

October 1, 2017

Practicing Our Readiness Drills for Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and 2nd Peter

Sermon Topic:

2 Peter 2:10-16

and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.

Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. (ESV)

- Theme of 2nd Peter: Defend yourselves with biblical knowledge and spiritual maturity against the deceptions of false teachers.

Introduction: Did you know the power of media on your life? . . .

Critical Point #7 – Be warned: following false teachers is a matter of eternal damnation and torment. Choose instead to be rescued by God's grace.

Critical Point #8 – You will know them (false teachers) by their arrogant disregard for authority, for their lascivious lifestyle, and for their love of money.

1. False teachers arrogantly deny the reality of and powerful influence of demons in our lives today. - **Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord**

The term "glorious ones" in this context, seems to refer to the demonic angels who are superior (i.e. more glorious than humans) to humans. How do false teachers blaspheme demons? First, define false teachers today. They are not just the Joseph Smiths of the world, or the Watchtower magazine, or L. Ron Hubbard of Scientology. The false teachers I am taking on today is the vast empire of media, television and Hollywood and MSM, that is enormously influential in our lives and the lives of our children and grandchildren.

It is this force in our society today along with government controlled education and liberal controlled universities that deny any existence of demonic forces at work in our world today. They deny they exist, they laugh at people who believe in them and since they deny they exist, they deny their power and abilities therefore they belittle or blaspheme them. Peter says they should be trembling as they belittle demons because if they truly realized

their power and the influence they have on themselves and society they would shudder at the thought of how much great harm they are doing by belittling them, making fun of them and the people who believe in them.

In contrast, heavenly angels, who are vastly superior in strength and intelligence than media moguls, and university professors, don't dare to belittle or underestimate the power of demonic forces in our world today. They wouldn't think of saying "go to the pit" to a demon without invoking the Lord's authority to do so.

Jude 9-10

But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. (ESV)

What this says to me is this: Hollywood moguls and TV producers think more highly of themselves by denying the existence of and influence of demons and all things supernatural than angels who know better. That is the height of arrogance. Speaking boldly about that which you know nothing of?

B.T.W. We can include seminary professors in liberal seminaries for the same sin. Those that deny the power of and existence of demons or give lip-service to that subject are doing great harm to the body of Christ.

- They should know better. All they have to do is read Scripture and submit to the truth of God's word. Instead they act like unthinking animals. **But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing.**

These moguls and producers are acting like animals in that they are not using the God given brain they have to analyze the evidence of God's word and coming to a rational conclusion that the supernatural does exist and has a powerful influence in our world today.

The animals are born to be food and go about reproducing out of instinct when it is mating season and the stags smell a doe in heat and they are in rut. These moguls act the same way. They don't investigate without a bias, and they give in to their appetites without restriction.

- Peter says their end is hell, eventually. He says that they will be destroyed in their destruction. Whose destruction? 1) the demons destruction is one possibility. Therefore the moguls will perish in hell when the demons perish in hell or 2) the animals, i.e. they will be judged when God judges the world in his final judgment of cleansing and re-

formatting the earth. I take this as #1. They are going to go to hell when the demons go to hell. And they will suffer in magnitude in hell for the degree of magnitude of their sins here on earth. **suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing.** Literally means suffering harm, for the harm they have caused.

2. False teachers (like the media) are known for their immoral lifestyles. **They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls.**

Just how immoral are they?

- **They revel in the daytime.** Normally sin is done under the cover of darkness. If a man is committing adultery, he does it when his wife and her husband is away and they sneak off to a place where they are not known and won't be discovered and under the cover of darkness keep their sin hidden. Not these people. They will flaunt their open marriages to the world and let it be known to everyone they have their mistresses on speed dial. They will enter their favorite hotels for quickies at noonday with prostitutes or lovers.
 - **They are blots and blemishes.** We are told by the word to be free of blots and blemishes when the Lord returns so that our spiritual clothing is white and clean. Not so with these cultural influencers. Seen through the lens of God's righteous binoculars all he sees are suits and dresses that appear to have been dragged through the sewer and smell of human waste.
 - **They revel in their deceptions.** These media monsters laugh at parties how they play the masses as puppets on a string. They know they are fleecing the public with sex and violence and boast about it. Sex sells. That's the name of the game. DIOR advertisement.
 - **They do all of these things while they feast "on" you.** (Using the dative of sphere), I take this to mean that these false teachers are eating you alive at least your hard earned dollars. They are making a profit off of you. The networks don't spew their sex and violence because they are committed to sex and violence per se, they do it because we buy it!
 - **They are on the prowl for the next conquest.** When Peter says they have eyes full of adultery I think he means that every time they look at a pretty woman (or man) they see a sex object to conquer as one more chance to commit adultery.
 - **Their appetite for all things sinful keeps expanding.** Peter says they are insatiable for sin. That's how sine works. A little is never enough. So sinners, sin more often and sin more deeply.
 - **They seduce theologically illiterate people.** They know they can't seduce people who know the word and love the Lord, so they go after the people who are biblically illiterate.
3. False teachers are known for their love of money. **They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.**

Application

Today's media and its influence on you and the next generation:

Film critic Michael Medved explains that this small group of liberal-minded social revolutionaries has turned the Hollywood dream factory into a "poison factory" that attacks religion, assaults the legitimacy of the family, promotes sexual perversions and glorifies ugliness (*Hollywood vs. America*, p. 3). When we view entertainment, we enter a world created by people whose values are often totally at odds with our own—we should be alert!¹

¹ <https://www.tomorrowworld.org/magazines/2003/january-february/how-the-media-mold-the-world>