

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

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SATAN IN EPHESIANS

Satan is a counterfeit of GOD and he is always trying to counterfeit the things of GOD. Our LORD dwells in "light which no man can approach unto." Satan is called an "angel of light" and he is. GOD gives us the true light and the devil tries to counterfeit this true light with his false light. Our LORD dwells in the "thick darkness." Satan is king of the places of darkness. Everything that GOD has for us, Satan tries to counterfeit His business is to keep CHRIST from getting as much glory as possible.

If he can get us downhearted so we will quit singing and worshipping the LORD, he has accomplished his purpose. If he can allure us into sin, so that we dishonor GOD, he has wrought his desires. He wants to keep us from getting to Heaven safely. His enmity and antagonism is against CHRIST, but he uses us. We need grace from Heaven to keep from following him and being deceived by him.

Satan has six ways to make the Christian powerless and useless.

1. He gets him to live in open sin, such as stealing, drinking, gambling, etc.
2. He gets him to believe some evil doctrine or hold some wrong faith. Even a believer can be deceived and led astray to believe that which is not true at all.
3. He gets him to magnify some truth out of its proper place, such as baptism, or the second coming. When a Christian takes any truth in the Bible and magnifies it out of its proportion, he ceases to be a useful Christian. Too much sunshine is a curse. Too much breeze becomes a cyclone. Too much rain becomes a flood. Wreck and ruin follow. So the Christian wrecks his usefulness when he takes the truth of Scripture out of its place. The LORD wants us to be well balanced Christians.
4. He causes him to get his feelings hurt, because of something someone said or because of something they did not say. He nurses his hurt feelings and decides they can get somebody else to do what he is doing and he will go where folks appreciate him.
5. He gives the Christian an earthly ambition. He makes him the greatest banker or the greatest merchant, but wrecks all his time for GOD.
6. He gets the Christian interested in the pleasures of the world. He tells him that since he works hard all day he must do something on Sunday for rest and recreation, therefore, he cannot go to church.

Satan is represented as an "angel of light" and he certainly is. The light that he gives is a false light which misrepresents GOD and misinterprets the Bible. His light may be compared to the light of a sodium vapor lamp. When this lamp is turned on, it obliterates all colors in the room except black. Then when the ordinary lights are turned on, everything in the room appears in its natural color. This is the devil's trick. He turns on the light of one of the false religions and hell is made to disappear. He turns on the light of another false religion and GOD becomes an idea instead of a real person. All the lights that he turns on deny, repudiate and reject the real and true truths of the Word of GOD. The light that he gives leads to the outer darkness.

Satan is crafty. We are warned against "the wiles of the devil." He offers us anything we want and makes us think it is for our good. He offers us another position, more pay, more prestige, more opportunity for advancement, but with no time to read or pray. He is always ready to give us what we want, but let us remember that CHRIST would not take bread from the hand of the devil.

JESUS CHRIST would not take bread from the hand of the devil!

In the Book of Ephesians, we find Satan in two aspects: his open, clear plan and his hidden schemes.

The first is mentioned in Chapter 2, verse 2, where he is called "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." In the second, he seeks to get between the Christian and GOD, if he can, to hinder prayer from reaching GOD. He seeks to keep GOD from getting down to the Christian as in the case of Daniel, when he hindered for three weeks. This shows the tremendous power of Satan. He wants to keep our prayers from ascending to GOD and GOD's blessing from descending on us.

The nearer we get to GOD, the more urgent, strong and clever are Satan's attacks. When we go to pray, he will cause us to think of everything we promised to do and cause us to remember the things we forgot to do. He will cause us to be listening for the telephone or the door bell -- just anything to keep our minds from being occupied with GOD. The devils are thickest when we try to get to GOD, "spiritual wickedness in high places" and the nearer we get to Heaven the thicker they are.

Satan is the "prince of the power of the air." He does all that he can to hinder our fellowship with GOD. He will get us occupied with music, gold, recreation, or our burdens and troubles, and wondering why such and such had to happen to us and why we can't have the things that others have and do the things that others do. All of this keeps us from having the sweet fellowship with our LORD which is our portion.

Let us not lend ourselves to Satan's hand. He has no grace in his hand. He does not love us. He only offers us lovely things in order to wreck and ruin us. Do not ever follow him. He is a liar, a murderer, relentless and resistless, unless we hide in CHRIST. If you lend yourself to him, he will break your heart and ruin your life and your testimony.

He is also called "the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." The "children of disobedience" are those who disobey and love to do it. He wants us to disobey GOD, to hurt GOD's heart, and refuse to follow the leading of the HOLY SPIRIT. Our LORD says, "read

your Bible" or "Go and pray," but the devil says, "Come and play." Let us not disobey GOD. He calls us to a path of peace and happy service if we trust and obey Him. In Chapter 5:6, we find this statement, "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of GOD upon the children of disobedience." Do not let other things come in that will keep you from telling the gospel story, the great outstanding mission in life.

The devil is tricky. He is crafty. Beloved, do not give place to him. Do not give him a hand; do not give him a chance. Do not make friends with Satan. do not welcome him into your home. Remember he is the terrible enemy of our souls. He only wants to keep CHRIST from getting glory out of our lives.

Chapter 6:11 is the perfect conclusion to the whole matter, "Put on the whole armour of GOD, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

~ end of chapter 6 ~

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