

The Madness of Sin

2 Peter 2:15-16

Parallel passage Jude & 2 Peter 2 focus on false believers

Madness, *παρὰφρονία*, *paraphronia*

- (from para, “contrary to,” and phren, “the mind”)

Balaam, Numbers 22-24

- Israelites camping on the plains of Moab
- Balak, king of Moab, desires to pay Balaam to curse Israelites
- Balaam claims that God is the “Lord my God”
- Balaam blesses Israel rather than curses them
- Was Balaam going to serve and obey God?
 - Deuteronomy 23:5
 - Numbers 25:1-9
 - Numbers 31:16
- The end of Balaam, Numbers 31:8
- Tell Deir Jordan, 1967

Hamartiology

- Greek: ἁμαρτία, *hamartia*, “missing the mark”
- Sin is any personal lack of conformity to the moral character of God, or the law of God.
- God is the Creator, man is the created, God has the right to tell us what to do
- Origination of sin
 - Man, Romans 5:12, *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned*
 - Satan, Ezekiel 28, *You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you.*
- Result of sin
 - Relational problem
 - Judicial problem
 - James 2:10, *For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all*
 - Eternal judgment for Satan, the fallen angels (demons), men and women

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Levels of madness

1) Post-Adam, the conscience, nature

- Romans 2:14-15
- Romans 1:20
- Martin Luther, "To act against conscience is neither right nor safe."

2) Post-Moses, the law

- The standard of God
- Varying degrees of sin

3) Post-Christ, the heart of the matter

- Not just external, Matthew 5:21-22; 27-28
- Even greater condemnation, Matthew 10:14-15
- Law of Moses and the Son of God, Hebrews 10:28-31

The most irrational, the most insane, the maddest of all sinners

- No condemnation, but the greater condemnation
- The past is the past
- "Gracious" sinner
- Indifference to the gospel

1 Peter 1:12, the angelic view of the gospel

He could have let us all go

Satan and the angels did not get a second chance

Romans 3:10-18

Pray, Psalm 19:13

Galatians 5:16, *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.*

Romans 13:13

2 Corinthians 4:2

2 Corinthians 5:7

2 Corinthians 10:2-3

Ephesians 2:2

Ephesians 2:10

Ephesians 5:2

Ephesians 4:2-3

Colossians 1:10

1 Thessalonians 2:12

1 John 1:7

2 John 4