"Living Like a Wild Animal"

2 Peter 2:10-16
3/15/09

Introduction:

"But these, as natural brute beasts…"

- ***Don't live like a brute beast!***

What are some of the behavioral traits of animalism?

I. **Their <u>pride</u> resists <u>authority</u>** (v.10-11)
(They "despise government (authority)..speak evil of dignities)

II. **Their <u>mouth</u> speaks <u>ignorance</u>** (v.12)
(They "speak evil of the things they understand not")

III. **Their <u>fun</u> is wild <u>partying</u>** (v.13a)
(They "count it pleasure to riot in the day time")

IV. **Their <u>appearance</u> is <u>deceitful</u>** (v.13b, 14b)
(They are "sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you")

V. **Their <u>eyes</u> are <u>adulterous</u>** (v.14a)
(They have "eyes full of adultery")

VI. **Their <u>time</u> is consumed with <u>sinning</u>** (v.14c)
(They "cannot cease from sin")

VII. **Their <u>heart</u> is <u>greedy</u>** (v.14d-15)
(They have a "heart they have exercised with covetous practices")

VIII. **Their <u>mind</u> is <u>madness</u>** (v.16)
(When rebuked, they still don't get it; "the dumb donkey speaking…forbad the madness")

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Introduction:

"But these, as natural brute beasts…"

v. 12
"Natural" – mere creatures of instinct (they sin without even thinking about the consequences; their life is in "auto-pilot," headed for destruction).

"They are comparable to beasts that have no rational capability, operating solely on self-indulgence and unthinking passion. Animals are born as creatures of instinct, meaning that their responses to stimuli are preprogrammed" (MacArthur, p. 99).

"Brute beasts" – irrational animals; unthinking or unreasoning animals.

- ***Don't live like a brute beast!***

What are some of the behavioral traits of animalism?

I. Their <u>pride</u> resists <u>authority</u> (v.10-11)
(They "despise government (authority)..speak evil of dignities)

V.10
"Despise government" – despise lordship (*kuriotetos*) or authority.

The word "despise" means to "think down upon" (to have a low or not a high opinion of someone).

To have a habitual attitude of "thinking down" or "against" something, with the result that it is ignored (Hiebert, p. 108).

What we have here is a despising of the power and authority of the Lord.

Peter's second epistle is an eschatological letter describing the trouble and characteristics of the Last Days.

God commands submission to authority:

- To God

  James 4:7
  Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- To Government

  1 Peter 2:13
  Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

- To Pastoral Leadership

  Hebrews 13:17
  Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

- To Husband's Authority

  Colossians 3:18
  Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. (cp. Eph. 5:22)

- To Parents' Authority

  Ephesians 6:2-3
  Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

- To Each Other

  1 Peter 5:5
  Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

  The spirit of our days displays this attitude: Nobody is going to lord it over me; no one is going to tell me what to do. I will submit to no one."

  Rebellion, anti-law, and insubordination are signs that we are living in the very Last Days of this age. It is being pumped into our children via cartoons and the media in general.

  Is this spirit in you?

There exists a systematic dismantling of all authority structures in society today. On T.V. for example authorities are:

1) Made fun of (the Simpsons)
2) Ridiculed
3) Distrusted

The most beautiful & magnificent of all angels (Lucifer) was dissatisfied with his place under God, and fell by Pride (Isaiah 14:12-15)

Note: Lucifer's 5 "I wills"

Lucifer thought within his heart, "I will exalt myself in regards to:

God's Heaven
God's Angelic Realm
God's Congregation
God's Shekinah Clouds
God's Glory"

II. Their <u>mouth</u> speaks <u>ignorance</u> (v.12)

(They "speak evil of the things they understand not")

These are people who blaspheme realities that they cannot disprove; they in ignorance speak evil of supernatural realities that they don't know exist.

These ignorant animals will captured and destroyed by their own rottenness; their own moral decay will devastate them.

Their own sin will entrap them and destroy them.

III. Their <u>fun</u> is wild <u>partying</u> (v.13a)

(They "count it pleasure to riot in the day time")

"Shall receive the reward of unrighteousness" – "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23)

Their own corruption will be their temporal and eternal destruction.

Sin carries with it its own destruction (destructive power).

"Count it pleasure" - their idea of a good time or their idea of fun is riotous partying. They are always looking for some form of entertainment (which usually involves the carnal behavior of drinking, dancing, and immoral music).

"Riot" – indulgent wild partying; "daytime debauchery was frowned on even in degenerate Roman society" (Green, Kelly; cited by Rogers, p. 586).

Most sin happens in the night under the veil of darkness (ex: drunkenness – 1 Thes. 5:7); but some people are so wicked that they do it in broad daylight.

IV. Their <u>appearance</u> is <u>deceitful</u> (v.13b, 14b)
(They are "sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you")

v. 13b
"Spots" – *spilos* akin to "to spill"). The word refers to a stain or moral stain (Eph. 5:27).

"Blemish" – that which is shameful; a moral disgrace. God wants His children to be without blemish (Eph. 5:27).

While stained and blemished with sin, these false teachers used their influence to lead people astray. They pretended to be Christians and crept into the churches seeking to lure people away from Christ.

"Sporting themselves with their own deceivings" – carousing or indulging even among God's people with guile or deception so as to gain some selfishly motivated pleasure. Plain and simple hypocrites, who sneak in among God's people with an agenda.

How is it that one can profess salvation, serve the Lord, go to bible school, teach Bible classes, witness to others of Christ, pray in public, etc., and then apostacize, leave church, abandon his Christian principles, and embrace the world?

Answer: He/she was a hypocrite (who played a part for a time, but wasn't really the person he/she portrayed).

Matthew 23:
Note the phrase repeated seven times: *"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!"* (v. 13, 14, 15, 23, 25, 27, 29)

The word ***"woe"*** occurs 8 times in this chapter, expressing the woeful, horrible, miserable fate that awaits the hypocrite.

". . . The hypocrite's hope shall <u>perish</u>" (Job 8:13).

When asked, "Why don't you get saved?" - many respond "Because there are too many hypocrites claiming to be saved." When asked "Where do hypocrites go when they die?" they answer, "Hell." The question now is, "Why do you want to go to hell and be with them forever??"

The word ***"hypocrites"*** *(hypokritai)* means one who answers or speaks out from underneath a covering; the word was used of actors who pretended to be someone they were not. These Greek and Roman stage actors would speak behind large masks and alter their voice to conceal their real identity and to match the person they pretended to be.

Hypocrisy is totally the opposite of the nature of God. It is a lie, while God is <u>truth</u>; it is fake, while God is <u>real</u> and <u>genuine</u>; it is deceitful, while God is <u>trustworthy</u>.

One is never more like the devil [who can disguise himself as an angel of light (II Cor. 11:14)] than when one pretends to be something he/she is not.

Someone once said to D.L. Moody, "I saw one of <u>your</u> converts in a bar drunk on liquor!" Moody responded, "He must be one of 'mine'; he certainly is not one of Christ's converts."

If you are a religious hypocrite, one day your "mask" will be removed; you can't wear it forever.

The real You will eventually be known (when the situation and circumstances are right; when the temptation is overwhelming; when the pressure is turned on).

Take of your masks now yourself, so God does not have to do it for you later!

ILLUS: Aesop's fable of a wolf that disguised itself as a sheep
(MacArthur, <u>Matthew, Volume I</u>, p. 353)

God is interested in the heart, not mere external, insincere displays of piety.

Phony "spiritual" practices cannot fool the Lord.

"You are what you really are when you are all alone."

What you do when no one is watching you reveals your true character.

Too many today, like the ancient Pharisees love "*the praise of men more than the praise of God*"

Christianity is not theatrics, it is not an act, it's not a game of pretending; it's to be a real, genuine relationship with God that results in real, genuine works for God.

In a world of facades, fake appearances, false impressions, deceitful image, masks, artificiality, we can make our greatest impact by just simple being <u>REAL</u> (genuine)!

V. Their <u>eyes</u> are <u>adulterous</u> (v.14a)
(They have "eyes full of adultery")

"Eyes full of adultery" – "their eyes are always looking for a woman with whom to commit adultery" (Bauchham, cited by Rogers, p. 587).

They have become so obsessed with sex that every time they look at a woman, they have perverted thoughts

Matthew 5:27-29
Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Every act of adultery started out as a "heart problem" (Mk. 7:21 - "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders.")

Real sin flows from and takes place first in the heart (or thoughts) of man.

"In his <u>heart</u>" - Since people are not animals, we have an aspect of our nature that goes deeper than our carnal flesh. People sin against their body by committing sexual sin (I Cor. 6:18) and sin against their "spirit" when they entertain evil thoughts.

Christian, remember, both your "body" and your "spirit" are God's (I Cor. 6:20)

Satan today is placing an overemphasis on sex to cause people to become obsessed with it. Once he can obsess a person with such thoughts, he can then provide a setting at the wrong place and at the wrong time to tempt that individual to experiment and gratify that obsession that he has caused.

Immoral sexual lust is <u>not</u> a biological need (like the need for food and sleep), but a perverted obsession.

In a child's life, sexual lust does not exist until fuel is supplied; books are read, pictures are seen, etc. The more fuel you feed a passion, the more it grows.

VI. Their <u>time</u> is consumed with <u>sinning</u> (v.14c)
(They "cannot cease from sin")

"Cannot cease from sin" - to sin without pausing, unable to stop sinning.

Their lives are characterized by unrepentant sin. They are addicted to sin with no power to break out of it.

A vital relationship with Christ is the only way to experience victory over a life dominated by sin.

Having God's Spirit (in regeneration) and then being filled with God's Spirit (in sanctification) is the key to victory over continual sin. (SEE Romans 7 – 8).

"Beguiling unstable souls" – enticing the lives of people who have no solid foundation. They literally use bait to trap or ensnare those who lack a solid moral and/or spiritual foundation.

They look for those without a firm ground under them, so as to unsettle them in their walk with the Lord. They trick them for selfish advantage.

"They preyed on the spiritually weak (Ja. 1:6), convincing them to believe doctrinal lies and enticing them into debauched lifestyles. . . like fishermen, they lured or tricked their victims to believe their deceptions" (MacArthur, p. 101).

VII. Their <u>heart</u> is <u>greedy</u> (v.14d-15)

(They have a "heart they have exercised with covetous practices")

v. 14
They have a "heart," but it's not a heart that gives; rather it's a heart that seeks to gain more and more.

They have a greedy heart which seeks to acquire more than is needed (with no desire to bless others with the gain, but to indulge in more and more pleasure and carnality).

"Exercised" – the word is used of bodily exercise or physical training. Here, Peter is describing people whose heart has been trained or developed into a selfish, greedy, warehouse stock-piled with worldly goods.

They are never satisfied, but are always looking for more.

They are busy stock-piling treasures upon the earth.

Matthew 6:19-21
Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

> He means: Don't have a lifestyle of hoarding treasure (Heb. 13:5 - *"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."*). Don't make it your life's ambition. If wealth comes your way, praise God for it and use it for God's glory, but don't give yourself greedily to acquiring it and don't glory in the money (Jer. 9:23 - *"Let not the rich man glory in his riches"*).
>
> We are stewards of our earthly "treasures" (money) -- not owners. All we have ultimately belongs to Him, We simply manage what He has entrusted to us.
>
> Perhaps one reason why many people continually struggle to "make ends meet," is that they are not faithful stewards of what God gave them. He gives you little because He cannot trust you with much (Luke 16:10-11 - *"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?")*
>
> It's not wrong to have possessions; it's wrong when those possessions have you!

"The foundational truth that underlies the commandments not to steal or covet is the right of personal property" (MacArthur, p. 410).

To honestly earn and save is wise and good, but it is wrong when earning and saving become the preoccupation of our lives!

"Moths" - attack rich clothing

"Rust" - attacks precious metals, cars

Thieves" - attack jewelry, amusements products (Ex: TV, VCR, boom boxes, etc.)

The point: Nothing material in this life is permanent! It will either be eaten, corrupted, or stolen. (or if you die, left behind). SEE: I Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

Be a Giver (Mt. 19:21 - *"Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow Me."*)

(Luke 12:33 - "*See that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth")*

--Support your Lord's work!
--Help a brother in need!
--Invest in the Gospel ministry!
--Realize that there is a cause that is greater than your own.

When we get to Heaven and look back over our lives,s I'm sure we will grieve over what could have been. What we could have done!

I have found that a person who unselfishly invests in God's work, not only has the guaranteed assurance of rewards in Heaven but the rewards are also received in this life!

Prov. 3:9-10 - *"Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."*

Luke 6:38 - *"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal, it shall be measured to you again."*

II Cor. 9:6 - *"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."*

"Cursed children" – children of the devil who are accused (by God) because of their sin of covetousness (which is idolatry).

(This is not saying that their children are cursed, but that they are cursed children due to their selfish greed.)

v. 15
They were familiar (at the very least) with the right path and then have "forsaken" it).

They abandoned the straight path; they left the right road.

Somehow they veered off of God's way because of their following after the way of greed and covetousness.

They were introduced to Christ and then got distracted by their lust for money and material things.

"Bosor" – perhaps a play on words, because the word *basar (BSR)* is the Hebrew word for "flesh."

Balaam was literally the son of the flesh (a carnal man).

"The wages of unrighteousness" - there is nothing wrong with "wages," just as there is nothing inherently wrong with money. However, wages earned through unrighteousness or injustice is cursed money.

Here, Peter is describing money earned by fraud or by unethical or immoral means.

The story is of a Moabite king named Balak, who hired the so-called prophet Balaam so that he would pronounce a curse upon the people of Israel (Num. 22-23). King's Balak's desire was to have Balaam weaken Israel so that he could conquer and destroy them.

Balak offered Balaam great sums of money and positions of honor to curse the people of Israel; but every time he did, blessing came out of the mouth of Balaam. He could not curse those whom God had not cursed (Num. 23:8).

VIII. Their <u>mind</u> is <u>madness</u> (v.16)

(When rebuked, they still don't get it; "the dumb donkey speaking…forbad the madness")

Balaam was bribed by the king, and his love for money caused him to go down the road of following the pagan entourage until he was stopped by the Angel of the Lord, who would have killed Balaam were it not for the donkey who saved his life. God then allows the dumb donkey to speak and rebuke the mad prophet for his lawless behavior (*para nomia*) (Num. 22:21).

He was rebuked for his refusal to heed God's leading in his life and was hindered from receiving the promised reward.

"Madness" – *paraphronia* – lit. beside one's own mind. In other words, Balaam was so greedy that he was "beside himself."

His love of money had caused him to act irrationally (cf. 2 Cor. 11:23). In the end he would suffer the ultimate penalty of death (Num. 31:8). (MacArthur, p. 103).