

Godliness and Unrighteousness

I think we need...



When the Animals Speak!

We now come to a long list of the characteristics of the ungodly false teachers that Peter is warning the church about. It is important for us to review this passage to see if we have any of these characteristics in our own life.

I. Lessons From the Animal Kingdom 2:12; 15-16; 22

- a. **Creatures of instinct:** Instead of using the power of reasoning which distinguish them from animals, false teachers live for the gratification of their appetites.
Do you let your appetite rule over you?
- b. **Don't argue with the donkey:** [2:15-16] Balaam, was in it for the cash. He failed to heed God's warnings so God spoke to him through a donkey. Num 22-24
Are you arguing with God?
- c. **Don't live like a pig:** [2:20-22] Peter acknowledges that these 'false teachers' were at one time part of the believing community, [Compare 2 Pet 1:3-4 with 2:20] but have like 'unclean' and despised animals, turned back to embrace their former uncleanness.
Do you ever long for the 'good old days?'

II. The Marks of False Teachers

- a. **Lack of understanding:** [2:12] Since they are living in the flesh, they cannot understand the things of the Spirit, yet speak evil against those things.
- b. **They are spots and blemishes** [2:13] Stain the purpose and purity of the church, the opposite of the Biblical description of the church. *See Eph 5:27*
- c. **Their eyes are "full of adultery"** [2:14] They violate the 7th commandment and what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount. [Ex 20:14; Mat 5:28]. They use people for their own gratification.
- d. **Their eyes never cease from sinning** [2:14] The sin of loving the world. *1 John 2:16; Mat 5:29*
- e. **They entice "unstable souls"** [2:14] Sin does entice us. It promises us life, but it can deliver only momentary pleasure, it always leads to death. *Rom 6:23*
- f. **They have a heart trained for greed** [2:14] Trained through continuous use to be greedy. *Exo 20:17*
- g. **They have forsaken the way** [2:15] *Isa 53:6; Matt 7:13*
- h. **They are clouds carried by a storm** [2:17] Nothing to offer of eternal worth; driven by Satan himself.
- i. **They speak great words of emptiness** [2:18] They are affluent bags of wind.
- j. **Promise liberty but are in bondage** [2:19] Sin always promises what it cannot deliver. Spiritually, we are either dominated by sin or by the Holy Spirit. We are either slaves to sin, or we are willing slaves of Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 2:10-22 (NKJV)

2:12 But these men, like irrational animals — creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed — do not understand whom they are insulting, and consequently in their destruction they will be destroyed,

2:13 suffering harm as the wages for their harmful ways. By considering it a pleasure to carouse in broad daylight, they are stains and blemishes, indulging in their deceitful pleasures when they feast together with you.

2:14 Their eyes, full of adultery, never stop sinning; they entice unstable people. They have trained their hearts for greed, these cursed children!

2:15 By forsaking the right path they have gone astray, because they followed the way of Balaam son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness,

2:16 yet was rebuked for his own transgression (a dumb donkey, speaking with a human voice, restrained the prophet's madness).

2:17 These men are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm, for whom the utter depths of darkness have been reserved.

2:18 For by speaking high-sounding but empty words they are able to entice, with fleshly desires and with debauchery, people who have just escaped from those who reside in error.

2:19 Although these false teachers promise such people freedom, they themselves are enslaved to immorality. For whatever a person succumbs to, to that he is enslaved.

2:20 For if after they have escaped the filthy things of the world through the rich knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they again get entangled in them and succumb to them, their last state has become worse for them than their first.

2:21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than, having known it, to turn back from the holy commandment that had been delivered to them.

2:22 They are illustrations of this true proverb: "A dog returns to its own vomit," and "A sow, after washing herself, wallows in the mire."