

“Animal Appetites!”

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 woman w/o lusting* (Phillips)

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

I. 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

adjustments?” 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** than 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!¹

III. **THE ANIMAL ATTACKS! (18-22)**

- A. (18) **A Tempting Treble-Hook!**
- B. **Great swelling words** – Word’s full of hot air. **Cotton Candy words!** Religious wind bags! (www) – “*High sounding nonsense!*” (John Phillips)
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.²
- 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**.

² Saint Augustine in The City of God. Christianity Today, Vol. 41, no. 12.

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; & **Professing 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.**