

Title: Terrorists in the Church: Description, Danger & Doom of False Teachers (Part8)

Passage: 2 Peter 2:12-14

Theme: The deadly danger of false teachers in the church

Number: 12112Pe2.12-14(27)

Date: December 11, 2011

---

### {Read Passage}

[i] As we have worked our way through this passage I can't help but think about certain sentiments / attitudes that I see on a regular basis

Attitudes that would marginalize anyone that would be divisive on matters of t/faith as out of date Neanderthals or Rigid Fundamentalists who are out of step w/reality.

What reminded me of this over t/past week was something I saw at t/bottom of a webpage – something like *"Why do Protestant Fundamentalists Object to Roman Catholicism and Orthodoxy?"* (orthodoxy as a religion as in E.O.). Then I was invited to click on a link which I declined to do.

But t/label "Prot. Fund." smacked of back-woods Bible-thumpers who have segregated themselves through generations of doctrinal in-breeding.

Frankly, that's the way most of t/people you run into out there will view you and this CH, even tho that perspective is horribly flawed.

[ii] Flawed biblically; theologically; historically; and logically

- \* Biblically because we do have a mandate to stand for truth.
- \* Theol. because those central truths of t/faith are clear and relevant.
- \* Hist. because history itself is testimony to God's providential guidance of t/CH away from darkness to light.

\* Logically because all truth is God's truth & we must not be guilty of throwing plain reason out t/window as it relates to what are deemed "religious matters."

As t/Great Reformer Martin Luther was summoned to the Diet of Worms in 1521 by t/RC authorities and asked to recant his teaching, he replied, *"Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason, my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience would be neither right nor safe. God help me. Here I stand, I can do no other."*

"Scripture and plain reason" (or logic) forms the basis for spiritual discernment.

I stumbled across a short little article on t/GTY website ==>

Scripture isn't antithetical to sound, rational wisdom, though many today imagine otherwise. Reason is no substitute for Scripture, of course, but when good reason and sound logic are kept subject to the authority of Scripture, they are in no way a threat to the truth. On the contrary, the application of sound, logical thinking to the truth of Scripture is a key aspect of the formula for discernment.

Contrary to what a lot of people these days assume, discernment is not a mystical or intuitive ability to know the truth as if by magic. It is the skill of understanding, interpreting, and applying truth accurately. Discernment is a cognitive act. Therefore no one who spurns right doctrine or sound reason can be truly discerning.

Authentic spiritual discernment must begin with Scripture-revealed truth. Without a firm grounding in divine revelation, human reason always degenerates into skepticism (a denial that anything can be known for

certain), rationalism (the theory that reason is a source of truth), secularism (an approach to life that purposely excludes God), or any number of other anti-Christian philosophies.

When Scripture condemns human wisdom (1 Cor. 3:19), it is not denouncing logic and reason per se, but humanistic ideology divorced from the divinely-revealed truth of God's Word. In other words, reason apart from the Word of God leads inevitably to unsound ideas, but reason subjected to the Word of God is at the heart of wise spiritual discernment. [[www.gty.org/Resources/Articles/A243](http://www.gty.org/Resources/Articles/A243)]

"wise spiritual discernment" is something that Peter would have us screw into our minds as we progress thru this chapter.

Far from being moved by Script. & Reason, t/false teachers that he addresses here in chapt. 2 threw Scripture and reason out w/window.

Evident as we look at their character in vv. 10-22 ==>

### **III. The Character of False Teachers (10-22)**

As I said last week, I don't think there can be found a more gripping indictment against those who pervert God's Word in all of Scripture.

We also noted that there are all kinds of false teachers out there. Kinda like t/flavor of t/month. But there aren't enough months in a year to represent t/myriads of ways that men have devised to twist God's Word.

As it relates to this chapter - Peter is targeting what we refer to as an antinomian heresy. These were men who had little interest in personal holiness. They were lawless, licentious, even theologically promiscuous.

Not so say that they were orthodox in t/rest of their theology. As I've said many times, heresy doesn't exist in a vacuum. Rarely if at all do you come across someone who is heretical in only a single area of t/faith.

These men had other issues as well; foundationally that they despised t/prophetic words of Scripture (saw at t/end of chapt. 1).

As a consequence of having hearts devoid of God's truth their lives oozed all manner of wickedness & vice.

Slaves of sin rather than slaves of righteousness.

**A. They drink deeply at the well of sin (10a)**

**And especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires...**

**And especially ...**

Brings us back to t/end of v. 9 {cite}

1<sup>st</sup> part of v. 10 is a hinge that connects these 2 sections (vv. 4-9 /10-22).

This describes men who are gluttons at the table of sin.

Secondly (also in v. 10) ==>

**B. They despise authority (10b)**

**indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires AND DESPISE AUTHORITY...**

While they no doubt despised all authority, t/word is in t/singular which imply that they specifically despised t/authority of God. Much like 2:1, they professed to follow Him, but in reality they deny Him and His rightful place over their lives as their creator.

### C. They are both arrogant and ignorant (10c-13a)

NAS "daring and self-willed"

ESV "bold and willful"

KJV "presumptuous and self-willed"

#### 1. How does that evidence itself?

**...they do not tremble when they speak out against the glorious ones.**

fallen angels or demons.

**Whereas angels who are greater in might and power . . .**

Greater in might and power than the demons.

**. . . do not bring a slanderous judgment against them (demons) before the Lord.**

### D. They are like unreasoning animals in their ignorance (12)

#### 1. We noted a bit ago ==>

Martin Luther ==> the Diet of Worms ==> *"Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason, my conscience is captive to the Word of God . . . "*

"Scripture and plain reason" = basis for spiritual discernment.

#### 2. Note ==>

**But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and destroyed, reviling in their ignorance, will also be destroyed in their corruption.**

a. Peter likens these men to "unreasoning animals"

## (1) Go back to Genesis 1

Genesis 1:24–27 24 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind”; and it was so.

25 And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

## (2) This is something I've marveled over for years – how man stands apart from The rest of creation / animal world

We can talk about t/commonalities (common designer) – but if humanistic evolution were true, one would expect much less of a gap between men and ape.

Of course, early evolutionists were quite bigoted in that regard and saw primitive men such as tribal Africans and Aborigines as "missing links."

Thomas Huxley "No rational man, cognizant of the facts, believes that the average Negro is the equal, still less the superior, of the white man. . . . It is simply incredible [to think] that . . . he will be able to compete successfully with his bigger-brained and smaller-jawed rival, in a contest which is to be carried on by thoughts and not by bites." [cited in Hank Hannegraaf, *The Face that Demonstrates the Farce of Evolution*, 25]

That was only 150 yrs. ago. We know now that this is ridiculous; there is no existing mediating form between man and beast.

While we can get excited over how smart a chimpanzee, or dolphin can be - we are stand lightyears apart from them in rationality and intelligence.

Animals make no intellectual contribution to society.

Here we have man, created in the image and likeness of God, has t/ability to think God's thoughts after him.

Ability to reason, to "think outside of oneself."

What do we say when we turn on the news and see thousands of middle-eastern Muslims rioting in t/streets and screaming bloodshed? // Read a story about a group of young men who conspired to savagely attack, rape, and torture? THEY ARE ACTING LIKE - ANIMALS.

To act like an animal is to throw off all that it means to be created in God's image! Immoral; unreasoning; illogical.

**(3) That's what Peter is saying here**

These are men who claim to represent God - yet they are like unreasoning animals in how they live. They reflect not t/image of God, but t/stupidity of common beasts of the field.

**(a) This is in keeping with their fallen nature**

We call it depravity. Why like dogs they have return to their own vomit (end of chapt.). The nature of apostates.

But see 1:4 for a contrast.

**But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and destroyed . . .**

Picture is one of a dangerous animal.

**. . . reviling in their ignorance . . .**

May go back to v. 10 "speak out against the glorious ones"

More likely a general statement as to their ignorance.

**. . . will also be destroyed in their corruption.**

**(4) Word play there where 2 forms of the same word are used**

Play on words ==> φθορᾶ ἀυτῶν καὶ φθαρῆσονται ==>

"In their destruction they will be destroyed."

(φθορα = destruction || Noun + φθειρω = to destroy || Verb).

Peter may be saying that like animals these false teachers will also be destroyed (in judgment - which they denied).

NIV ==>

**They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish.**

Or Peter may be saying here is that they will reap what they sow.

They are such slaves to sin that, in the end, their sin will be the means that destroys them.

A year ago CBS news ran a story ==>

**Rats Starve Rather Than Eat Healthy Food**

Adding fuel to the idea that junk food is like crack, scientists at Scripps Florida say rats fed high-calorie junk food became addicted to the food and voluntarily starved when given healthy food instead of, say, cupcakes. . . .



Scripps Florida scientists Paul Kenny and Paul Johnson tell the South Florida Sun-Sentinel that junk food changed the rats' brain chemistry in the same way that chronic cocaine use alters an addicts brain functions.

In the experiment, one group of rats was given healthy, nutritionally balanced food. A different group was given "unlimited access to the worst stuff Johnson could find at [the supermarket] Publix, including bacon, sausage, cheesecake, pound cake, Ding Dongs and frosting," reports the Sun-Sentinel.

The junk food group gained weight and became less active. "More surprisingly, the fat rats exhibited the sort of self-destructive behavior associated with human junkies. The rats would eat junk food even if they knew doing so would result in a mild but distinctly uncomfortable electrical shock to their feet," reports the Sun-Sentinel.

The scientists then replaced the unhealthy food with the healthy diet of the first group of rats, and the fat rats refused to eat at all. [March 30, 2010, [www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/03/29/health/main6343889.shtml](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/03/29/health/main6343889.shtml)]

We see this sort of thing all the time. Self-destructive behavior. Men who become animals in their depravity, sexually, addicted to drugs, drunk with power, anger, etc.

Their wickedness would be the means of ensnaring and destroying them.

Jude 10 **But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed.**

Makes them worse than animals as animals don't have moral culpability.

**D. They are like unreasoning animals in their ignorance (12)**

**E. They sin in broad daylight (13a)**

At least the cockroaches come out at night. These men ==>

**... consider it a pleasure to indulge [themselves] in the daytime.**

**1. Truism: Darkness hates the light**

**a. True at more than one level**

Those who live in spiritual darkness hate t/light of JC. Takes t/regenerating power of t/Spirit to change that.

Those who like to engage in all sorts of deviant behavior tend toward doing that in secret and in the evening hours.

Even in Peter's day daytime carousing was considered a sign of extreme degeneracy. Much like someone who gets drunk in t/morning.

Isaiah 5:11 **Woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may pursue strong drink . . .**

1<sup>st</sup> c. Jewish apocryphal work, *The Testament of Moses* predicts a coming people who *"will be deceitful men, pleasing only themselves, false in every way imaginable, loving feasts at any hour of the day—devouring, gluttonous."* [T. Mos. 7:4]

**... consider it a pleasure to indulge [themselves] in the daytime.**

Result (another play on words) ==>

**... suffering wrong as the wages of wickedness. . .**

Another way of saying what Paul does in Romans 6:

**"The wages of sin is death."**

1925 - France still recovering from WWI. Paris in particu. found that maintaining t/Eiffel tower was an almost unbearable expense. A Bohemian, Victor Lustig, read about this in t/paper. He forged some govt credentials & invited 6 scrap metal dealers to meet w/him in a hotel. He explained that t/City could not afford to keep ET and it was to be sold for scrap. He told them that this was to be kept a secret since news of t/tower's demolition would result in a public outcry. One of the scrap metal dealers, Andre Poisson was convinced and paid a large sum of money for t/tower. When he realized he had been conned, he was too embarrassed to tell the police and Lustig got away w/the money becoming the man who sold the ET.

Confidence men (con-men) are a notorious breed.

They've plagued t/CH.

One hack named Peter Popoff (!) was exposed as a fraud & went bankrupt in 1987. A news agency did a story on him years later & reported that Popoff brought in \$23 million in 2005 and pays himself an annual salary of \$600,000 with an equal amount paid to his family members on the payroll. He lives in a 2.1 million dollar mansion. He uses the same old tired con jobs of offering free miracle water – which isn't really free, it only works its miracles if a seed faith offering is paid. Popoff: "It's not the water, it's your obedience to the prophet of God."

[[www.apostasyalert.org/REFLECTIONS/con\\_men.htm](http://www.apostasyalert.org/REFLECTIONS/con_men.htm)]

**F. They are con-men in the fellowship of the saints (13b)**

**They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions as they feast with you.**

stains and blemishes were terms used to refer to things like defects, scabs, disease. They were like malignant sores who gloried in their deceptions.

Con-men in the fellowship of t/saints who intrude upon 1 of t/most intimate of gatherings in t/CH - Love feast.

Time of celebrating t/Lord's Table & an Agape Meal (we do every mo.). That is a time in t/life of t/CH that is so sacred & intimate that we're warned about those who were judged by God and even died as a result of their sin (1 Cor. 11:30).

"The true Christian life develops from faith, serves everyone in love, bears the holy cross, which is the true badge, ornament, jewel and honor of the Christian church; but these have, in place of the cross, lust and luxury. Instead of love to their neighbor, they seek their own interest, snatch all to themselves, and let nothing go to another for his advantage; moreover, they know nothing at all of faith. Therefore they are nothing but the spots and stains which Christianity must have as its shame and derision." [Luther, 267-68]

**G. They are driven by unlawful desires (14a)**

**having eyes full of adultery and that never cease from sin . . .**

**1. Literally "Having eyes full of an adulteress"**

**2. Know what this describes? A man who looks at every woman as a potential sex-partner** Very descriptive!

A man who can talk with a woman about t/most trivial things & while he's talking his mind is multi-tasking to the bedroom.

He's t/opposite of Job who made a covt. w/his eyes not to look upon another woman w/lustful desire.

Men: You don't have to be a false teacher to get a little lax in this area, right? Need not squirm in our seats, need to do something about it.

**3. We've noted before the connection between bad theology and immorality**

RCC that upholds celibacy for priests, a standard that's foreign to t/NT. And t/scandals that have rocked t/CH are nothing new. Luther noted them in his day. Result of unregenerate hearts and bad doctrine.

Word of faith heretics known for their love of money & women.

Back in part 3 of this series while we were in vv. 2-3 ==>

**a. Wikipedia list of 33 evangelists involved in various scandals**

Most of them from t/past 10 years // involved in some sort of financial or sex scandal, many of them homosexual in nature.

As a result, God's Precious Name is Dishonored & Real Christianity suffers guilt by association.

As bad as it is ==>

**having eyes full of adultery and that never cease from sin . . .**

These men follow through on their wicked desires putting them into action ==>

**. . . enticing unstable souls . . .**

Word is  $\delta\epsilon\lambda\epsilon\alpha\zeta\omega$  = to lure (fishing = "to catch with bait"). Same word used in James 1:14.

Men dangling delicious delicacies b4 t/unsuspecting - bait that contains w/i it a deadly hook.

Sadly, those who fall prey to these con-artists are as Peter puts it ==>  
**. . . unstable souls . . .**

They are t/overly emotional; untaught; weak; uneducated.

**H. They are greedy (14b-16)**

**1. Stated (14b)**

**. . . having a heart trained in greed.**

**a. That goes along with the fact that they are con-men**

They are "experts in greed" as one transl. renders it.

**(1) They train at it - from t/Gk. verb γυμναζω (gymnastics)**

**(a) Something we developed further in v. 3**

**b. Take the pieces of the puzzle and put together the picture**  
[they] . . . **indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires** [they] . . . **despise authority.** [they are] **Bold [and] arrogant . . . like unreasoning animals . . . they consider it a pleasure to indulge [themselves] in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions as they feast with you.** [they have] **eyes full of adultery and that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls [with hearts] . . . trained in greed.**

NT commentator William Barclay ==>

The picture is a terrible one. The word which is used for trained is the word which is used for an athlete, exercising and training himself for the games. These people have actually trained and equipped and taught their minds and hearts to concentrate on nothing but the forbidden desire. They have deliberately fought with conscience until they have destroyed it; they have deliberately wrestled with God until they have thrown God out of life; they have deliberately struggled with their finer feelings until they have strangled them; they have deliberately trained themselves to concentrate on the forbidden things. Their lives have been a dreadful battle to destroy virtue and to train themselves in the techniques of sin.

[The Letters of James and Peter, 392-93]

Now wonder Peter caught up in the passion of the moment cries out==>  
**Accursed children!**

## 2. Illustrated (15-16)

### a. Cf. 2:1 with vv. 15-16

#### (1) Illustration

**Forsaking the right way they have gone astray . . .**

1 Timothy 6:21 **which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. . . .**

**having followed the way of Balaam, the [son] of Basor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.**

**But he was rebuked for his own lawlessness: a dumb donkey, speaking with the voice of a man, restrained the insanity of the prophet.**