

## INTRODUCTION

Last time we worked on receiving the Lord's warning against letting ourselves be deceived, an important part of which is accepting as truth the statement that he who sins is of the devil.

We see over and over again that the Lord's instructions for His church are rooted in the truth of the Gospel. Whatever it is the Lord's will for us to do for Him is grounded in what He already has done for us.

So, having instructed us what we are to do: Do not be deceived, our Lord's apostle goes on to explain how that command is based on what the Lord Jesus has done for us.

**Do not be deceived into thinking that someone can be righteous in Jesus Christ, but keep living in sin, which is of the devil. That is impossible, because the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil!**

## TEXT

1 John 3:7-10 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. (8) He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. (9) Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. (10) In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

## BODY

**Do not be deceived into thinking that someone can be righteous in Jesus Christ, but keep living in sin, which is of the devil. That is impossible, because the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil!**

## I. The Devil Has Sinned from the Beginning

### A. The devil and the demons were created by God

1. God is, in and of Himself
2. but all other beings have their being from God; He has created everything else
3. so the devil and the demons were created by God

### B. The devil and the demons were created very good

1. the creation of the physical universe, including mankind, is described for us in the bible; the summary of the description is that God made it all very good  
Genesis 1:31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.
2. the creation of the heavenly beings is not described for us in the bible like the creation of the physical beings is
3. but we can rightly conclude that since what God created in the physical universe was very good, including mankind, what God created in the spiritual realm was created very good, also, including the angels who would become the devil and the demons

### C. But those angels sinned

1. They sinned against God: 2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare **the angels who sinned**, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;
2. They thought they found something wrong in God's rule over them, in being subject to Him as He commanded; but this was false; it was a lie
3. One of these angels must have been the first to compose that lie, because the Lord Jesus says of the devil  
John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for **he is a liar and the father of it.**
4. So the devil lied to the other angels, who believed the lie, and so sinned against God; but the wages of sin is death; in sinning, the angels brought upon themselves the wrath of God; they brought upon themselves the sentence of eternal death in the torments of the lake of fire
5. So the devil is the source of all lies, and of the sin that results from believing those lies, and of God's creatures coming to deserve the punishment of death

The devil has sinned from the beginning

## II. The Works of the Devil Are To Get Men to Be Sinners As He Is

### A. Understood from how Satan tempted Eve

1. there is something wrong with what God has commanded you
2. you should listen to me instead of to God

### B. Understood from how Satan tempted Job

1. there is something wrong with being under God's rule in this world; He allows the righteous to suffer
2. God has said that He blesses those who obey Him; but look at you---you are suffering terribly, with all blessings apparently removed
3. you should find fault with God
  - a) Job 2:9-10 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" (10) But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

### C. Understood from how Satan tempted Peter

Mark 8:29-38 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ." (30) Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him. (31) And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. (32) He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. (33) But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." (34) When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. (35) For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. (36) For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? (37) Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (38) For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

1. Peter: there is something wrong with what the Son of God said; what He said cannot be true
2. Jesus: it is of Satan to find something wrong with the word of the Son of God
3. v.34 deny himself
4. v. 38 ashamed of Me and My words

D. Understood from how Satan tempted the Lord Jesus Himself

1. Luke 4:1-8 Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, (2) being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. (3) And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." (4) But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD OF GOD.' " (5) Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. (6) And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. (7) Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." (8) And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.' "
  2. you are supposedly the Son of God, but the Father's plan has you out here starving in the desert; there is something wrong with God the Father's rule over you; you should be doing something else besides what God has said to do
- E. The devil's work in us has been all too successful

1. we sinned in Adam
2. we have sinned in many ways at many times in our own lives
3. we have earned the wages of sin, which is death

The devil has sinned from the beginning

The works of the devil are to get men to be sinners as he is a sinner

### III. The Son of God Was Manifested to Destroy the Works of the Devil

#### A. Which was promised to us sinners when we first sinned

1. Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

#### B. By His incarnation (this line of thinking from Candlish)

1. the devil has always suggested there was something wrong with man having to be subject to God, to God's rule over him, to God's will, to God's commands, to God's law
2. but if the Son of God Himself became Man, and found nothing at all wrong with being subject to God, to God's rule over Him, to doing God's will, to observing God's commands, to obeying God's law, that proves definitively that there is nothing wrong with that at all
3. the devil telling men otherwise had always been false, but this is the great demonstration of the deceit of the devil's words

#### C. By His being born of the virgin

1. Adam was created without sin, and as a representative, or federal head, of all men who would be descended from him
2. when the devil's works had made Adam a sinner, all men descended from Adam would be counted as sinners in Adam, and would inherit from him a corrupted, sinful nature, so that they all would sin, also
3. from Adam's line, then no savior could come; anyone born of Adam's lineage would himself need saving
4. but when the Son of God was conceived in the womb of the virgin, without a human father, but by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became a second Adam
  - a) not counted as being in Adam, not inheriting a sinful nature
  - b) so not sinful by imputation, nor sinful by corrupted nature

#### D. By His utterly righteous life

1. His resisting the temptations of the devil in the wilderness in particular
2. but as also representative of His whole life without sin

#### E. By His death on the cross

1. by the devil's work, man had made himself liable to death; not just the first death of the body, but the second death of eternal torments in the lake of fire
2. in His death on the cross, the Savior took the deserved punishment on Himself; those who trust in Him are no longer subject to punishment in the lake of fire, for their substitute has taken it on their behalf

#### F. By His resurrection

#### G. By His preaching the gospel to sinners

#### H. By the regenerating work of His Holy Spirit in the hearts of sinners, granting to them the new birth

#### I. Ultimately by His return on the day of final judgment

#### IV. APPLICATIONS

- A. Praise the grace of God in the Lord Jesus Christ destroying the works of the devil for us and in us!
- B. Do not imagine that someone can have the work of Christ in his life, and then just continue in a life of sin, of lawlessness
- C. Do not yourself continue with the devil; but turn from the devil to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, that the works of the devil may be destroyed in you, also
  - 1. trade your share in the everlasting torments of the lake of fire
  - 2. for a share in the everlasting bliss of the kingdom of heaven

#### CONCLUSION

The devil has sinned from the beginning

The works of the devil are to get men to be sinners as he is a sinner

The Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of the devil

**Do not be deceived into thinking that someone can be righteous in Jesus Christ, but keep living in sin, which is of the devil. That is impossible, because the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil!**

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

I. He Who Sins Is of the Devil, for the Devil Has Sinned from the Beginning

- A. Matthew 16:21-23 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. (22) Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" (23) But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."
- B. Mark 4:14-15 The sower sows the word. (15) And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.

II.

- A.
- B.

- I. The Works of the Devil Are All About Sin
  - A. Reminder of what sin is
  - B. The devil sins himself; but that is not what is meant here; for it is not evident that the Son of God came to make the devil stop sinning
  - C. The works of the devil here are his works to make others sinners, and to keep them in their sins, and to make them suffer his same punishment
  - D. The devil accuses me to God as a sinner
- II. The Son of God Was Manifested to Destroy the Works of the Devil
  - A. Candlish: His making Himself a man who is full willing to submit to God's law proves and shows that it is not bad, but perfectly good to do so
  - B. Cotton: procured pardon
  - C.

Cotton:

“from the beginning” is not meant from his first creation, for it is evident that he stood until the sixth day; otherwise God would not have said that it was all very good.

The end of Christ's coming into the world was to dissolve and loose the works of Satan. This was expressly foretold: “The seed of the woman shall break the serpent's head.” The head is taken for the dominion and power which he has in our hearts.

By his innocent birth, holy life, and righteous and holy suffering, Christ has procured pardon of sin. And since he has gotten that, sin and punishment are dissolved.

Hebrews 2:14-18 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, (15) and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (16) For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. (17) Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (18) For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Job 4:18 If He puts no trust in His servants, If He charges His angels with error,

2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;



Calvin:

What is useful to us, God has made known, that is, that the devils were at first created, that they might serve and obey God, but that through their own fault they apostatized, because they would not submit to the authority of God

Geneva:

Bound them with darkness as with chains: and by darkness he means that most miserable state of life that is full of horror.

Trapp:

Though but for one sin only, and that in thought only. It sprang from the admiration of their own gifts, it was confirmed by pride and ambition, it was perfected by envy, stirred by the decree of exalting man's nature above angels in and by Christ.

Poole:

as Jud\_1:6; where darkness may imply the misery and horror of their condition, and chains, their obduracy in their wickedness, their despair of deliverance, their expectation of future judgment, Heb\_10:27, together with the providence and power of God, watching over and holding them in that condition, till final vengeance come upon them. It is a metaphor taken from malefactors condemned, who are bound in chains, and kept in the dungeon till execution.

Gill:

it is generally thought to be pride, affecting a likeness to, or an equality with God; since this was what man was tempted to by them, and by which he fell, as they are thought to do; and because this is the sin of such who fall into the condemnation of the devil; 1Ti\_3:6 and is the sin, that goes before a fall in common; as it did before the fall of man, so it might before the fall of angels, Pro\_16:18

The passage in Joh\_8:44 seems most clearly of any to express their sin, which was "not abiding in the truth"; in the truth of the Gospel, particularly the great truth of the salvation of men, by the incarnate Son of God; and which they could by no means brook and which might spring from pride, they not bearing the thought that the human nature should be exalted above theirs; hence the Jews, in opposing Christ as the Messiah and Saviour, are said to be of their father the devil, and to do his lusts; and Judas that betrayed him, and fell from his apostleship, and the truth, is called a devil; and the heresies of men, respecting the person and office of Christ, are styled doctrines of devils; and men that have professed this truth, and afterwards deny it, are represented in the same irrecoverable and desperate case with devils, and must expect the same punishment, Joh\_8:44, and also it may be observed on the contrary, that the good angels that stand, greatly love, value, esteem, and pry into the truths of the Gospel; particularly the scheme of man's salvation, by the incarnation, obedience, sufferings, and death of Christ

they were hurled out of heaven, from whence they fell as lightning, into the "lowest", or inferior places, as the Syriac version renders it; either into the air, as in Eph\_2:2 or into the earth; as in Rev\_12:9 or into the deep, the abyss, the bottomless pit, where they are detained, as in a prison, Luk\_8:31 though for certain reasons, and at certain times, are suffered to come forth, and rove about in this earth, and in the air: and these, when removed from their ancient seats in heaven, were not merely bid to go away, as the wicked will at the day of judgment; or were

"drove" out, as Adam was from the garden of Eden; but "cast down"; with great power, indignation, wrath, and contempt, never to be raised and restored again

leaving them under the guilt of sin, which is the power of darkness, and in black despair; shutting them up in unbelief, impenitence, and hardness of mind; being holden with the cords of their sins, and in the most dreadful state of bondage and captivity to their lusts, in just judgment on them; and in the most miserable and uncomfortable condition, being driven from the realms of light, deprived of the face and presence of God, in the utmost horror and trembling, and fearful looking for of judgment, and fiery indignation to consume them; and in utter darkness, without the least glimmering of light, joy, peace, and comfort; and where there is nothing but weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth; and being also under the restraints of the power and providence of God, and not able to stir or move, or do anything without divine permission; and being likewise, by the everlasting, unalterable, and inscrutable purposes and decrees of God, appointed to everlasting wrath and destruction; by which they are consigned and bound over to it, and held fast, that they cannot escape it

Clarke:

They kept not their first estate, and they sinned, is the sum of what we know on the subject; and here curiosity and conjecture are useless.

Chains of darkness is a highly poetic expression. Darkness binds them on all hands; and so dense and strong is this darkness that it cannot be broken through; they cannot deliver themselves, nor be delivered by others.

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

There was one whom God designated to represent all whom God would count as being in him---Adam. The devil's work was to get Adam to sin, which he did.

When the Son of God was manifested in the flesh, He was also designated by God to represent all whom God would count as being in Him. The devil's work, then, was to get Jesus Christ, the new Adam, to sin, but He did not!

The work of the devil is sin; lawlessness; unrighteousness  
-to sin himself  
-to tempt other creatures to sin

The devil tries to get people to think that there is something wrong with submission to God's law.

Where in the bible do we get the clearest descriptions of the devil at work?

Genesis 3:1-6 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" (2) And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; (3) but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " (4) Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. (5) For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (6) So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, **she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.**

Job 1:6-2:10 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. (7) And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." (8) Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" (9) So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? (10) Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. (11) But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" (12) And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. (13) Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house; (14) and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, (15) when the Sabeans raided them and took them away--indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" (16) While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" (17) While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" (18) While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, (19) and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" (20) Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. (21) And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." (22) In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong. (2:1) Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. (2) And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." (3) Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none

like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause." (4) So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. (5) But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" (6) And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life." (7) So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. (8) And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes. (9) Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" (10) But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Matthew 4:1-11 [see also Luke 4:1-13] Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (2) And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. (3) Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." (4) But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" (5) Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, (6) and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'HE SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE OVER YOU,' and, IN THEIR HANDS THEY SHALL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU DASH YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'" (7) Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'YOU SHALL NOT TEMPT THE LORD YOUR GOD.'" (8) Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. (9) And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." (10) Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.'" (11) Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Call to Worship: Psalm 119:171-174

Scripture Reading: Job 1:6-2:10

Sermon: "To Destroy the Works of the Devil" 1 John 3:8

Benediction: Romans 16:19-20

Prelude: Trinity 699 Tis So Sweet Trinity 129 Fairest Lord Jesus

Grace 31 Come, People of the Risen King

Trinty 764 Psalm 106

Trinity 712 I Know Whom I Have Believed

Grace 40 Down at the Cross