

Thessalonians 5:6-8. In Romans 12:3, Paul tells us why it is so important to think soberly: **“to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”** We are to think soberly so we do not think higher of ourselves than we should, for if we do, we will still suffer the same fate as the Devil on the Judgment Day (1 Timothy 3:6).

III. Conclusion

The Devil is a terrible adversary. He wants to see you suffer. He wants you to go against God and to go to Hell. Take the words of Paul to heart when he says, **“Abhor what is evil, cling to that which is good”** (Romans 12:9). That way, in the end, you can hear those precious words from the Lord God, your

Father, **“Well done my good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Lord”** (Matthew 25:21).

By Curtis Carwile



Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

Please Visit Our Website — www.olsenpark.com
Articles • Audio Sermons • Outlines • Powerpoint Files

Faithful Sayings

Olsen Park Church of Christ

4700 Andrews Avenue Amarillo, Texas 79106
(806) 352-2809

Vol. X, No. 41

October 12, 2008

Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez
Rusty Scott

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

VISIT US ON THE WEB:
www.olsenpark.com

Identifying and Defeating the Devil

In the book of Genesis, the third character set we are introduced to (with the Godhead being first and Adam and Eve the second) is the Devil. The whole Bible is about the fate of mankind being torn between good (God) and evil (the Devil). God, through His Bible, makes it clear that He wants all people to do what is good (Romans 12:9, 21). Also, God makes it clear what the fate of the Devil is and those who follow after him (Revelation 20:10; Matthew 25:41). The Devil, his angels, and all whose name is not writ-

ten in the Book of Life will be thrown into the lake of fire that will burn for eternity (Revelation 20:11-15). Therefore, we see the importance of siding with God and not siding with the Devil. In order for us to be effective in this, we need to know how to identify the Devil and what it is going to take to defeat him on a daily basis.

I. Identifying the Devil

The works of the Devil are not always easily seen. Rarely will anyone have someone tell you that they are working for Satan or that a partic-

cular act is directly from Satan. Satan is sneakier than that. When he came to the woman in the Garden, he came as a serpent and debated with the woman as to whether she would die or not if she ate of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 3:1-6). You can be sure that when Satan comes at you, he will use the same tricks that he has been using from the beginning.

Since the beginning, Satan was a liar (John 8:44). Satan is going to lie to us about God (whether or not He even exists), the nature of Man (that Man is a sinful creature and holds no hope for salvation), himself (whether or not he even exists), and the upcoming Judgment (that it's not going to happen or, if it does, you're good enough). Satan is even going to lie to us in the way he presents his lies. In 2 Corinthians 11:14, Paul says that Satan will disguise himself as an **"angel of light,"** tricking us into thinking that he is from God. Unfortunately, we see this too often in today's religious world. Satan is going to throw every lie in the book at us and present those lies in believable ways to get us to stop believing in God's truth and stop obeying it.

Since the beginning, Satan was a tempter (Matthew 4:1). Satan doesn't care whom he tempts. In Matthew 4, he tempts Jesus, the Son of God. I think something that we can gain from an examination of that passage in Matthew 4 is that Satan is going to tempt us with things we want. In the wilderness, Jesus was hungry so Satan tempted Jesus with food. Also, Jesus was concerned with living life as a man so Satan put Him in a situation where Jesus would be tempted to use His godly power. Finally, Jesus' earthly mission was to establish His new law so Satan tempted Jesus with a way that Jesus could do that without having to die. He is going to tempt us the same way, with things that we want or desire, in order to get us from doing the will of God.

Since the beginning, Satan was an oppressor (Acts 10:38). He would do anything within his power to impede God's people from worshipping Him. We can see that in the book of Job. In the first chapter of Job, the **"sons of God"** had come to worship Him (Job 1:6). Satan came among them and began hurting Job by taking away all of his possessions and children in an

attempt to get Job to stop worshipping God. Then, when Job refused to stop worshipping God, Satan hit Job even harder by taking away his health and comfort. Satan wants to hold you down in such a way that, in the Judgment, you will be thrown down into the lake of fire with him and his angels. Be assured, Satan is not going to stop at anything until he gets us to stop worshipping God.

II. Defeating the Devil

The Devil is a dangerous foe. That is why Peter describes him as a "roaring lion looking for whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). However, he can be defeated. James says, in James 4:7b, **"Resist the Devil and he will flee from you."** So, how can we defeat the Devil on a daily basis?

First, we need to get rid of our sin which separates us from God. The only way we can do that is by coming in contact with the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ (Romans 6:1-4). We can only do that through baptism for the remission of our sins (Acts 2:38). This was the purpose of Jesus coming to this world in the first place (1 John 3:8).

Second, after we put on Jesus in baptism, we need to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:11-17). We need to protect ourselves with the truth that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who came to this earth to die on the cross so He could be raised from the dead to be a sacrifice and example for us. We need to have righteousness over our hearts. We need to be prepared to take the gospel throughout the world and our lives. We need to hold out our faith to stop the attacks of the Devil. We need to have salvation on our minds at all times, keeping our focus on the things of Heaven and not of this world. We need to **"contend earnestly for the faith"** (Jude 3), fighting the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12), with the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God (Revelation 19:15) and **"sharper than any two-edged sword"** (Hebrews 4:12). And, we need to put each piece on with prayer (Ephesians 6:18).

Third, we need to be ever watchful. In Ephesians 4:27, Paul tells us not to give place to the Devil. Peter tells us how to do that. In 1 Peter 5:8, he tells us to be sober and vigilant. Paul tells the Thessalonians the same thing in 1