I. **INTRO:**

A. Some Scriptures you can frame & hang on your wall...others you never would, yet they’re equally inspired & equally true.

   1. “As for me & my house...” “I can do all things through Christ” “The Lord is my Shepherd”
   2. Now how about “Having eyes full of adultery” “As a dog returns to his own vomit”

B. God never seems to worry about being Politically Correct, just Correct!

   1. God shoots straight. If He paints a portrait of someone’s life He includes warts & scars & scabs. Noah’s drunkenness; David’s adultery; Jacob’s conniving; to Peter’s hypocrisy.
   2. When God describes the deprave heart it’s stinky, dark, corrupt.

C. **Story** – I’ve used the analogy of my dogs getting a bath & as soon as they’re clean they simply follow their dog nature & run for the dirt.

   1. **Man** has been born with 1 nature & it really is all he knows how to enjoy. Man left to himself will do all he can to please this very powerful “**man nature**”
      a) Although, he may at some time in his life try to imitate another nature, but if he doesn’t actually have that **other nature**, then it is as phony as my *cockatiel* doing his chicken impersonation.

   2. In our passage today we’ll see Peter again deal w/false teachers. This time he unzips their “sheep clothing” & thus exposes them for all to see!

   3. Peter uses many illustrations in describing these false teachers. Each metaphor exposes more detail about them & shows us what to watch for so we are not deceived.

D. **Outline:** The Animal Exposed! The Animal Attacks!

E. When God placed Adam & Eve in the garden he gave them **dominion** over animals.

   1. Chuck Swindoll makes a great observation, Satan took the form of a serpent in order to deceive the human race, but instead of exercising their dominion over that animal, the human pair submitted to it, listened to his deceptive words, & abdicated their position.

   2. Ever since then, humans have continued to abandon their place of dignity over creation in exchange for behavior that puts them on par w/the very beasts God meant them to dominate. [Charles Swindoll; James, 1 & 2 Pet pg.301]
II. **THE ANIMAL EXPOSED!** (12-17)

A. (12) **Brute Beasts!**

B. Let’s remember these false teachers aren’t accidentally teaching wrong doctrine, but instead are *purposefully leading* others astray with their Heresies.

   1. **False teachers** – Are like a *rabid coyote* who gives rabies to all he bites. He thus must be caught & destroyed. (like mountain lion in Cleveland Nat forest)

C. (13) **Deceitful Diners!**

D. Carouse in the day time - sinning w/o the cover of darkness.

   1. Daylight Debauchery was frowned on, even in degenerate Roman Society!

E. **Wrong doctrine & wrong living** go together!

F. **Spots & blemishes** – on an animal made it *unfit* to be offered to God!

   1. They were like *a stain* on a *clean shirt!*

G. (14) **Steady Sinners!**

H. **Eyes full of adultery** – *Their eyes can’t look at a women w/o lusting* (Phillips)

   1. They’re constantly on the prowl for fornication or adultery.

   1. They cannot cease from sin – Not pausing, unable to stop. They miss no opportunity for sin.

   1. They cease up every situation for opportunities to sin.

J. **Hearts trained** in covetous practices – An athletic metaphor. It’s a heart *exercised* in greed! (where we get our word *gymnasium*)

   1. At least part of their motive was money!

K. **Enticing** others – They greedily bite at every baited hook, unconcerned about the disastrous consequences.

   1. Bad enough they'll bear the responsibility of their own sins…but the sins of others too *is intolerable!*

L. (15,16) **Mercenary Mentality!** *[mercenary = work for $ at the expense of ethics] [like Muammar al-Gaddafi hired to fire on his people in Libya]*

M. **Explain** who Balaam is. (Numb.22-24; 31)

   1. He was covetous of king Balak’s gold, & taught Israel to sin intermarrying w/ foreign wives. [*Feed the Greed]*

N. **Prophets for Profit!** – they are “picking their pockets” while “poisoning their lives”.

   1. **Like the story of** the *crooked bank officer* who approached a *junior clerk* & whispered to him one quiet afternoon, “Hey, if I gave you $25,000, would you help me, well, let’ just say “fix” the books? You know, make a few lucrative
The clerk responded, “Yeah, I suppose I could do that for $25,000.” His boss leaned in. “Would you do it for $100?” Insulted, the clerk replied, “No way! What do you think I am? A common thief?” The bank officer answered, “We’ve already established that. Now we’re just negotiating the price.”

O. Dumb donkey – So if a donkey rebukes you, is this a Genesis 1 reversal? An animal having dominion over a man?

1. Another time the Lord used a rooster to preach a sermon powerful enough to break an apostle…& it only had 2 words in it (cock-a-doodle-do, cock-a-doodle-do)!

2. Mark 14:72 And the 2nd time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.

P. (17) Waterless Wells!

Q. In both cases one would look for some benefit or blessing (a cool drink from the spring; a refreshing shower from the clouds) but in each case he is disappointed.

R. Here is the definition of hypocrisy, “one who does not have what he pretends to have!”

S. Talking about rabies earlier - I read when a human is infected w/rabies, 1 course it takes is that a person has difficulty breathing and swallowing; and is extremely thirsty but cannot drink.

1. These men wet their appetites but can never come through with quenching their thirsts!

T. So, these guys are more interested in gaining popularity then in telling the truth; more interested in getting than in giving; their personal life is a seduction to evil rather than an attraction to good; they lead people away from God instead of closer to Him!

III. THE ANIMAL ATTACKS! (18-22)

A. (18) A Tempting Treble-Hook!


1. I think this is the best description of them.

C. Allure – to trap by using bait. To ensnare.

D. Lusts of the flesh – Desires are so strong!!!

E. (19) A Prisoners Promise!

F. Peter uses a little bit of sarcasm here. How can anyone who is a prisoner themselves, set another prisoner free? Or, How can a drowning man, save another drowning man?

1 Chuck Swindoll; pg.84
1. **Q:** Do you ever see on “infomercials” an **out of shape** man or lady selling diet books, or weightlifting equipment? **No way,** no one would buy them.

G. **Promise liberty – Q:** What kinds of **freedom** might a new or weak Christian find enticing? [**cheap grace!**]

1. Remember, **All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.** (1 Cor.6:12)

2. **Rom.6:1** “Shall we **continue in sin** that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who **died to sin live** any longer in it?”

   a) **Q:** How might these “**freedoms**” become another form of slavery?

   b) **A mistaken liberty** is one that is free from the restraint of God’s moral law.

H. **Slaves of corruption** - Like Alexander the Great, who conquered the world **around him,** but could not conquer **himself.** [i.e. alcohol]

1. A man is a slave to **whatever** has mastered him!

2. **Q:** What has mastered you? [food, drink, med’s, ice cream, chocolate, drugs, coffee, alcohol, gambling, sex, pornography, a boyfriend/girlfriend, a peer group, buying the latest techy gadget? Being judgmental, seeing yourself better than others]

I. **Bondage** – “derived from the ancient practice of enslaving an enemy defeated in battle & so made prisoner.” (LKGNT)

1. Freedom **from** God leads only to **Sin & Self!**

2. **True freedom** from sin involves joyful “slavery to God” Rom.6:18 “having been set free from sin, you became **slaves of righteousness.**”

J. Augustine said, “Whatever injury **wicked men-in-power** inflict upon **good men** is to be regarded...as a test for the **good man's** virtues. Thus, a **good man**, though a slave, is free; but a **wicked man**, though a king, is a slave. For, a **wicked man** serves not just one master, but, what's worse, as many masters as he has vices.”

K. (20-22) **A Pigs-a-Pig!**

L. They have “known” the way, but not “**owned**” the way!

   1. They had “professing knowledge”, “intellectual knowledge”.

   2. They were “professors”, but not “possessors”!

   3. They **seemed** to have experienced salvation, but in due time they drifted back to the life that suited their nature!

M. **Escaped pollutions** – These **professing** Christians merely washed off the pollutants on the **outside** (this is **religious reformation**), but never receive the new nature on the **inside.**

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1. Their outside pollution was washed away, but there inward corruption was still there.

N. Worse then the beginning –

O. Q: Why is it better to have not known the truth? (greater judgment!)

1. We’ve all seen on the side of the road a little cross erected where someone met their sudden death in an auto accident. What if there was a cross placed everywhere people met their spiritual death?

P. (22) Scrub a pig, do his nails, perfume him, powder him up, then let him go. Guaranteed he’ll end up back in the mud hole! [the pig will always follow its pig nature!]

1. These false teachers are clearly not sheep, but dogs & pigs!
2. Dogs return to their vomit; Pigs to their mire; & Professioning Christians…to their corruption!

Q. Wallowing in the mire – Most honest answer for not truly receiving Christ is…“because I want to wallow in the mire”!

1. You need a New Nature! – Jesus will give you a bath & clean off “all” of the worlds muck & mire! He says, “He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean;”

R. Lesson: (Persian Proverb)

1. He who knows not, & knows not that he knows not, is a fool; shun him.
2. He who knows not, & knows that he knows not, is a child; teach him.
3. He who knows, & knows not that he knows, is asleep; wake him.
4. He who knows, & knows that he knows, is wise; follow him.
   a) All 4 types can be found in every business, school campus, & every church. Problem is they don’t wear a badge that reads, “Fool, Child, Asleep, or Wise.”
   b) We need discernment, which is a mark of maturity - see Heb.5:14
      (1) It acts as an umpire in life & blows the whistle on the spurious.
      (2) Discernment doesn’t fall for flakes, flirt w/phonies, dance w/deceivers, or kiss counterfeits goodnight.
      (3) In today’s talk: Stop believing everything you hear! Quit being so gullible. Be selective. Think!
      (4) Go to the Word; go to your knees; go to the wise.