



# Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture

TOPIC 3 – THE DOCTRINE OF ANGELS

LESSON 69 – LUCIFER: ANGEL OF LIGHT (PART 2) SATAN'S STRATEGIES AND THE BELIEVER'S DEFENSE

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# Satan's Target

- ▶ 2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!
- ▶ Satan manipulates the thinking by playing mind games, telling lies, making false accusations, and working counterfeit signs and wonders.
- ▶ A corrupt mind leads to corrupt living. What is more corrupt than thinking contrary to the Word of God?

# The Battle for the Mind

- ▶ We, as believers, must have a strong mind (Matt. 22:37; Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 4:4; 10:5; Phil. 4:8; Col. 3:2; 1 Peter 1:13).
- ▶ If we are kept from believing the truth, we will not obey the truth! (Thomas Watson)
- ▶ Satan's Progression:
  - ▶ Doubt God's Word – Gen. 3:1
  - ▶ Distort God's Word – Gen. 3:2-3
  - ▶ Deny God's Word – Gen. 3:4-5
  - ▶ Disobey God's Word – Gen. 3:6-7

# Four Satanic Objectives

- ▶ Satan's Fiery Darts – Four Objectives Against Christians
- ▶ 1. Distort or Deny the Word of God – Matt. 4:1-11
- ▶ 2. Discredit the Testimony of God's People – Acts 5:1-11; 1 Tim. 3:7
- ▶ 3. Depress or Destroy the Believer's Enthusiasm for God's Word and Works – 2 Cor. 12:7-10; Luke 22:31-34
- ▶ 4. Dilute the Effectiveness of God's People – 1 Tim. 3:6

# Four Satanic Objectives

- ▶ 1. Distort or Deny the Truth of God's Word
- ▶ Sensualism – attractiveness and desire replace God's standards for determining God's best in life – Gen. 3:1-6; 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- ▶ Sensationalism – immediate and noticeable success is more desirable than success as defined by God – Matt. 4:1-11; 1 Cor. 1:18-25
- ▶ Universalism – everything will be equal if God is to be fair – Matt. 13:24-30; John 1:12-13; 3:36; 5:24
- ▶ Rationalism – human reasons is substituted for a biblically informed faith – Mat. 16:21-23; Isa. 55:9
- ▶ Existentialism – I am the master of my own fate – 2 Cor. 4:4; John 3:16-21

# Four Satanic Objectives

- ▶ 1. Distort or Deny the Truth of God's Word
- ▶ Illusionism – I believe anything that claims to be from God or about Him without any further investigation or Bible study – 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Deut. 13:1-5; 1 John 4:1-4
- ▶ Ecumenism – I believe that all sincere religions involve valid expressions of worshiping the true God – Rev. 2:9; 3:9
- ▶ Humanism – I can defeat Satan alone without God's help – Jude 9; John 15:5

# Four Satanic Objectives

- ▶ 2. Discredit the Testimony of God's People
- ▶ Situationalism – God's Word is flexible enough to bend when I judge the situation demands it because it cannot be all black and white, right or wrong – Acts 5:1-11; Psa. 119:89
- ▶ Individualism – my first goal is pleasing myself, not others – 1 Cor. 7:1-5; Eph. 5:22-25
- ▶ Isolationism – My reputation will not affect anyone else but me – 1 Tim. 3:7; 2 Sam. 12:14; 1 Tim. 6:1; Titus 2:5
- ▶ Hedonism – I am free to satisfy myself and am not responsible for anyone else – 1 Tim. 5:14-15; 2 Thess. 3:10

# Four Satanic Objectives

- ▶ 3. Depress or Destroy the Believer's Enthusiasm for God's Word and Works
- ▶ Materialism – I value material and physical blessings more than my spiritual relationship to Christ – Job 1:1-2:13; Matt. 6:33
- ▶ Defeatism – Because I have failed I am no longer useful on the King's service – Luke 22:31-34; Psa. 32:1-7
- ▶ Negativism – My weakness prevents me from being effective for God – 2 Cor. 12:7-10; Phil. 4:13
- ▶ Pessimism – the difficulties in my life cause me to doubt that I will ever accomplish anything significant for God – 1 Thess. 2:17-3:2; Psa. 37:23-24



# Four Satanic Objectives

- ▶ 4. Dilute the Effectiveness of God's People
- ▶ Egotism – I will attribute what I am or do to my own ability and accomplishment – 1 Chron. 21:1; 1 Tim. 3:6; Jer. 9:24-25; 1 Peter 5:6
- ▶ Nominalism – I am saved so anything I do is not important – Zech. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:1-6
- ▶ Cultism – my salvation is based on my works rather than on faith in Christ alone – Luke 22:3-6; Ephesians 2:8-9
- ▶ Uniformitarianism – my relationship with others (trespassing believers or the lost) will remain the same because we are all hypocrites – 2 Cor. 2:5-11; Eph. 4:32
- ▶ Assertivism – it is healthy for me to vent my anger and frustration frequently and for long periods of time – Eph. 4:26-27; James 1:19-20

# Satan's Assaults

- ▶ 1. Disguise – Satan deceived Adam and Eve by appearing in the form of a beautiful and “crafty” creature, the Serpent. He can appear as an angel of light.
- ▶ 2. Dialogue – through discussion that steered Eve away from the Word of God and even found her adding to it, Satan talked her into thinking what was right was wrong and what was wrong was right.
- ▶ 3. Doubt – Eve was led to question what God had actually said and why He had said it. She doubted a perfectly holy and good God who had placed them in a perfectly good garden with only one restriction.
- ▶ 4. Denial – Satan fed Eve 5 lies to motivate her to deny God's Word. He told her she would not die, if they ate and did not die immediately then God was not reliable, her eyes would be open and she would be like God knowing good and evil, God's motives could not be trusted because He was withholding something from them, and Satan convinced Even that he had her best interests at heart and was protecting her from the abuse of God.

# Satan's Assaults

- ▶ Deliberation – Eve decided she had to test what God said vs. what the Serpent said to discover the truth. She believed the fruit looked good, was good for food, and would make her wise.
- ▶ Death – Adam and Eve's minds were affected immediately and they suddenly perceived evil. They knew they were naked and tried to cover themselves. Guilt and shame destroyed the purity of the Garden. Their sin led to conflict, blaming one another and even God for what happened, and found them separated from God and their relationship with Him as it had been before. Because of their sin they began immediately to die and eventually did die because of the entrance of sin into the world.

# The Believer's Defenses

- ▶ God's Protective Armor – Ephesians 6:10-20 – Put On Christ – Eph. 4:17-24
- ▶ The Belt of Truth – Eph. 6:14, 17; John 14:6
- ▶ The Breastplate of Righteousness – covering the heart – protecting the mind and emotions – 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Peter 3:18
- ▶ Shoes of Readiness – embracing the gospel for firm footing in the battle.
- ▶ The Shield of Faith – quench the fiery darts of the enemy.
- ▶ The Helmet of Salvation – the continual renewing of the minds of those who are saved.
- ▶ The Sword of the Spirit – the Word of God
- ▶ Prayer – at all times, in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication, keep alert, all perseverance, and by all the saints

# The Believer's Defenses

- ▶ Christ's Victory at the Cross – Jesus has already won – John 12:31; Heb. 2:14; Rev. 12:11
- ▶ The Overcomers Promise – we are promised that we will overcome the world, flesh, and the devil – 1 John 2:13; 5:4-5
- ▶ Christ's Intercession for us – John 17:15, 20
- ▶ Christ's Protection – 1 John 5:18
- ▶ The Power of the Indwelling Spirit – 1 John 4:4
- ▶ The Knowledge of Satan's Schemes – 2 Cor. 2:11; 1 Peter 5:8

# The Believer's Defenses

- ▶ Prayer – Matt. 6:13 (deliver us from evil); Eph. 6:12, 18
- ▶ Biblical Instructions – submit to God, resist the devil – James 4:7-8; 1 Peter 5:9
- ▶ Pastors who Strengthen and Equip the Church – 1 Thess. 3:2; Rev. 20:10
- ▶ Confidence (Faith) in Christ that He has Won the Victory! – Rev. 20:10

Next Week: Lesson 70 - Satan's Character and Judgments