

Text: 2 Peter 2:20-22  
Topic: Salvation. Apostasy.  
Series: Book of 2 Peter

Pacific Coast Church  
August 22 & 23, 1998  
Pastor Mike

98-27



# The Hazards of Church



*Avoiding the Tragedy of Almost Being a Christian*

2:17 These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. 18 For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. 19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. 20 **If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.** 21 **It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.** 22 Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” and, “A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.” (NIV)

1. **Make Sure You** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Make Sure You** \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Make Sure You** \_\_\_\_\_

# Application Questions

*These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. It is recommended that you take time this week to write out your response to each of these questions. This will help to drive home the point of today's message and will help you apply the principles to your life situation. These questions are also used as the basis of discussion for many of our small group studies that meet throughout the week. For times and locations of PCC's small group gatherings that are meeting this week call the church office (949-489-2600).*

1. List a few examples of people, or groups of people, that are known for "cleaning up their lives" or being "morally good" but are *not* Christians.

In what ways did you (or *do you*) conform to an external standard of "good behavior" without a real relationship with Jesus Christ? Did you (or *do you*) sense the inadequacy and incompleteness of reform from the outside in?

Did you (or *do you*) fool people into thinking you were genuinely saved? How easy is this to do?

2. Read Matthew 7:13-22 and Revelation 3:1. Ponder for a few moments the gravity of this ultimate "gap" between reputation and reality. What is your reaction to this tragic situation?

Are you sure that you are not living it? Do you know anyone who is? What can you, and will you, do about it?

3. What challenges do you face in objectively applying 1 John 2:19 to those you know who have participated in a "temporary Christianity"?

How do you think modern Christianity's idea of "backsliding" has been used to avoid the realities of 1 John 2:19?

4. Read 2 Corinthians 7:10-11. How do you think you can cultivate more indignation toward sin in your life?