

WHO IS THE DEVIL?

Intro: We begin tonight a series on, What the Scriptures Teach about the Devil.

→ The need for this

The child of God has three main enemies:

- 1) The flesh within us.
- 2) The world around us.
- 3) The Devil above us.

JAMES
MENTIONS
ALL THREE

Our need in it:

Prayer - Jn. 17:15.

Object: simplicity & clarity.

All that we need to know about each of these enemies is given to us IN THE WORD OF GOD! It is amazing how even believers will read any and everything that they can get their hands on except the Bible in order to understand either what man is, or what the world is, or what the Devil is.

We are in no position to judge what we read about or hear about elsewhere unless we know what the Scriptures teach. Therefore, in this series we are going to be talking about what the Scriptures teach.

From the Scriptures . . .

Two prominent names are given to the Devil:

- 1) The Devil -- which is never used in the OT. It means an accuser or slanderer. (Read Rev. 12:7-12.)
- 2) Satan -- which is used in only 4 books of the OT: 1 Chron. 21:1; Job 1, 2; Psa. 109:6; Zech. 3:1, 2.

But it is used in 12 books of the NT. It means adversary.

Note: The Devil in some way is referred to by every writer in the NT.

→ (On Satan, read 1 Pet. 5:8.)

We will be noting other names and/or titles which are given to the Devil in the Bible.

So far we have seen what he is now. But has he always been this way? Where did he come from? Just who is he? Is he a real person, or is this just a term to be used for something evil and mysterious and unfortunate which we cannot understand?

Let us turn to the Scriptures for our answer. Our first passage is Ezek. 28:11-19. (Read.)

Now anyone has the right to ask, But how do you know that this passage is talking about the Devil when he is not named in the passage? There are two answers to this question:

- 1) The description given here goes beyond what any king of Tyre ever has been, or ever could be!
- 2) Most of the things mentioned here are either taught or implied about the Devil in other passages of Scripture.

But, you should also ask another question: Why is he even related to the king of Tyre? The answer is simple.

In Matt. 4:8, 9 we read about the Devil's third and final temptation of our Lord. It reads as follows:

"Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceedingly high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them, And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me."

Our Lord never denied the Devil's ability to do this. In 2 Cor. 4:4 the Apostle Paul, referring to the Devil as "the god of this world," or, of this age.

So, the Devil is spoken of as the king of Tyre because he evidently was one of the ancient kings who was especially energized by Satan. He is carrying out his evil purposes among the nations of the earth as the world's god.

We will be looking at Isa. 14:12-14 in the course of our study of the Devil. The same situation prevails in that passage -- only with Babylon. And the explanation is the same.

Now we are ready for Ezek. 28:11-19. What does it teach us about the Devil?

There are at least 12 significant things mentioned here:

- I. He is a created being. Therefore, he is not as great as God.
- II. Since he is a created being, we are right in inferring from this passage that the Devil is not omnipresent. He can only be in one place at one time.
- III. He is a cherub. This is one of the terms used in the Bible for an angel. And so we learn from this that it is normal for him to be invisible to human sight although there are times in the Bible when he has appeared in some visible form.
- IV. Because he is an angel, his power is super human. But he is not omnipotent, as God is. Putting these two things together both serves as a warning and gives us comfort. The Devil is stronger than we are, but not stronger than God is. The fact that he is judged by God in the passage we have read is evidence that God is mightier than he is. The Apostle John tells us, "Greater is he that is in you (referring to believers), than he that is in the world."
Cf. 1 John 4:4b.

V. He was the covering cherub.

Two passages help us here:

- 1) Gen. 3:24 (read).
- 2) Ex. 25:22 (read).

Evidently to the Devil was originally given the charge of guarding the presence of God. At the same time it gave him peculiar access to God. It would seem that no creature was ever closer to God; no creature was ever given greater responsibility and power.

This would make his sin that much greater both as to its punishment, and as to its effect upon others.

Now we are ready to say that . . .

VI. The Devil is a person.

Do not let the fact that he does not have a body which we can see confuse you. Remember that even our Lord did not have a body until the time of His incarnation, but He certainly was a Person before that time.

God is a Person, and so is the Holy Spirit.

And the Devil is a person. He can speak. He has wisdom. He exercises his will. The Scriptures indicate beyond any doubt that the Devil is a real, living person.

VII. The Devil is very beautiful.

This was the reason for his fall -- as we shall see. But he still is beautiful, and he attracts with that which is beautiful. He tempted Eve in the garden of Eden with that which "was pleasant to the eyes" (Gen. 3:6).

Paul says about one of the Devil's tactics,
 "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostle of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as minister of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works" (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

VIII. The Devil is extremely wise -- "full of wisdom" (Ez. 28:12b). He is much wiser than man is, but not omniscient -- not as wise as God is. His wisdom is corrupt.

Now we can bring together those three great and unique characteristics of God -- omnipresence, omnipotence, omniscience -- and we can declare that the Devil has none of them!

- IX. The Devil was originally "perfect in" his "ways from the day that thou was created, till iniquity was found in" him. Cf. Ez. 28:15.

How important it is to learn from the Scriptures that God did not create him as the Devil and Satan. This is what he became!

So that we must now say that . . .

- X. The Devil is now a sinner -- the first sinner.

Make sure that you note that even before Adam sinned or Eve sinned, the Devil had already sinned and was in active rebellion against God.

He is called in the NT by such terms as

- 1) "The evil one" (John 17:15 - NASB).
- 2) "A murderer" (John 8:44).
- 3) "A liar" (John 8:44).

Note: All of these expressions were used by our Lord.

Is it any wonder that the Devil wants to keep us away from our Bibles?

- XI. The Devil's original sin was his pride: "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty" (Ez. 28:17).

When Paul was writing about the qualifications of a bishop, he taught this:

"Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil" (1 Tim. 3:6).

Pride is still the root sin.

- XII. We can thank God that even Ez. 28 indicates that the Devil is irrevocably under the judgment of God.

Illus: One of our judges has taken a very strong stand which he needs to be commended for in saying that there are some criminals who should never be parolled. This is where the Devil stands in his relationship with God. There is no salvation for him; he is under the sentence of eternal death.

Our Lord said this twice in the Gospel of John:

- 1) John 12:31, "Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the prince of this world be cast out."
- 2) John 16:11, "Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."

And the Apostle John tells us in Rev. 20:10,
"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever."

Concl: This is the Scriptural portrait of the Devil.

We do not see a red suit, a forked tail, and a pitchfork in his hand. He is evil beyond description, but he can also be attractive and reasonable beyond our powers to resist him. Remember he is like the Word says he is. Here he is exposed. Let us thank God for the picture -- and thank Him also that He has made provision to deliver us from the clutches of Satan and from the powerful temptations which he places in our way.

Next week: WHAT WAS THE DEVIL'S FIRST SIN?

THE WORLD AND THE DEVIL

Intro: In our last two messages we have asked and sought to answer the questions:

- 1) Who Is The Devil?
- 2) What Was The Devil's First Sin?

Our first text was Ezek. 28; the second, Isa. 14.

We could easily have put both of those messages under the heading: The Devil and God. The Devil is against God, against Christ, against the Holy Spirit. This is basic to our understanding of our subject tonight: the World and the Devil.

We are going to see that this world is the present domain of the Devil. When we use the term, world, we are not only talking about the earth, but about the people who are on the earth.

In this connection, there are two things that we want to learn tonight:

- 1) The titles that are used of the Devil in this connection.
- 2) The work that he does in the world.

Please keep in mind that we are not talking about the people of God when we look at the passages that are before us tonight (although the Lord's people can sometimes become involved in what Satan does in the world). We are talking mainly about those who do not know the Lord, for our Lord said in His high priestly prayer:

"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world . . . They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world" (John 17:14, 16).

In another message we will think of Satan and his relationship with us as the people of God.

I. THE DEVIL'S TITLES IN THE WORLD.

I want you to see seven of them.

- A. "The prince of this world" (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Eph. 2:2).

The word basically means that he is a ruler.

In Matt. 9:24 the Pharisees referred to the devil as "the prince of demons." He is that, but he also rules in this world. And this is what Paul was talking about in Eph. 6:12.

And this is why, too, that the Devil could make the proposal to the Lord which he does in Matt. 4:8, 9, "Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceedingly high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them, and saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

While not in any way minimizing the sovereignty of God, yet we must see from this that Satan's interests in the world are political. The effect of his work is seen in the actions of the nations. He is seeking to replace the Lord Jesus Christ who, in Rev. 1:5 is called, "the Prince of the kings of the earth."

B. "The god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4).

In the title above we have seen that the Devil is interested in politics; in this title we see his interest in religion. The study of the religions of the world helps you to understand what the Devil has done as the god of this world.

As "god," He seeks to replace GOD! He wants to be worshiped. He wants to be obeyed.

BUT . . . (and this is most important of all) as "the god of this world" he is utterly and violently opposed to the gospel and seeks to hold me in spiritual darkness and death. We can never understand evangelism if we fail to recognize this. Only in the Word of God do we see how Satan's ability to keep the world in blindness can be overcome. BUT WE MUST ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND THE FACT THAT THE GOSPEL WILL NEVER BE POPULAR IN THE WORLD AS LONG AS THE DEVIL IS "THE GOD OF THIS WORLD."

C. He is the evil one (John 17:15).

The term that our Lord used here means one whose work, whose effect on the world, is always bad -- bad in God's sight. If the devil ever seeks to do good, it is only that he might later do evil.

The last four titles, or names, that are given to the Devil in his relationship with the world are found in Rev. 12. Note them carefully.

D. He is "a great red dragon" (Rev. 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17).

This speaks of his amazing power -- greater than any single man, and greater than nations -- with authority to some extent at least over the stars of heaven.

As the dragon he is especially opposed to Christ and to Israel because of Christ (as we learn from Rev. 12).

E. He is "that old serpent" (Rev. 12:9,¹⁴15).

This speaks of his wisdom. Cf. Matt. 10:16 and 2 Cor. 11:3. He is sly, subtle. He is very old, you know, and very experienced. His wisdom is far greater than ours.

(He is "the Devil" (Rev. 12:9) -- which means slanderer, accuser, a term which we are going to reserve for the time when we talk about the people of God.)

In this area he is described by Peter as a "roaring lion"

F. He is "Satan" (Rev. 12:9) -- which means adversary. This applies to believers, too, but it has special meaning for the world. Satan is everybody's adversary. He never becomes your friend. He never does good except to provide an opportunity to do evil. This is important for us to understand.

G. He is a deceiver (Rev. 12:9).

(1 Pet. 5:8). Many, many times we see him using this approach. He used it in the Garden of Eden; he used it with our Lord.

These give us the primary titles which are used of the Devil in the Word -- things which we would not know of him IF they had not been given to us in the Scriptures. THE FACT THAT PEOPLE WILL EITHER DENY HIS EXISTENCE, OR WORSHIP HIM, SHOWS HOW EFFECTIVE THE DEVIL HAS BEEN IN HIS WORK IN THE WORLD.

II. THE WORK THAT HE DOES IN THE WORLD.

From the above titles and references it is a simple thing for us as believers to see what the Devil can be expected to do. And the Book of the Revelation would indicate that the time of his greatest activity and greatest effectiveness will be during the Great Tribulation.

A. Politically -- among the nations of the earth.

We can expect true God-lessness to continue and to increase. Psalm 2 gives us a picture of how the nations will yet be stirred up as never before against God.

Evidence of his work can be seen today when, in the midst of all of our troubles, there is an amazing silence in one regard: No one is saying that we are in such troubles because we have turned from the Lord -- BUT THAT IS EXACTLY THE REASON.

B. Religiously.

It is going to become increasingly difficult to preach the Gospel. Those who point to the Gospel as the answer to our need will be considered more and more to be fools. BUT . . . LET US CONTINUE TO TAKE GOD AT HIS WORD. TIMES MAY CHANGE, BUT THE WORD AND THE WAYS OF GOD DO NOT CHANGE. WE ARE GOING TO BE THROWN MORE AND MORE UPON GOD, UPON OUR TIMES WITH HIM IN PRAYER, AND WE WILL SEE GREAT VICTORIES WON IN THE LIVES OF MEN THROUGH THE GOSPEL -- but not through any substitute, nor by the methods of men.

2 Cor. 4:3-7.

C. Morally.

The Devil is "the evil one." His specialty is SIN! When he has his way, iniquity abounds! Even the things of God are degraded.

Illus: The magazine GENESIS.

Illus: Our hymns are being used by the world -- not a cause for rejoicing, but a cause for alarm!

Illus: Nudity and immorality are becoming a way of life for Americans. Statistics show that we are the most violent nation on the face of the earth!

Illus: Churches for homosexuals are even being formed and this sin is overlooked and men who boldly confess it have been ordained as ministers in some churches.

Read 2 Tim. 3 if you want to see conditions as they exist today -- and also Romans 1.

Concl: What is the answer for us?

Let me make several suggestions:

- 1) Spend more time reading the Word than you ever have before in your lives.
 In you are not reading the Word, start tonight.
 You are asking for trouble if you are not getting the Word daily. Do not let a day go by with ^{out} one or two times in the Word. Read it by yourself, and read ^{it} with your family. Every part of the armor in Eph. 6 has something to do with the Word. You cannot stand against the Devil without the Word!
- 2) Spend more time in prayer. If you are not praying, start tonight. It is possible for us to lay a heavy emphasis on the Word, but to be weak in prayer.
 Pray for yourself -- all of your needs. You can talk to the Lord freely and without fear about them.
 Pray for your husband or wife, your sons and your daughters, your brothers and your sisters, all of your relatives.
 Pray for your Pastor and for the Church Staff.
 Pray for your neighbors and friends.
 Pray for the missionaries.
 Pray for the ministry of the Word.
- 3) Be prompt in your obedience to the Word. "Whatever He saith unto you, do it." The Lord will help you, will strengthen you, so that you can obey. Cf. **Phil.** 2:13.
- 4) Let the Lord always be your delight, and be careful about over-estimating yourself in your own eyes, or in the eyes of others.

Only the Lord knows what is coming. But one thing is sure: things are not going to get better. Therefore, it is only as we get down to the basics will we be able to stand and to minister effectively in these last days.

In the words of Charles Wesley which we sang this morning,

"Leave no unguarded place, no weakness of the soul;
 Take every virtue, every grace, and fortify the whole.
 From strength to strength go on,
 Wrestle and fight and pray;
 Tread all the powers of darkness down,
 and win the well-fought day."

THE DEVIL AND THE WORD OF GOD

Gen. 3:1-5; Matt. 4:1-11

Intro: The first thing that is told us about the Devil in Scripture has to do with his attitude toward the Word of God.

Before we enter into this we need to remind ourselves of the importance of Scripture. It is only through Scripture that we know:

- 1) About God.
- 2) About man.
- 3) About the will of God, and about that which is contrary to the will of God, either positively or negatively: sin.

The above just about includes everything, but, if we wanted to be specific, the list could be much, much longer.

Therefore, if we get away from the Word of God, we can easily be deceived. We are intellectually and spiritually ignorant and helpless concerning the things of God. SO-- IF THE DEVIL CAN DO ANYTHING TO DESTROY OUR CONFIDENCE IN THE WORD OF GOD, OR IF HE CAN GET US TO ACT CONTRARY TO THE WORD OF GOD, HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED HIS PURPOSE! And so it is not surprising to see that there could be no sin until the Word of God was set aside.

Cf. Psa. 119:11. ("Hidden" means treasured. And to have it, as he says, "in my heart," is to have it where it can have the most profound effect on that person's life.)

Along with the Genesis passage, we need also to note that the first contact that the Devil had with our Lord showed his attitude toward the Word of God.

We may come back to deal with both of these passages in connection with temptation, but we are thinking tonight about the Devil and the Word of God.

Note two things which seem to have laid the foundation for Eve's sin in Gen. 3:

- 1) Satan disguised himself -- and he approached Eve on what was probably the highest level among the creatures.
- 2) The way Satan spoke of God should have been a warning to Eve. Note how "Lord God" is used before and after in Gen. 2 and 3. Sin is always built upon deficient understanding of God Himself!

Now let us notice:

I. HIS OUTWARD ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WORD.

It is also important to notice the progression in his temptation of Eve.

- A. He questions the Word of God. See Gen. 3:1.

Oh, the damage that can be done in a human heart when God is approached with doubt! Cf. Heb. 11:6.

- B. He denies the Word of God. See Gen. 3:4.

Cf. Gen. 2:17.

See also John 8:44,
 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it."

The only way we can possibly know the truth is to start with the Word of God.

- C. He interprets the Word of God. See Gen. 3:5.

We will look in just a minute at the reason behind this, but, for now, notice the fact.

And notice, too, that you have temptation on a high level. The Devil is suggesting that man can become like God by disobeying Him, and also indicating that God did not want man to be like Him. Why, then, we can ask, did God create man, of all His creatures, in His own image and likeness?

But now let us go to Matthew 4 and see what we can learn from Matthew's account of our Lord's temptation.

- D. The Devil does not hesitate to use the Word of God. See Matt. 4:6. *Shakespeare, Merch. of Venice: "The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose."*

Many people are deceived because of the Word. They note only that it is used -- not HOW it is used!

- E. Both Genesis 3:5 and Matthew 4:6 show us that The Devil adds to and leaves out whatever he wants to in order to get what he is after.

HE IS AN EXPERT AT THE PROOF-TEXT. This makes it all the more important that we know ALL of the Word of God as a systematic and progressive revelation from God.

But why does Satan do this? Why is it so important that our confidence in the Word of God be shaken?

We can see this, too, in the passages we are considering tonight. Let us look at . . .

II. HIS HIDDEN MOTIVES.

Ultimately, of course, it is to ruin man eternally. But what must he do before he does that? HE MUST DESTROY OUR CONFIDENCE IN GOD.

Do you remember how Paul rejoiced over the believers in Thessalonica? Cf. 1 Thess. 2:13,

"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing because, when ye received the word of GOD which ye heard of us, ye received it, not as the word of men but as it is in truth, THE WORD OF GOD, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

All we know about God with certainty and in detail we know from the Word. Therefore, to destroy our confidence in God, the Devil must destroy our confidence in His Word.

What about God does He question?

- A. He questions God's reasonableness. See Gen. 3:1.
- B. He questions God's goodness. See Gen. 3:5.
- C. He questions God's will. This is seen throughout our Lord's temptations, but especially in the one which Matthew places last. Surely there must be more than one way to do the will of God, he would have us believe.

Concl: What can we say, then, to these things?

The record shows how wrong Satan was and how right God was. Therefore, let us remember these things and do them:

- 1) We must be doing all that we can to know what God has given us in His Word. Never neglect it, even for a day. Read it constantly, and read large portions of it.
- 3) Always face every situation in the light of the Word. If your circumstances seem to contradict the Word, or if human wisdom seems contrary, disregard circumstances and disregard your wisdom. God's Word is always true.
- 2) Seek to know the Word systematically.
- 4) Obey the Word. Cf. 1 Pet. 5:8, 9,
"Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walketh about, seeking

THE DEVIL AND THE GOSPEL

Scripture references: Luke 8:4-15, esp. vv. 5, 12; 2 Cor. 4:3, 4; Eph. 6:10-20; Matt. 25:41.

Intro: Last Sunday in speaking about the Devil and the Word of God we saw that Satan hates the Word of God.

Wherever possible he will:

- 1) Cast doubt upon it.
- 2) Deny it.
- 3) Falsely interpret it.
- 4) Use it.
- 5) Add to it, or take away from it.

The fact that Satan's first appearance in the OT is in opposition to the Word, and that the same is true of his first appearance in the NT, all goes to show that he considers the Word of God as his #1 target. He must do away with the Word of God.

Tonight we want to look at just a part of that Word: the Gospel.

The Gospel is the message of the Scriptures which has to do with the salvation of men. John 3:16 gives us simply and clearly the Gospel. It basically takes into consideration the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ -- Who He is, and why all this happened to Him.

In order to understand the Devil and his attitude toward the Gospel, there are other things that we need to understand.

I. THE DESTINY OF SATAN.

We see this in Matt. 25:41 and Rev. 20:10. The first reads:

"Then shall he (the King) say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

The second:

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever."

Hell was not really prepared for men, but for the Devil and his angels. However, this is the destiny of those who continue under his control.

II. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE WORLD.

A. The people of the world are in bondage to Satan.

In Col. 1:13, speaking of those who know the Lord, Paul says that God had
"delivered" them "from the power (authority) of darkness, and hath translated" them "into the kingdom of his dear Son."

In 1 John 5:19 John wrote,
"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness," or, lit., in the wicked one -- the Devil.

Westcott says that this means under his influence. They are under his power (NASB), under his control. The people of the world are subjects of Satan.

2 Tim. 2:26 adds to this information:

"And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."

Men are trapped and held captive by Satan.

B. The people of the world are energized by Satan.

Cf. Eph. 3:2:

"In which (sins) in times 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 sons of disobedience."

And this leads to another observation.

C. The people of the world are in the family of Satan.

Cf. John 8:44a,

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do."

All of the above adds up to a hopeless condition. Men are held in bondage by the Devil and unable to set themselves free.

However, this is why the Lord Jesus Christ came -- to set men free, free from Satan's power, free from eternal judgment. This is why the Lord said in John 8:36,

"If the Son, therefore, shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

That freedom comes through the Gospel.

So, now we need to notice another factor in this whole problem:

III. THE WORK OF SATAN WITH RESPECT TO THE GOSPEL.

Two things can be said:

- 1) He is busy outwardly.
- 2) He is busy dealing with man himself.

In addition we want to note his substitutes.

- A. He snatches the Gospel out of their hearts before they are saved.

Cf. Luke 8:4-15, esp. vv. 5, 12. (Note the evidence of the world and the flesh as well as of the devil.)

- B. He blinds the minds of men so that they cannot understand.

Cf. 2 Cor. 4:3, 4,

"But if our Gospel be hidden it is hidden to them that are lost, In whom the god of this age hath blinded the minds of them who believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

We are not told how he does this, but we are aware of it every time we talk to one who is not a believer about Christ.

- C. He promotes false teaching.

Cf. 2 Cor. 11:1-15, esp. vv. 13-15.

Also cf. 1 Tim. 4:1-3.

IV. WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

- A. We must continue to give people the Gospel.

Cf. 2 Tim. 4:1-5; 2:24-26.

- B. We must be careful about our lives.

Cf. 2 Cor. 4:5-7.

Not only must we be careful about strife and argument; we must also be careful about pride and self-confidence.

- C. We must pray.

Eph. 6:18-20; Col. 4:2-4.

Concl: This throws the whole subject of evangelism into a different light. Eph. 6:10 ff. gives us some very important truths regarding evangelism (although it cannot be limited just to the proclamation of the Gospel).

Our battle is not just with men, but with the Devil.

Our weapons are not of man, but of God.

Our training, our knowledge, our experience are meaningless if the Lord is not at work in us. He works as we walk with Him, as we pray, and as we speak to others about Christ.

We can rejoice in two facts:

1) Satan is already defeated.

2) God is greater than Satan is.

Therefore, as we do, by the grace of God, what we are taught to do about the evangelization of the world, we can expect to see the blessing of God in bringing people to know our Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

THE WILES OF THE DEVIL
Eph. 6:11

Intro: There are several reasons why we should study the Word of God:

- 1) Because it is pleasing to God for us to know His Word. This is expressed in many places in the Scriptures and is indicated in the very fact that God would give us His Word. Cf. 2 Tim. 2:15 -- "approved unto God."
- 2) Because it is necessary for our spiritual growth. There is no other way for a Christian to grow except through the Word of God -- knowing it, and then living it.
- 3) Because this is what we are to minister to others. We must know what we are going to preach, or teach. Cf. 2 Tim. 4:1-4.

Note: The last part of the 2 Tim. 4 reference introduces the reason that we are interested in in connection with our studies about the Devil.

- 4) Because there is no other way that we can possibly know error.

This is simply but forcibly introduced in Gen. 3:1-6. The very basis upon which the Devil approached Eve was to discredit the Word of God.

And he has been doing it ever since. Note Paul's concern in 2 Cor. 11:3, 13-15. This expresses a true pastor's heart for his people. The greatest defense that we have against error is the knowledge of the truth.

This same concern is seen in our text for tonight: Eph. 6:10, 11.

I. WHAT THIS EXPRESSION REVEALS ABOUT THE DEVIL.

The word translated, "wiles," is only found 2x in the NT. We get our word, methods, from it. It could also be translated, schemes, or stratagems. But the significant thing is that, both times it is used (in our text and in Eph. 4:14), it is used in a bad sense. These are evil methods, methods designed to do evil to us. In Eph. 4:14 we have an additional thought which we need -- it is deceitful scheming. To deceive in the NT means to make people wander or roam, i.e., wander from the truth of the Word of God into error by using deceit and delusion!

No person in his right mind wants to believe what is wrong. But the Devil does such an amazing job that he has men preaching error like it was the truth! This is why we need to know the Word of God!

II. A RELATED EXPRESSION (2 Cor. 2:11).

This is the word, "devices." In the Gk this means his purposes, his plans, his plots. The idea is that Satan wants to outwit us, to get the advantage over us, and so to defeat us.

How wonderful it would be if every child of God could say this as truthfully as the Apostle Paul does.

III. OTHER SCRIPTURES THAT SUPPORT THE PASSAGES ABOVE:

A. 1 Tim. 4:1-3.

Note the expression, "some shall depart from the faith" -- "the faith" (with the article) being almost a technical expression in the NT for the doctrines of the NT.

B. 2 Tim. 4:1-5.

This shows how dependent we are upon God as we teach because there is in man's heart, because of his sin, more of an inclination to believe what is wrong than to believe what is right!

C. 2 Cor. 11:3, 13-15.

This complicates the picture even more because it means that it is possible for those who know the truth to turn away from the truth.

As we get closer to the coming of the Lord, false teaching will increase. It would be impossible to speak of all of them. This is not really necessary. What we need to know is how to protect ourselves and others from the wiles of the devil.

IV. THE NEED.

All of these things have to do with the Word of God. The first two are taken from 2 Timothy; the third has to do with Paul's statement in 2 Cor. 11:3.

A. People -- all people -- need to know the doctrines of the Word of God.

Note this emphasis in 2 Tim. 3:13-16a.

Two things need to be said about the doctrines of Scripture:

1. They must be known. Cf. 2 Tim. 2:24-26.

2. They must be believed.

B. With special reference to the people of God -- the Word must be obeyed.

Note the practical words in 2 Tim. 3:16b and 4:2.
This is where the child of God often fails.

Cf. Eph. 4:27,

"Neither give place to the devil,"
along with practical exhortations of various kinds.

C. Christ must be given His rightful place in the Word.

Cf. 2 Cor. 11:3,

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent
beguiled Eve through his craftiness, so your
minds should be corrupted from the simplicity
that is in Christ."

The Word is a revelation of Christ. We lose the
very heart of it when we fail to see Him in the
Word.

Concl: The Lord never deceives us; the Devil always does.

Even when he uses the truth it is only that he
might lead us from the truth into error by deception.
Nothing is more important for us than to know and believe
and obey the truth, remembering that it speaks preeminently
of Christ.

THE DEFEAT OF THE DEVIL
Jas. 4:7

Intro: We have been learning many things about the Devil -- things which, I repeat, can only be learned in the Word of God. This BOOK is the only book which really shows him for what he is! This is why he has always hated the Scriptures.

The fact that Satan can be defeated and ultimately will be doomed (as we shall see next Sunday night) is clear from the first chapter which deals with him. Cf. Gen. 3:15.

But we are thinking tonight about how the child of God can see Satan overcome in his life.

Four passages are of special importance tonight:

- 1) Cf. James 4:1-10. Note that here we have:
 - a) The flesh in vv. 1-3.
 - b) The world in v. 4.
 - c) The devil in vv. 5-10.
- 2) Cf. Matt. 26:36-46. The background for the next passage is given here. Then see . . .
- 3) Cf. 1 Pet. 5:5b-9. We go back with Peter to the Upper Room and then ~~XXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ to Gethsemane.
- 4) Cf. Eph. 6:10-20.

Several things come out of these passages:

I. THE CHILD OF GOD IS ENGAGED IN AN UNENDING WAR.
(IN THIS LIFE)

The problem, according to Eph. 6, is that it is not a war against human beings (although they may be involved in it), but it is a war against unseen, demonic forces.

Therefore, the ordinary implements of warfare are useless. You cannot shoot a demon, nor can you bomb hell.

Cf. 2 Cor. 10:3, 4,

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds)."

Peter changes the figure somewhat by describing the Devil as "a roaring lion." Cf. 1 Pet. 5:8.

If we understand that the war goes on and on then we will understand the reasoning behind what both Paul and James and Peter have to say about the conflict.

If we as a nation were at war tonight, with the enemy

on the outskirts of Portland, or, if the report were out that a hungry lion were roaming the streets of the city, WHAT WOULD BE OUR ATTITUDE AND WHAT SAFEGUARDS WOULD WE TAKE?

This will give us some idea of the nature of our warfare against Satan.

II. THE ~~WEAPONS~~ ^{MEANS} BY WHICH SATAN IS DEFEATED.

This will sound very, very strange to you if you have never given serious thought to the war in which we are engaged.

It goes without saying that the defeat of the Devil is guaranteed by the work of Christ on the cross. Cf.

1) John 12:31,

"Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the prince of this world be cast out."

2) John 16:11,

"Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."

3) Rev. 12:11,

"And they overcame him (the Devil) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their life unto the death."

This is not a magic formula, but a very basic truth which will be brought out tonight.

But these verses show that, when we are able to defeat the Devil, we are entering into what our Lord has already accomplished for us -- as in salvation!

But what are our weapons. The order is not significant since it all goes together. The order is different in the different passages which we have read.

A. The soldier and his Commander-in-Chief.

Two things stand out: humility and submission.

Submission calls for obedience. Cf. Josh. 1:8,

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

B. The soldier and his armor.

Here we find that two things are preeminently

important from Eph. 6:

- 1) The Word upon us.
- 2) Prayer from us. "Be sober" -- awake.
"Be vigilant" -- on guard.

C. The soldier and his enemy.

We are to "resist" him, not run from him.

Note what the Word says about each of our enemies:

- 1) The flesh: we "flee" from it. Cf. 1 Tim. 2:22,
"Flee youthful lusts."

Example #1 is Joseph with Potiphar's wife.

- 2) The world: "Be not conformed to this world" (Rom. 12:2). "Love not the world . . ." (1 Jn. 2:15-17). And James says, ". . . friendship with the world is enmity with God.

What do we usually do?

- 1) We flee from the Devil.
- 2) We resist the flesh.
- 3) We try to win the world by being like the world.

BUT HOW DO WE RESIST THE DEVIL?

Peter says, "Whom resist steadfast in the faith." This means that we take a strong stand on the Word, obeying it in the thick of the battle, unmoved from the great doctrines which it teaches, always believing it to be true.

GOD'S PROMISE - "AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU."

Concl: What is it that the Devil is seeking to do?

Two things:

- 1) To keep the world from knowing about the Savior.
- 2) To keep believers from growing in the Savior.

If he can stop the second, he can stop the first.

What is our hope? See how Paul develops this in 2 Cor. 2. And then read vv 14-17,

"Now thanks be unto God, who always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savor of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savor of death unto death; and to the other, the savor of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not as many, who corrupt the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ."

ILLUSTRATION: DAVID AND GOLIATH

THE DEVIL'S ULTIMATE DOOM
Rev. 20:1-3, 7-10

Intro: Tonight I am concluding the present series on the Devil. This is the best part because we are to see what his ultimate doom is.

In this, as with all that has to do with Satan, or the Devil, we are dependent upon what is revealed in the Word of God. There are **four** parts to it:

- 1) Prophesied.
- 2) Sealed.
- 3) Delayed.
- 4) Executed.

I. THE DEVIL'S ULTIMATE DOOM PROPHESIED.

Sin was committed by angels before man ever sinned. Apparently the final overthrow of the Devil was not announced until Gen. 3:14, 15 -- and it was to be all the more humiliating because it was to be brought about by a lesser creature in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ who came as a man.

This is the reason for the statement that our Lord was made for a little while "lower than angels," not only that He should "taste death for every man" but also "that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Heb. 2:9, 14, 15).

But our key text for this point is Gen. 3:15. (Read.)

From that point on you are able to trace the conflict in all that the Devil did to try to destroy the line of Christ, and all that God did to thwart what the Devil did.

Cf. 1 John 3:12,
"Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."

II. THE DEVIL'S ULTIMATE DOOM SEALED.

His doom was actually sealed when God declared it in Gen. 3:15, but we have in mind here that which took place as a guarantee that the Devil was actually doomed. We speak of the work of Christ on the Cross.

We have already seen that it was "through death" that our Lord did "destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14). "Destroy" does not mean to annihilate, but it is to strip him of his power, to render him powerless. IF THIS HAD NOT BEEN DONE, NO ONE COULD BE SAVED.

Cf. also Col. 2:13-15,

"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, aniling it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."

III. THE DEVIL'S ULTIMATE DOOM DELAYED.

The Devil was not immediately put away.

In fact, he is yet to have his greatest day -- during the time of the Great Tribulation.

For almost 2,000 years since the death of Christ the Devil has been permitted access, not only to the earth, but even to the heavens. Rev. 12:9, 10 tell us when the door of heaven will finally be closed to him -- during the Great Tribulation:

"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. 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."

This is known to the Devil and to the demons:

- 1) Concerning the Devil, John in Rev. 12:12 says the following:

"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

- 2) Concerning the demons, cf. Matt. 8:28, 29,

"And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, there met him two possessed with demons, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. And, behold, they cried out,

saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?"

Why has the execution of judgment upon Satan been delayed? We will say some things about that at the end.

IV. THE DEVIL'S ULTIMATE DOOM EXECUTED.

It will be twofold -- with another 1,000 years in between the two phases:

- 1) The first when he is bound and cast into the bottomless pit BEFORE the Millennium. Cf. Rev. 20:1-3.
- 2) The second when he is cast into the lake of fire AFTER the Millennium. Cf. Rev. 20:7-10.

Then, and only then, can there be a New Heaven and a New Earth -- a perfect eternal state.

Concl: What an amazing amount of truth we have covered. All of human history is involved in this subject of Satan's career and ultimate doom. This is obvious because it has taken us from Genesis to Revelation.

What does all of this mean? Why did the Lord not put the Devil into the lake of fire right after He died instead of waiting for what now appears to be at least 3,000 more YEARS?

There are several reasons:

- 1) To display God's power over all that the Devil might even yet do to annul the gracious purposes of God in salvation. Cf. Eph. 1:11 and John 16:7, 11.
- 2) To show the righteousness of God in judging the Devil. No one has had more opportunity to repent, nor more reason to repent, than the Devil has. And yet even after a Millennium to consider his need, he comes out exactly the same.

Let us be careful about the way we judge God with unrighteousness in connection with His judgment of the wicked.

Remember that HELL, "everlasting fire," was "prepared for the devil and his angels" -- it was not prepared for men!

- 3) To show how hopelessly man, apart from Christ, is in bondage to the Devil. Think of the people who are living at the end of the Millennium, but who do not know the Lord! They join with the Devil against God after having experienced the closest thing to heaven on earth!
- 4) To prove that even with His people the Lord Jesus has gained the victory for, "greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." Cf. 1 John 4:4b.