

Hidden Reefs in Christendom

by Fred DeRuvo – Study-Grow-Know Ministries

Folks, we don't even know if the story the evangelist just told us actually *happened!* He's a dreamer, a defiler. He goes where Michael the Archangel did not go, and Michael's power is far superior to that TV evangelist's, whose real power is in his ability to brag and lie.

It is because of this –these apostates take the powers of darkness so lightly – that they will eventually be destroyed by these very things, because the web that Satan weaves is extremely *intricate*. He'll let these apostates think they have power over him; all the while he is doing just exactly what they are doing, but to the evangelist.

While that evangelist is reeling people in, Satan is reeling the evangelist in, and the evangelist is not even aware of it any more than the people are aware of what's happening to them. Instinctively, the evangelist should know better, but he ignores that instinct.

I've always grown up around animals and maybe you have too. I love dogs, but ever since marrying my wife, I've grown to love cats, and I never thought that was possible because I have never seen cats as pets. I saw them as animals that just walk around your house without much love and affection.

What is interesting is that I have yet to see a cat with a similar personality to another cat, yet with dogs, they all seem to have basic similarities. Unlike dogs, cats need to adopt *you*. They need to learn to love and trust you before they will accept you into their circle.

We have six cats. Yep, six. A number of them were rescue cats and would have likely died without us or someone nursing them to health. Each cat has his or her own personality, and it can be hilarious at times, or at least intriguing.

We have one cat that my wife wanted for herself, but that cat – Chloe – has adopted *me*. She likes my wife, but she *loves* me. Other cats in our household have adopted my wife.

One cat loves food, and anytime she is stressed, she has to go to her food bowl. Even if she doesn't eat, it gives her a sense of security to know that food is in her bowl. She also has to have her food in one specific place. She can't eat from any other food bowl.

One of our cats likes to play by spinning in circles in the hallway. She does this so that you will notice her, but you're not allowed to *join* her. You can simply watch.

Another cat we have does a head-butting thing, mainly with me. No other cat we have does this and it is the way he shows you he loves you.

Each of our cats have different personalities, yet they all share similar *instincts*, and these are the instincts God gave them. Those instincts keep them alive, or are supposed to do so.

If they are out front and a car or truck comes up the street, they head for the cat door and into the house. One of them – since he was nearly run over by a car when he was younger – heads for space under the nearest bed until the “danger” has passed.

Every animal lives by instinct, and when they follow the dictates of their instinct, it can keep them alive. That’s why God gave them instinct: as a means of *survival*. Animals do not make logical decisions, although when they live by instinct, they wind up *being* logical.

However, these apostates *ignore* instinct. They instinctively know that they should not be doing certain things because their conscience points that out. Oh well, they ignore it, no worries. These things will destroy them.

Most know that Rock Hudson was gay, but for years, Hollywood kept that secret well hidden from the public. This is what Hollywood did in the days of the studio system, only allowing the public to see the best side of their contracted stars. Hudson contracted AIDS because he had unprotected sex with someone that he did not know and others had warned him about. They told him to avoid this one man. Hudson did not listen and contracted AIDS, from which he died later.

Those people that were warning Hudson were acting as his conscience. They obviously knew that the risk was great and that he should avoid that particular person. He refused to listen to their sage advice and died because of it. He ignored the dangers, and the very thing he participated in that he seemed to live for killed him in the end.

People who do this wind up acting like unreasoning animals. Animals live by instinct. An animal that pays no attention to instinct will soon come to an untimely death. If human beings do the same thing, why should they be exempt?

“Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.” Jude 1:11-13

I love the imagery Jude conjures up here in this section of his letter. He refers to apostates as “hidden reefs” and “clouds without water.” These pictures are striking.

Jude begins by issuing a declarative “*Woe to them!*” This is obviously *not* a good thing even if you do not know what a “woe” is all about.

A “woe” is something that is absolutely terrible, and before Jude happened on the scene, the prophets of old used this phrase to warn the people to whom they prophesied what was ahead if they continued in the path they were moving on, *spiritually* speaking.

Cain

Jude is saying that the deepest misery awaits them because they are doing the same thing that Cain did when he killed his brother, Abel. He compares them to Balaam also, who tried on several occasions to curse Israel but was unable to do so because he was stopped by the Lord.

Men like Cain and Balaam do what they want to do for their own personal gain. In Cain’s case (cf. Genesis 4:1-15), he killed his brother Abel because he was jealous of the fact that Abel had brought before the Lord the *correct* offering.

Obviously, both men had been taught about sacrificing to God, something that both Adam and Eve had learned directly in the Garden of Eden after they fell when they saw God kill several animals in order to make proper clothing for the two (cf. Genesis 3). There were probably a number of things that God explained to them that day about the sacrificial process, which, of course, was not thoroughly outlined until much later, through Moses.

Adam and Eve passed on this knowledge of the sacrificial offering to their children, and it is clear that Cain – though he brought the wrong sacrifice *deliberately* – knew of it, as did Abel. Cain could have gone to his brother and bartered with him, fruit and vegetables (Cain farmed) for a proper animal for sacrifice (Abel tended flocks). Cain chose not to do this in spite of the fact that he knew he was bringing the wrong sacrifice.

Someone may argue, “Well, gee, at least Cain brought something to sacrifice.” That’s true, but that is not the point. The fact that Cain brought the *wrong* sacrifice speaks of his own carelessness with respect to any relationship he may have thought he had with God. In fact, what he did, he did simply out of *duty* and *compulsion*, not because he truly wanted to do the right thing in God’s eyes. In other words, Cain’s heart was far from God. His heart wasn’t in it.

The sacrificial system that God first introduced to Adam and Eve was always designed to point ahead to the time of Jesus and His ultimate sacrifice on the cross. He died a terribly painful death, shedding His blood for humanity. While vegetables and fruits are certainly living things, they are no replacement for an animal that bleeds, feels pain, and sheds its blood onto the ground. This type of death pointed ahead to the Passover death of Jesus on behalf of the world.

Cain consciously chose to ignore the ramifications of the sacrificial system and brought vegetables instead of a live animal. Even though Satan was very unlikely to see what the

sacrificial system ultimately meant, this was undoubtedly Satan's attempt to downplay the importance of the cross of Jesus.

That is our show for today. We're going to stop there. Fifteen minutes goes by very quickly. Please join us again next time here on Study-Grow-Know. Until we meet again, may the Lord open your eyes to show you how blessed you are in Him!