

Satan Hates The Church – 10/29/23

TEXT- Matthew 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

INTRO – Alexis de Tocqueville was a 19th century French diplomat, political scientist, and historian who is best known for his two-volume work "Democracy in America" in which he offered his observations on American politics, society, and culture across the U.S. in 1831-32.

I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her fertile fields and boundless forests, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her rich mines and her vast world commerce, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her public school system and her institutions of learning, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution, and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great.

Psalms 33:12 *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.*

I. Satan attacks that which is good.

He deceived Adam and Eve

He is the accuser of the brethren

2 Corinthians 2:11 *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

He afflicted Job

He is a liar and a murderer

1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

He is the enemy of God

He blinds people's minds

2 Corinthians 4:4 *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

We must stand and fight against him.

Ephesians 4:26-27 *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil.*

1 Timothy 1:18 *This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;*

He is the prince and power of the air.

Ephesians 2:2-3 *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

One day Satan will be defeated.

Revelation 12:9-10 *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*

John 12:31 *Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.*

Satan is at work to destroy God's church.

Here are 7 ways Satan tries to destroy a church:

1. Church conflict

Satan loves business meetings that get out of hand or when two church members have disagreements outside of church. He loves when church members argue about trivial things, such as colors of the carpet or big things, such as whether to add another service. Doesn't matter to him. Show him a good argument potential and he's willing to stir the fire.

2. Burnout

Satan loves to burn out a church volunteer, staff member, or pastor. If he can make them feel they are no longer needed, their work is not appreciated, or that they no longer have anything to offer...he feels he's winning part of the battle.

3. Rumors

Satan is the stirrer of dissension. He likes to plant little seeds of a juicy story, about someone in the church or community...sometimes even the pastor or staff...and watch them quickly spread through a church congregation or community. The version, of course, usually grows to a larger portion than reality. Satan likes that too.

4. Busyness

Satan loves to distract church goers with a plethora of activity that produces little results in Kingdom-building.

5. Lies

Satan attempts to interject what he calls a "half-truth"; just a hint of false doctrine and then watch it disrupt or divide a body. Of course, we all know

th is really just a cleaned-up version of a bold face lie, but Satan
ough to disguise a lie in a way where false teachers gain entry
age before being discovered.

ndal

a good, juicy, gossipy news headline in the local paper. If it will
e or destroy a church body...even better. If it will destroy
Kingdom calling or work...he'll take that too.

Marriage and family disruptions

to destroy any relationship, but he also goes after key leader's
even the pastor's marriage. He likes to encourage prodigal
e wants to cause families to fight within the church and fight with
Satan knows if he can destroy a home, he has a better chance of
a church.

— Thankfully, there is good news:

*from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the
in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 1 John 4:4*