

2 Peter

Sermon Notes – June 23, 2019

[#08] *The Dehumanizing Effects of Godlessness*

2 Peter 2:1–22 (Pt. 3)

Children's Sermon: The I Wantsies: Foolish & Ugly

Have you ever gotten into a fight because you wanted what your sibling had?
Have you ever given something to your sibling because you loved them?
Which is more fun?

2 Corinthians 2:16a

...to one a *fragrance from death to death*, to the other a *fragrance from life to life*.

- Why do we think fighting to get our own way will be better?
- It's not better; It's **Foolish & Ugly**



Cpt. 1 – Grow in Grace and Knowledge of Jesus

Cpt. 2 – Beware of False Teachers

****The Dehumanizing Effects of Godlessness****

Notes:

Today's Biblical Bullet...

Take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. (3:17)



I. It is Crazy to be Godless

- A. God Has Clearly Revealed His Coming Judgement (2:3-10a)
- B. Breathtaking Hubris...Destruction (10b-13)

^{10b} Bold and willful, **they do not tremble** as they blaspheme the **glorious ones**, ¹¹ whereas **angels**, though greater in might and power, **do not pronounce** a blasphemous judgment **against them** *before the Lord*.

Jude 9–10

⁹ 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.” ¹⁰ **But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand**, and they are destroyed by all that they, like **unreasoning animals**, understand instinctively.

¹² But these, **like irrational animals**, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming *about matters of which they are ignorant*...

Peter echoes the axiomatic concept that beasts are born to be destroyed. **Plutarch** “...in case the men were convicted, to

punish them and put them to death as wild beasts born for the destruction by mankind" (bold & underline mine) ⁱ (irrational)

Proverbs 12:10 (Cf. Dt. 25:4; Pr. 27:23)

¹⁰ A righteous man cares about his animal's health, but even the merciful acts of the wicked are cruel.

... **will also be destroyed in their destruction**, ¹³ suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing.

(HCSB) ¹² But these *people*, like irrational animals—creatures of instinct born to be caught and destroyed—speak blasphemies *about things they don't understand*, and *in their destruction they too will be destroyed*... (own/animals)

C. The Pull of Pleasure (Greek Feasts: Food/Drinking)

They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes (Cf. 3:14), *reveling* in their deceptions, *while they feast with you*. ¹⁴ They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed (Cf. v.3). *Accursed children!* ¹⁵ Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. 

They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, ¹⁶ but **was** rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and **restrained the prophet's madness**.

2 Peter 3:14

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, *be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.*

Plato commented similarly that pleasure was "a most mighty lure to evil" (Philo, *Good Person* 22 §159).ⁱⁱ

D. Their Last State Worse than the First (2:17-22)

¹⁷ These **are** waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them **the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved.**

¹⁸ For, speaking loud boasts of folly, **they entice** by **sensual passions of the flesh** those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. ¹⁹ **They promise them freedom**, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever **overcomes** a person, to that **he is enslaved**. ...

²¹ For **it would have been** better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing *it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them*. ...

...Fired at our Life & Heart

Do not get caught up in the dehumanizing folly and destruction of the godless.



I. It is Crazy to be Godless Like these False Teachers

- A. They have no fear of God
- B. They have become like irrational animals
- C. They have no future
- D. They have entrenched themselves in their slavery
- E. Their condition is worse than those who have never found the Truth about Jesus

Beware the Seduction and Ugliness of Godlessness

I. Honored, Restored Image Bearers (value in being)

- A. Every human life is valued by God
- B. Suffering has God given purpose
- C. The weak should be protected (godliness)

II. Expendable Pieces of Meat (value in utility)

- A. Quality of life is valued (Pleasure & Freedom)

2 Timothy 3:1–5

¹ But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be *lovers of self*, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, *lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God*...

- B. Suffering is to be avoided at all cost
- C. The weak should be/will be exploited
 - 1. Harvesting human organs in China ⁱⁱⁱ
 - 2. Abortion/Euthanasia

As **AL MOHLER** observed about the new abortion bill in Illinois, the ground for **abortion**, "is so wide that any woman can effectively demand a late-term abortion on any grounds, claiming even that continuing the pregnancy would merely be emotionally distressful, and she can gain authorization to abort her baby, to kill the unborn baby in the womb virtually indeed right up until the moment of birth." ^{iv}

...a society that embraces **euthanasia** or physician-assisted suicide is following a logic that says, "At a certain point, this person's life is no longer worth living." ^v (bold mine)

3. Fetal tissue research
4. In vitro fertilization

As an Alabama state representative, **Terri Collins**, put it: “This bill addresses that one issue. Is that baby in the womb a person? I believe our law says it is. I believe our people say it is. And I believe technology shows it is.”

...But this ban does have one exception: Fertilized eggs, blastocysts, five-day-old embryos — *people*, according to some definitions — are exempt and can be destroyed, so long as they are not contained in the body of a woman. “**The egg in the lab doesn’t apply**,” said Clyde Chambliss, a state senator and another sponsor of the abortion bill. “It’s not in a woman. She’s not pregnant.”^{vi} (bold mine)

AL MOHLER observed on the **THE BRIEFING**, Just a few years ago, even as some states in the Bible Belt considered adopting human personhood amendments, one of the reasons against them, and one of the reasons for the bill's failure was that many indicated if consistent this law would outlaw **in vitro fertilization**, so-called test tube babies when the technology first emerged. (bold mine)

...Fired at our Life & Heart

Do not get caught up in the dehumanizing folly and destruction of the godless.



It is both Foolish & Ugly!

ⁱ Green, G. L. (2008). *Jude and 2 Peter* (p. 275). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

ⁱⁱ Ibid. (p. 282).

ⁱⁱⁱ Thursday June 20, 2019. It was reported in *The World and Everything in It* that there is now hard evidence for this practice found by an international tribunal.

^{iv} **AL MOHLER**. Thursday, June 13, 2019 addition of THE BRIEFING.

^v **AL MOHLER**. Thursday, June 6, 2019 addition of THE BRIEFING.

^{vi} **The New York Times**. June 8, 2019. **Molly Jong-Fast**. Life Begins at Conception (Except When That's Inconvenient for Republicans) It's almost as if abortion bans aren't actually about "life" at all.