dreadful sinner!”

If you are a Christian, I will leave you with this exercise to ponder. Take a quiet moment and contemplate your most recent sin, and then consider this... was it mandatory or voluntary? Then go backwards one more sin and do the same. The conclusion should be obvious. Needless to say, if you believe your sinful behavior was mandatory, you are exercising dog nature and pig behavior, not the character of a new creation in Christ. Paul writes,

“Don’t lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old man with his doings, and have put on the new man, who is being renewed in knowledge after the image of his Creator.” Don’t be pig-headed and return to your vomit; don’t sink back into your foolish sinful slime.

DON’T TURN BACK

1. Christian’s can’t become Unborn Again

A. Christians, however, can go back to their sinful ways!

(1) Were they ever truly believers?

(a) They appear to have escaped the world...

1. “For if, **after they have escaped the defilement of the world through the knowledge of the Lord** and Savior Jesus Christ, they **are again entangled in it and overcome**, the last state has become **worse for them than the first**. For it would be **better for them not to have known** the way of righteousness, **than after knowing it, to turn back** from the holy commandment delivered to them.” 2 Peter 2:20-21

WEBUS

a) For the Christian

- 1) You've walked away from the pagan world because you've had an authentic intimate encounter with Y'shua.
- 2) You go back to your sinful ways (for any number of reasons), but you are NOT overcome!
- 3) Things will get really bad for you (but you can't be unredeemed because of it).
 - a. *"Another also said, **"I want to follow you, Lord, but first** allow me to say good-bye to those who are at my house." But Jesus said to him, **"No one, having put his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for God's Kingdom."** Luke 9:61-62 WEBUS*
- 4) **Strategy:** if repentance is not forthcoming...
 - a. *"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together with my spirit with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, **you are to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."** 1 Corinthians 5:4-5 WEBUS*
 - b. See: [Forgiven Yet Liable](#)
- b) For the Non-Christian

- 1) You seem to have come to the knowledge of the truth about Christ, but you never really had an authentic intimate encounter with Y'shua.
 - 2) As such, you have no real defense against the defilement of the world and you will be entangled in it and overcome by it.
 - 3) They appeared to be Christians (for a while), but were never true believers!
 - a. ***"They went out from us, but they didn't belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have continued with us. But they left, that they might be revealed that none of them belong to us."*** 1 John 2:19 WEBUS
 - b. See: The Parable of the [Wheat and Tares](#)
- (2) Clarification: If you are truly free, you can't go back!
- (a) Impossible for true believers to fall away from the faith!
 1. **"It is impossible** for those who have been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, shared in the Holy Spirit, tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age to fall away, **unless they were never truly repentant. For someone to be redeemed and then unredeemed it would be necessary to crucify the Son of God all**

over again and subject him again to public disgrace,
and that is not possible.” Hebrews 6:4-6 {Paraphrase}

(3) A Model Walk for Christians...

(a) A Warning and an Example

1. “Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not tiresome, but for you it is safe. **Beware of the dogs; beware of the evil workers; beware of the false circumcision.** For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and **have no confidence in the flesh;** though I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If any other man thinks that he has confidence in the flesh, I yet more: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the assembly; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, found blameless. However, I consider those things that were gain to me as a loss for Christ. Yes most certainly, and **I count all things to be a loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus,** my Lord, for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and count them nothing

but refuse, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, **not having a righteousness of my own**, that which is of the law, **but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith**, that I may know him and the **power of his resurrection**, and the **fellowship of his sufferings**, becoming **conformed to his death**, if by any means I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. **Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect; but I press on**, that I may take hold of that for which also I was taken hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers, **I don't regard myself as yet having taken hold, but one thing I do: forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus**. Let us therefore, **as many as are perfect, think this way. If in anything you think otherwise, God will also reveal that to you**. Nevertheless, **to the extent that we have already attained, let's walk by the same rule**. Let's be of the same mind. Brothers, **be imitators together of me, and note those who walk this way, even as you have us for an example**. For **many walk**, of whom I

told you often, and now tell you even weeping, **as the enemies of the cross of Christ**, whose end is destruction, whose god is the belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who think about earthly things.”

Philippians 3:1-19 WEBUS

a) Warning

- 1) Beware of dog nature and pig behavior
- 2) Have no confidence in the flesh no matter how prepared you think you are, nor what your background, skillset, education, or pedigree!
- 3) Everything you ever achieved or could achieve on your own is when compared with what you have in Christ—the righteousness you received from God by faith.
- 4) For that reason, you should be willing to surrender everything you’ve ever achieved on your own for God, if the Lord asked it of you.
- 5) And, be willing to suffer as necessary.

b) Example

- 1) You are not perfect, but you are called to aim for perfection.

- 2) To do so, FORGET THE PAST and PRESS TOWARD ONE THING... to become more and more like Christ!
- 3) If you don't believe this is true, you will when God reveals it to you, and He will!
- 4) If you believe it's true, imitate my walk (Paul) as an example.

a. **Christ's Example: (serve others; foot-washing):** *"For I have given you **an example**, that you should also do as I have done to you."* John 13:15 WEBUS

c) Enemies of the cross (dogs and pigs) teach the exact opposite doctrine.

(4) Bottom Line:

(a) "Don't live like a pagan!"

1. "Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind; for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, **that you no longer should live the rest of your time in the flesh for the lusts of men**, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past time doing the desire of the Gentiles, and having **walked in lewdness, lusts, drunken binges, orgies, carousings,**

and abominable idolatries. They think it is strange **that you don't run with them into the same excess of riot [flood of dissipation],** speaking evil of you. **They will give account to him** who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For to this end the Good News was preached even to the dead, that they might be judged indeed as men in the flesh, but live as to God in the spirit." 1 Peter 4:1-6 WEBUS

- a) Pagans think it is odd that you don't naturally gravitate toward the same wasteful abominable behaviors as they (and as you once did!).
 - 1) Lewdness, lusts, drunken binges, orgies, carousings, and abominable idolatries.
- b) You, instead, should be ever attentive to what Christ did to redeem you. And thus...
 - 1) **Stop Sinning:** enough of your old life was invested in lustful behaviors.
 - 2) **Live for God:** with every choice you make, first consider the will of God.
- (b) Give up your former way of life!
 - 1. **"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles also walk,** in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their

understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their hearts. **They, having become callous, gave themselves up to lust,** to work all uncleanness with greediness. But **you didn't learn Christ that way,** if indeed you heard him and were taught in him, even as truth is in Jesus: **that you put away, as concerning your former way of life, the old man that grows corrupt after the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man, who in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth."**
Ephesians 4:17-24 WEBUS

DOGS AND PIGS

2. Pig-Headed

A. Dogs, Pigs, Fools, and Sinners

- (1) Dogs will be dogs; Pigs will be pigs; Fools will be fools; and Sinners will be sinners
 - (a) "Of them the proverbs are true..." NIV
 - 1. "But it has happened to them according to the true proverb, **"The dog turns to his own vomit again,"**

and **“the sow that has washed to wallowing in the mire.”** 2 Peter 2:22 WEBUS

- a) Peter refers to dogs as it is written in the true proverb, “As a dog that returns to his vomit...”
- b) However, Peter adds the pig to enhance his metaphor for what the proverb describes as a fool.

1) ***“As a dog that returns to his vomit, so is a fool who repeats his folly. Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”*** Proverbs 26:11-12 WEBUS

- c) Is this the true origin of the term pig-headed?

- 1) Someone who is stupidly or unreasonably stubborn—obstinate and unwilling to change his mind, in spite of the obvious truth.
- 2) Isn’t that exactly what you are doing when you go back to your sinful ways—your past social behavior?
- 3) Dogs will be dogs and pigs will be pigs—and sinners will be sinners.

(b) **Fools:** Repeat their folly! Remain wise in their own eyes!

- 1. **“For the backsliding of the simple will kill them. The careless ease of fools will destroy them.”** Proverbs 1:32 WEBUS

2. **"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,** but he who is wise listens to counsel." Proverbs 12:15

WEBUS

3. **"Stay away from a foolish man, for you won't find knowledge on his lips.** The wisdom of the prudent is to think about his way, but the folly of fools is deceit. **Fools mock at making atonement for sins,** but among the upright there is good will." Proverbs 14:7-9

WEBUS

4. **"A fool has no delight in understanding,** but only in revealing his own opinion." Proverbs 18:2 WEBUS

(2) Dogs are Dogs; Pigs are Pigs; Sinners are Sinners!

(a) Dogs eat their vomit and pigs return to their filth!

1. Dogs vomit and dogs turn to eat their vomit, often immediately.
2. Pigs always find their way back to the muck and mire, to wallow in a pool of slime, sludge, and filth.

(b) Both animals are acting from instinct.

1. Dogs instinctively cannot pass up an opportunity to eat their next meal, even if it forces their doggy intellect to ignore the obvious truth.
2. Dogs perceive their own vomit as a tasty morsel, regardless of the fact that it is the putrefied puked up

mess just released from a cauldron of rejected organic matter.

3. Pigs are somewhat misunderstood; they aren't actually seeking to be dirty.
4. They simply can't resist wallowing in slime and filth as a social behavior.
5. It's a source of enrichment and enjoyment—a way to explore and engage in a natural, instinctual behavior.

(c) It is a return to filth nonetheless.

1. Does that describe your natural behavior and your relationship with sin?

(3) Dog Nature & Pig Behavior

(a) **Dog Nature:** basic or inherent features.

1. “For all that is in the world—**the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**—isn't the Father's, but is the world's.” 1 John 2:16 WEBUS

(b) **Pig Behavior:** the way in which one acts and conducts oneself.

1. “This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the rest of the **Gentiles** also walk, **in the futility of their mind**,” Ephesians 4:17 WEBUS

(c) **Dog Pursuits:** the desire to follow after something.

1. “Therefore don’t be anxious, saying, ‘What will we eat?’, ‘What will we drink?’ or, ‘With what will we be clothed?’ For **the Gentiles seek after all these things**; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.” Matthew 6:31-32 WEBUS
- (d) **Pig Habits:** a regular tendency or practice, especially one that is hard to give up.
 1. “that you put away, as concerning **your former way of life**, the old man that grows corrupt after the lusts of deceit,” Ephesians 4:22 WEBUS
- (e) **Dog Practice:** the actual application or use of an idea, belief, or method, as opposed to theories relating to it.
 1. “Then I will tell them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, **you who work iniquity.**’” Matthew 7:23 WEBUS
- (f) **Pig Tendencies:** an inclination towards a specific type of behavior.
 1. “Everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn’t do them will be **like a foolish man who built his house on the sand**. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell—and its fall was great.”” Matthew 7:26-27 WEBUS

- (g) **Dog Characteristics:** a feature or quality typically belonging to a thing.
1. “Know this for sure, that no **sexually immoral** person, nor **unclean** person, nor **covetous** man (who is an **idolater**), has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God.” Ephesians 5:5 WEBUS
- (h) **Pig Susceptibility:** likely to be influenced by...
1. “Therefore “‘Come out from among them, and be separate,’ says the Lord. ‘**Touch no unclean thing.** I will receive you.” 2 Corinthians 6:17 WEBUS
- (i) **Dog Predisposition:** the tendency to hold a particular attitude or act a particular way.
1. “For out of the heart come **evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual sins, thefts, false testimony, and blasphemies.**” Matthew 15:19 WEBUS
- (j) **Pig Proclivity:** the inclination to choose or do something regularly.
1. “This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and **men loved the darkness** rather than the light, for their works were evil.” John 3:19 WEBUS
- (k) **Dog Methods:** a particular form of procedure for accomplishing or approaching something, especially a systematic or established one.

1. “Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to his disciples, saying, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat. All things therefore whatever they tell you to observe, observe and do, **but don’t do their works; for they say, and don’t do. For they bind heavy burdens** that are grievous to be borne, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not lift a finger to help them.” Matthew 23:1-4

WEBUS

- (l) **Pig Routines:** a sequence of actions regularly followed; a fixed program.
 1. “But they **do all their works to be seen by men.** They make their **phylacteries** broad and enlarge the **fringes** of their garments, and love the **place of honor** at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, the salutations in the marketplaces, and to be **called ‘Rabbi, Rabbi’** by men. But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi’, for one is your teacher, the Christ, and all of you are brothers.” Matthew 23:5-8 WEBUS
 2. See all the “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!” [Matthew 23:13-39](#)

SAINT OR SINNER

3. The Saint and the Sinner

A. What is more powerful, the Sin or the Saint?

(1) Sin is the work of the Devil...

(a) Y'shua destroyed the work of the Devil!

1. **"Everyone who sins also commits lawlessness. Sin is lawlessness.** You know that he was revealed to take away our sins, and no sin is in him. **Whoever remains in him doesn't sin.** Whoever sins hasn't seen him and doesn't know him. Little children, let no one lead you astray. He who does righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. **He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning.** To this end **the Son of God was revealed: that he might destroy the works of the devil.**

Whoever is born of God **doesn't commit sin**, because his seed remains in him, and he can't sin, because he is born of God. **In this the children of God are revealed, and the children of the devil.** Whoever doesn't do righteousness is not of God, neither is he who doesn't love his brother." 1 John 3:4-10 WEBUS

a) You can't live in both worlds.

- 1) Sin is lawlessness.

- 2) Sin is of the devil
- 3) Whoever remains in Christ doesn't sin.
 - a. *"For I don't understand what I am doing. For **I don't practice what I desire to do; but what I hate, that I do.** But if what I don't desire, that I do, I consent to the law that it is good. So now **it is no more I that do it, but sin which dwells in me.**"* Romans 7:15-17

WEBUS

- b) In this the children of God and the children of the devil are revealed... Pick a side!
 - 1) You are either of Satan who has been building his sin muscle since the Garden, or of Christ who came to destroy Satan's workout plan!
 - c) To this end **the Son of God was revealed**: that he might destroy the works of the devil.
 - 1) How does this relate to our role before Christ returns? (Hint: to destroy the works of the devil)
 - a. *"For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly **waits for the revealing of the sons of God.**"* Romans 8:19 NKJV
- (b) Bad Discipleship: Feeding the Unclean Animal

1. “For he who lacks these things is blind, seeing only what is near, **having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins.**” 2 Peter 1:9 WEBUS
 - a) This is what empowers you to go back to your sinful ways—your past social behavior?
 - 1) See: [The 1 Thing](#) for teaching on 2 Peter 1:9
 - b) Dogs will be dogs and pigs will be pigs—and sinners will be sinners.
 - 1) If you are consistently told you are a dog—you will act like a dog!
 - 2) If you are consistently told you are a pig—you will act like a pig!
 - 3) If you are consistently told you are a sinner—you will act like a sinner!
 - c) Peter locks in on why this happens.
 - 1) It’s written as a clear warning; you are becoming nearsighted, approaching total blindness.
 - 2) It’s because you’ve forgotten you’ve already been completely cleansed from your past sins.
 - a. “As far as the **east is from the west**, so far has he **removed our transgressions** from us.”
Psalms 103:12 WEBUS

- b. **Note:** if you travel north you will eventually be traveling south; however, you can travel east **INFINITELY** and you will **NEVER** be traveling west. That's how far Yahweh has separated you from your sin!
- d) This tragic memory loss demands that you address two questions:
 - 1) Why would you forget you've been forgiven?
 - 2) Why would you continue to identify yourself as a sinner when God sees you as a saint?
 - a. *"knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that **we would no longer be in bondage to sin.**"* Romans 6:6 WEBUS
 - b. *"to the assembly of God which is at Corinth —**those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called saints, with all who call on the name of our Lord Jesus** Christ in every place, both theirs and ours:"* 1 Corinthians 1:2 WEBUS
- e) Answer: It's a doctrine of demons!
 - 1) You've been fed a steady diet of theological junk food—low quality fast food sermons that

brainwash listeners with this message, **including those who identify as Christians.**

2) “You are a dreadful sinner; you won’t ever be freed from your proclivity to sin. Your nature is a sin nature, therefore, you are powerless over sin.”

f) No Bible teacher would actually admit this is what they are teaching, yet, they steadily promote this pig-headed sentiment:

1) Your future sinful behavior is a forgone conclusion.

2) Sin is mandatory because you are still in bondage to it.

(2) This doctrine creates a critical identity crisis!

(a) The cause of identity issues:

1. This theological misstep has become universal because a predominant number of weekly church services are evangelical outreaches.
2. Instead of a gathering of Christians who are maturing together as disciples, the purpose of “church” has become an attempt to convince the unbelievers in attendance to make a confession of faith.

3. It's an absurd premise when you think about it soberly because the Church isn't a service or building; it's the Body of Christ. How can an unbeliever be in "the Church"?
4. **Alternatively:** Evangelism should take place out in the unbelieving world and newly converted Christians should be invited to grow in their faith alongside their Christian brothers and sisters in fellowships, and with sermons, and with mentoring—all intended to disciple Christians.
5. However, when the underlying message is preached to convert pagans, naturally there must be an emphasis on the human proclivity to sin.
6. That truth is health food for a pagan; "You are a dreadful sinner who needs Jesus."
7. But, that message becomes junk food for the Christian who is blasted week-after-week with the same words; "You are a dreadful sinner!"
 - a) If you are consistently told you are a dog—you will act like a dog!
 - b) If you are consistently told you are a pig—you will act like a pig!

- c) If you are consistently told you are a sinner—you will act like a sinner!

(3) The Proper Perspective on Evangelism and discipleship

(a) Evangelism to the unbelieving world...

1. “When I came to you, brothers, **I didn’t come with excellence of speech** or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you **except Jesus Christ and him crucified**. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. **My speech and my preaching were not in persuasive words** of human wisdom, **but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith wouldn’t stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.**” 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 WEBUS

- a) Preaching to the unbelieving world should never consist of a polished presentation from a professional, self-help motivational speaker.
- b) Nothing should be done to convince someone by the power of words to convert to Christianity.
- c) There should be no special environment filled with elements to evoke emotions that might lead to a decision that is not authentic.

- d) The gospel of salvation is a simple message of Christ crucified, carried by the power of the Holy Spirit to transform hearts by God's grace
 - e) Done as such, there would be no confusion over what is taking place in the hearts of those being converted.
 - f) It would be easy to distinguish if they are responding to emotions and an artificially induced environment, or to the power of God!
 - g) **Note:** without God's grace involved, the gospel of salvation appears as utter nonsense! The natural man has no capacity to receive the truth!
- 1) *"For **the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are dying**, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."* 1 Corinthians 1:18 WEBUS
 - 2) *"Now **the natural man doesn't receive the things of God's Spirit**, for **they are foolishness to him**; and he can't know them, because they are spiritually discerned."* 1 Corinthians 2:14 WEBUS

(b) Discipleship for the Christian...

1. **“We speak wisdom, however, among those who are full grown, yet a wisdom not of this world nor of the rulers of this world who are coming to nothing. But we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom that has been hidden, which God foreordained before the worlds for our glory,”** 1 Corinthians 2:6-7

WEBUS

- a) To those who are already born again, and who are maturing in the faith, all the wisdom of God that was hidden from ages past is available to unpack, because we have access to the Holy Spirit.

- 1) Read [1 Corinthians 2:6-16](#)

(4) The Proper Perspective on Sin and Sinners

- (a) You are no longer in bondage to sin...

1. **“The law came in that the trespass might abound; but where sin abounded, grace abounded more exceedingly, that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”** Romans 5:20-21

WEBUS

- a) The codification of the law increased human awareness of sin...

1) *“I was alive apart from the law once, but when **the commandment came, sin revived and I died.**”* Romans 7:9 WEBUS

b) Sin was once the dominant force in the earth, but God's grace was released over the world en masse through Christ!

(b) What does that mean for your relationship with sin?

1. “What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?** May it never be! We who **died to sin, how could we live in it any longer?** Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **so we also might walk in newness of life.** For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be part of his resurrection; **knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin.** For he who has died has been **freed from sin.**” Romans 6:1-7 WEBUS

- a) **God's grace** is not permission for you to remain in weakness to sin... This is the Godly perspective on the subject!
 - 1) You died to sin, you can't live in it any longer!
 - 2) Walk in newness of life.
 - 3) Your old man was crucified with Christ.
 - 4) Sin in your life can be done away with.
 - 5) You are no longer in bondage to sin.
 - b) You've been freed from sin—it's why He came!
 - 1) *"Everyone who sins also commits lawlessness. Sin is lawlessness. You know that **he was revealed to take away our sins**, and no sin is in him. {8} He who sins is of the devil, for **the devil has been sinning from the beginning. To this end the Son of God was revealed: that he might destroy the works of the devil.**" 1 John 3:4-5, 8*
- WEBUS

(c) The twofold purpose of **God's grace**...

- 1. "for **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, that no one would boast. For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good**

works, which God prepared before that we would walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10 WEBUS

- a) God’s grace touched your heart **FIRST** so you could come to faith in Christ. If it hadn’t you would be incapable of believing!

- 1) “***The word of the cross is foolishness to those who are dying...***” 1 Corinthians 1:18 WEBUS

- 2) “***The natural man doesn’t receive the things of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to him...***” 1 Corinthians 2:14 WEBUS

- 2. “**Being therefore justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; through whom **we also have our access by faith into this grace** in which we stand. We rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1-2 WEBUS

- a) Once you are justified by faith, you can then practice your faith to purposely access God’s grace, which then helps you mature as a Christian!

- (d) Grace: Power to become more than an overcomer!

- 1. “No, in all these things **we are more than conquerors** through him who loved us.” Romans 8:37 WEBUS

- a) You have access to the power that raised Christ from the grave!

1) “and what is **the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe**, according to that working of **the strength of his might which he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead** and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places,” Ephesians 1:19-20 WEBUS

b) He will do for you more than you can imagine!

1) “Now to him who is able **to do exceedingly abundantly above** all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” Ephesians 3:20 WEBUS

(5) Exercise:

(a) The NEW You vs. The OLD You

1. Take a quiet moment and contemplate your most recent sin, and then consider this... was it mandatory or voluntary?
2. Then go backwards one more sin and do the same. The conclusion should be obvious.
3. If you believe your sinful behavior was mandatory, you are exercising dog nature and pig behavior, not the character of a new creation in Christ.
4. Paul writes...

a) *“Don’t lie to one another, **seeing that you have put off the old man with his doings**, and have **put on the new man**, who is being **renewed in knowledge after the image of his Creator**,”* Colossians 3:9-10

WEBUS

b) *“Therefore **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new.**”* 2 Corinthians 5:17

WEBUS

c) *“**be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, and put on the new man, **who in the likeness of God** has been created in **righteousness and holiness of truth.**”* Ephesians 4:23-24 WEBUS

1) Don’t be pig-headed; don’t return to your vomit;
don’t sink back into your foolish sinful slime.

(6) Final Determination... **Choose now!**

(a) Are you a sinner?

1. “knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that **we would no longer be in bondage to sin.**”

Romans 6:6 WEBUS

(b) Or, are you a saint?

1. “to the assembly of God which is at Corinth—**those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called saints**, with all who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, both theirs and ours.” 1 Corinthians 1:2
WEBUS
2. “to all who are in Rome, beloved of God, **called to be saints**: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Rom. 1:7
WEBUS

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. **Is it possible for true Christians to walk away from the faith?**
 - A. Use the following passages to craft an essay explaining your answer. (See: 2 Peter 2:20-21; 1 John 2:19; Hebrews 6:4-6)
2. **In 2 Peter 2:22, Peter refers to a proverb to describe what it is like for you to return to your sinful ways...**
 - A. What two animals does he refer to and why?
 - B. In the original proverb, to what character trait does he liken the dog? (See: Proverbs 26:11-12)
 - C. What character traits are emphasized further about that same type of person in Proverbs 1:32; 12:15; 14:7-9; and 18:2?
3. **Use the following passages to make a list of character traits of the two unclean animals referred to in 2 Peter 2:22:**

- A. 1 John 2:16; Ephesians 4:17, 22; 5:5; Matthew 6:31-32; 7:23-27; 15:19; 23:1-8; 2 Corinthians 6:17; John 3:19

4. According to 1 John 3:4-10, for what reason was the Son of God revealed?

- A. How does 2 Peter 1:9 negatively affect that process?
- B. How does Romans 6:6 positively support that process?
- C. How does this relate to our role before Christ returns as depicted in Romans 8:19?

5. Use the sermon notes pages 22-24 to craft an essay explaining why Christians maintain their belief that they are powerless over sin?

- A. How does 1 Corinthians 2 differentiate the message meant for unbelievers and believers? (Use sermon notes pages 24-27 for help.)

6. What is the proper Christian perspective on sin and sinners as it relates to themselves?

- A. Use Romans 5:20-21 and 6:1-7 to begin your answer.
- B. How is God's grace involved as per Ephesians 2:8-10, Romans 5:1-2 and Ephesians 1:19-20?
- C. Describe the new Christian you versus the old Pagan you as per Colossians 3:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:23-24; Romans 6:6; 1 Corinthians 1:2; and Romans 1:7.

7. Bonus Exercise:

- A. Take a quiet moment and contemplate your most recent sin, and then consider this... was it mandatory or voluntary?
- B. Then go backwards one more sin and do the same.
- C. Are you exercising dog nature and pig behavior, and not the character of a new creation in Christ?