

DEVIL

The Goal of our study :

To know your enemy (2 Cor. 2:11) The Christian life is not a bed of roses; it's a battlefield

The Challenge of Balance

Unbalance #1– Take Satan too seriously. Then Christianity becomes a life of ‘devil-dodging’

The error of Middle Ages with monasticism; of modern charismatics

They don't understand the triumph of the cross;

They don't trust God to keep them safe in this world (John 17:15)

Unbalance #2– Take Satan too lightly. The problem with our ‘scientific’ modern age.

BY THE WAY–Satan just LOVES both these mistakes.

The Bible's Portrait of the Devil

1. “Adversary” 1 Peter 5:8. The Hebrew word “Satan” means adversary. “Devil” means slanderer
2. “The Original Sinner.” 1 John 3:8. Satan was a rebel at the earliest point of world history, trying to deceive mankind to join his cause of rebellion (Gen 3:4)
3. “Angel that left his proper place and sinned” Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4.
4. A fallen son of God (Job 1:6-7).
5. “Angel of Light” whose purpose is to tempt with ‘good’ so that we follow the “power of darkness.” (2 Cor. 11:14; Colossians 1:13)
6. Serpent (Gen. 3:1; Rev. 20:2), a dragon (Rev. 12; 20:2), a roaring lion (1 Pet. 5:8)
7. A Tempter (Matt. 4:3) the evil one (John 17:15), a liar and murderer (John 8:44)

His Mentality

1. To keep us AWAY from God's blessing. He denies he has lost the war with Jesus (Rev. 12:12)
 - a. By leading us to sin (Genesis 3); to blasphemy and into depression/despair (Job 1:6-2:10)
 - b. By slandering us to God's face (Job 1:9ff.; Rev. 12:10)
 - c. He is at work in the “sons of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2) to keep them blind to God's truth (2 Cor. 4:4) until the end of their life comes, and it is too late for them to be saved.
2. From Jesus' standpoint, the world He came to save was occupied territory-with Satan as prince (John 12:31; 1 John 5:19)

His Captivity

1. Satan and his demons are prisoners, ever since the Fall. They are kept in chains until the Last Day (Jude 6; Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10)
2. Satan is a wild dog on a chain. God gives Satan specific latitude, and no more. (Job; Rev. 20:1-3)
3. Though Satan tried his hardest, Jesus conquered completely (Col. 2:15). Examples???
4. Satan's captivity and failure is seen every time Jesus, from heaven, has His gospel preached and believed on in the world (Acts 26:18)

His Tools

1. Deception. ‘wiles’ (Eph. 6:11). HE LOVES TO USE RELIGION. (Acts 13:10; Matthew 23)
2. He uses both our strengths AND our weaknesses—our sinful flesh and lusts; OR our love for truth

Our Weapons

BE strong IN THE LORD's ARMOR (Ephesians 6:11-18)

1. God is always overruling when Satan tempts the Christian (1 Cor. 10:13)
2. Satan always flees when the Christian resists (James 4:7)
3. God's armor has NO PROTECTION FOR YOUR BACK. NO HELP FOR THOSE WHO tuck tail and run from the fight. But stand and pray and fight—you win EVERY TIME. (1 Peter 5:9-11; Romans 16:20)