**Love One Another**

2 Peter 2:10b-16

**Good Morning Beloved,**

* How do we describe the local church?
	+ That calling is what gives us our image for the church in this Sermon…
		- We are a Body - Romans 12:5
			* Members of One another
		- Temple (Lego bricks uniquely fitting together) - 1 Peter 2:4-5
			* Devoted to One another
		- Vine & Branches – John 15:4-5
			* Encourage one another
		- Family - Romans 15:14-15
			* Remind one another
		- Flock of God – Ezekiel 34:1ff
			* Care for One Another
	+ **TODAY – We are stewards of God.**
		- In Matthew 21 there was a story told by Jesus.
			* *33 “Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. 34 When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.*
			* *35 “The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. 36 Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. 37 Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.*
			* *38 “But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ 39 So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.*
			* *40 “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”*
			* *41 “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”*
		- There will be wicked tenants in the vineyard of the LORD… ALWAYS.
			* These wicked tenants are the FALSE TEACHER **in** the church who have no fear of God and devour others.
				+ The lengthy description of their debased character is this…

**Reading of God’s Word**

*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. 12 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, 13 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. 14 They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. 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.*

**Preaching of God’s Word**

1. Reveling in their deceptions (2 Peter 2:10b-16)
	1. In contrast to the eight-rung ladder of Christian character at the beginning of this letter,[[1]](#footnote-1) we have the false teachers… the wicked tenants…. *those wretches (whom God will bring) to a wretched end* described as…
		1. More arrogant than Blaspheming Angels (vs. 10-11)
		2. More irrational than Brutish Animals (vs. 12-13)
		3. More insatiable than Bold Adulterers (vs. 14)
		4. More insane than Balaam’s Anger (vs. 15-16)
	2. First - More arrogant than Blaspheming Angels (vs. 10-11) **[[2]](#footnote-2)**
		1. Point of the passage is stated well by John Calvin… “these men fearlessly give vent to impious and unbridled blasphemies.”[[3]](#footnote-3)
			1. How are they arrogant?
				1. View #1 – They mock demonic angels or demons as imaginary or weak. Even the Seraphim don’t mock demons. They recognize their capacity.

ESV Study Bible – “The false teacher take the demons lightly.”

* + - * 1. View #2 – False teachers slander angels… “even angels refuse to slander other angels.”[[4]](#footnote-4)

In Jude, the demons are judged by God as blasphemous and the angels rightly entrust all judgment to God.

*Jude 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.”*

* + - 1. The false teachers seek to set themselves upon the throne of God and blaspheme in a way that is demonic.
				1. The point is that **they did not stay their position**.[[5]](#footnote-5)

Military desertion… AWOL

* + - * 1. Consequently… They are being reserved in darkness for punishment in “**darkness**” (NASB, KJV, NIV); “**gloomy** **darkness**” (ESV); “**nether gloom**” (RSV)[[6]](#footnote-6)
	1. Second - More irrational than Brutish Animals (vs. 12-13)
		1. Animals are commended throughout the Bible for how they show the path of wisdom…
			1. Learn from the ant (Pro. 6:6-8)
				1. Be industrious.
			2. Consider the badger (Pro. 30:26)
				1. Be discrete.
			3. Notice the Lizard (Pro. 30:28)
				1. Be humble.
		2. But here… the manner of the false prophets and wicked teachers is like…
			1. The wild ox is untamable (Job 39:9-12)
			2. The Leviathan is uncapturable (Job 41:1-8)
			3. From the *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*, the “real dragon, the serpent, the primordial enemy lives within” (p. 31).
				1. They are like wolves with an insatiable lust for blood.
		3. This seems to be a description of what Raul covered last week in describing Sodom and Gomorrah.
			1. Sodom and Gomorrah were “well-watered like the garden of the Lord” (Gen. 13:10).[[7]](#footnote-7)
				1. Then the ones who acted like animals were caught in a trap…

Peter makes a pun… “they will be done out of the profits of their wrong-doing”.

* 1. Third - More insatiable than Bold Adulterers (vs. 14)
		1. In proverbs, the adulterous wife does out looking for simple minded youths that she can devour like peppermints.
			1. Pro. 30:20 - *This is the way of an adulteress: she eats and wipes her mouth and says, “I have done no wrong.”*
				1. The adulterous woman in the center of town in Proverbs is a precursor to the false teachers in the Church as…

*They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children!*

* + - 1. Wherever they go they either brought a curse or deserved a curse.[[8]](#footnote-8)
		1. They are, in the words of Ephesians, *by nature children of wrath* (Eph. 2:3).
	1. Lastly - More insane than Balaam’s Anger (vs. 15-16)
		1. Balaam knowingly leads others to rebel against God.
		2. Balak, king of Moab, hired Balaam to curse the Israelites. God directly calls Balaam to bless the Israelites.[[9]](#footnote-9)
			1. Later we HEAR…
				1. While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down before these gods. (Num 25:1-2)
			2. What happened?
				1. "(The Women) were the ones who followed Balaam's advice and enticed the Israelites to be unfaithful to the LORD. (Num 31:16)[[10]](#footnote-10)
			3. Greed – false teachers promote evil for their “gain”.
				1. Balaam mulled over the riches of brings their downfall and found the price to be too good… so he went at it another way.
		3. How do we know that Balaam, a prophet, was wrong?
			1. Because God used Balaam’s donkey to rebuke the hired gun.
				1. The man who was known to be a prophet was rebuked by God with a beast of burden.

The false teachers in the church follow this same paradigm of Balaam’s madness.

* 1. Transition: Beloved, these are the descriptions of the false teachers… the wicked tenants… who seek to work in the Lord’s vineyard… the church.
		1. Arrogant (vs. 10-11), irrational (vs. 12-13), insatiable (vs. 14), insane (vs. 15-16)
			1. Have you ever been a part of an organization with those defining characteristics?
		2. The Bible describes this mindset as the Sinful Nature (Gal. 5:19-21)
			1. Lusting for one another (Rom. 1:27)
			2. Judging one another (Rom. 14:13)
			3. Depriving one another (1 Cor. 7:5)
			4. Biting one another (Gal. 5:15a)
			5. Devouring one another (Gal. 5:15b)
			6. Destroying one another (Gal. 5:15c)
			7. Provoking one another (Gal. 5:26a)
			8. Envying one another (Gal. 5:26b)
			9. Lying to one another (Col. 3:9)
			10. Hating one another (Titus 3:3)
			11. Slandering one another (James 4:11)
			12. Grumbling against one another (James 5:9)
	2. How do we go from that mindset of the wicked tenants to those of the godly stewards?
1. Rejoicing in God's deliverance (Titus 3:3-8)
	1. It is only by the grace of our Good Lord!
		1. *3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.*
	2. From the Arrogance of Angels TO the Confession of Sin
		1. *3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.*
			1. Do you notice that the sins we see against other humans are ultimately sins against God?
				1. When a person gossips… he might slander a person… but the real affront is before the Holy One.
				2. When someone watches pornography… they are defiling an image-bearers, but ultimately they are declaring themselves to be the Alpha and the Omega.
				3. When we envy... we might become bitter at another person, but supremely we are maligning the character of the great I AM.
			2. POINT: Because our sins are primarily against the Lord, they determine our ultimate destination.
		2. The Holy Spirit enables us to sincerely put to death the darkness of arrogance.
	3. From Irrational Animals TO the Assurance of Grace
		1. *4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*
			1. The false teachers revile and distort the rightful authorities over them. They are like Swine.
				1. They were given the pearls of the gospel and despised them.

They wallow in a filth bog, gorge themselves on refuse, and squeal with approval.

* + - 1. BUT you beloved… you rejoice in the CROSS of Jesus Christ.
				1. For here the mercy of GOD our Savior.
		1. In grace we go from…
			1. Gloomy darkness (vs. 2:4) TO Glorious deliverance (Titus 3:5)
			2. Bound in Eternal Chains (vs 4) TO Beloved in Christ (2 Peter 3:4)
			3. Sin-stained in perversion (vs. 13) TO Set-apart in purity b the washing of regeneration(Titus 3:5)[[11]](#footnote-11)
			4. Blaspheme judgments (vs. 10) TO Blameless justification (Titus 3:7)
			5. Animals (2 Peter 2:16) TO HEIRS (Titus 3:7))
			6. Usurping authority in sedition (2 Peter 2:8) TO Unqualified surrender to Christ… become a servant (2 Peter 1:1)
			7. Eternal Fire (2 Peter 2:4) TO Eternal Life (Titus 3:7)
		2. By grace we have been saved… by grace we are redeemed…. By grace we live and move and have our being as the Holy Spirit empowers us to move…
	1. From Insatiable Lust TO Good Works
		1. *8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works.*
			1. J.C. Ryle - "The fear of punishment, the desire of reward, the sense of duty, are all useful arguments, in their way, to persuade people to holiness. But they are all weak and powerless, until a person loves Christ."
				1. By the sincere and supernatural work of our Triune God we give ourselves to honor Christ in all things.
	2. From Insane Greed TO FRUITFUL Stewards
		1. *These things are excellent and profitable for people.*
			1. If God is the Owner of his church… and we are the stewards of the mysteries of Christ.
				1. Then our calling is to LOVE One Another by reaping a harvest of righteousness as the fruit of the Spirit abounds through love by (Gal. 5:22)…

Members of one another (Rom. 12:5)

Being devoted to another (Rom. 12:10a)

Honoring one another (Rom. 12:10b)

Being of the same mind toward one another (Rom. 12:16; 15:5)

Loving one another (Rom. 13:8; 1 Thess. 3:12; 4:9; 2 Thess. 1:3; Heb. 10:24; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11, 12; 2 John 5)

Edifying one another (Rom. 14:19)

Accepting one another (Rom. 15:7)

Instructing one another (Rom. 15:14)

Greeting one another (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thess. 5:26; 1Peter 5:14)

Waiting for one another (1 Cor. 11:33)

Caring for one another (1 Cor. 12:25)

Serving one another (Gal. 5:13)

Carrying one another’s burdens (Gal. 6:2)

Bearing with one another (Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:13)

Being kind to one another (Eph. 4:32)

Submitting to one another (Eph. 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5)

Esteeming one another (Phil. 2:3)

Encouraging one another (1Thess. 4:18; 5:11,14)

Confessing sins to one another (James 5:16a)

Praying for one another (James 5:16b)

Offering hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)

Fellowshipping with one another (1 John 1:7)

1. Conclusion
	1. The judgment of the False teachers will come…
		1. Be patient.
	2. The judgement for us fell on Christ in our place…
		1. Rejoice in God’s deliverance as we love one another… as the LORD’s stewards.

**Prayer (2 Peter 3:17-18)**

*You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

**Benediction (2 Peter 1:2)**
*May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*

1. 2 Peter 1:5b-7 - *faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* – “… God decreed, for reasons sufficient unto Himself, to give some angles, in addition to the grace which they were endowed by creation and which included ample power to remain holy, a special grace pf perseverance; and to withhold this from others. There are points of difference between the predestination of men and that of the angels: 1) while the predestination of men may be conceived of as infralapsarian, the predestination of the angels can only be understood as supralapsarian. God did not chose a certain number out of the fallen mass of angels. 2) the angels were not elected or predestined in Christ as Mediator, but in Him as Head, that is, to stand in a ministerial relation to Him.” (Systematic Theology, 113) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. John Calvin, *Commentary on 2 Peter*, 402 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Dick Lucas, *The Message of 2 Peter*, 106 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Note the pun… **Kept**. Ungodly angles couldn’t keep their place… God keeps them in darkness until the DAY of Judgment. Believers – Kept by God (vs. 2) and keep themselves in the love of God (vs. 21) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. This Divine punishment in the ancient world can be contrasted with Mount Zion (Heb. 12:18ff) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Lucas and Guest, *The Message of 2 Peter & Jude,* 187 - Men of the city demanded to have sex with the two angels that Lot was having over for dinner (Gen. 19:1-5). Lucas and Green - “It seems inescapable that the sin of Sodom was an attempted homosexual gang rape.” [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Calvin, Commentary on 2 Peter, 405 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Lucas and Green, 199 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Balaam is condemned in Rev. 2:14 for leading Israel to eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)