

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“What We See In The Devil”

By Brian Meade

Throughout the ages, many people have had some very different views or conceptions of who the devil is and what he looks like. Some see him as having horns, a spiked tail, dressed in a red suit, and carrying pitchfork—all a very fanciful caricature with no basis in the Scriptures.

But when it comes to who he is and what he does, the Bible gives us a very clear picture of what he is all about in his actions, motives, and even his very words quoted in the Bible!

We should be able to see some things about the devil that should keep anyone from following him. We will be looking at some words that aptly describes his character in a play on words.

I. When We See The Devil, We See All That Is EVIL!

Webster defines evil as, “*Morally bad or wrong; wicked; depraved. Harmful; injurious; sin.*” That definition is right along with the Bible’s definition of evil. The Greek words for evil are poneros (evil, wicked), and kakos (evil, wrong, bad). (Vine’s Expository Dictionary)



When we think of what evil is, we generally think of what is the opposite of the holiness, the righteousness, and purity of God’s character (1 Peter 1:15-15; 1 John 1:5). God teaches us what is right, just, and pure in His commandments, “*Let my tongue sing of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness.*” (Psalm 119:172) That is why breaking God’s commandments is considered evil by God (Deuteronomy 17:5; 2 Kings 17:13; 1 John 3:4).

The Bible teaches us that even King David, who did so much in the service of Jehovah, did evil in taking the wife of Uriah the Hittite, “*Why have you despised the word of the Lord by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.*” (2 Samuel 12:9)

The word evil is often used to describe the sinful actions or behavior of those who defy God’s ways. It is the evil intents and thoughts in Genesis 6:5, evil deeds in Deuteronomy 28:20, evil ways in 2 Kings 17:13, evil devices in Psalm 140:8, the perversity of evil in Proverbs 2:14, the evil woman in Proverbs 6:24, evil plans in Proverbs 15:26, an evil eye in Proverbs 28:22, and an evil heart in Jeremiah 7:24, evil gain in Habakkuk 2:9, an evil generation in Matthew 12:45, an evil slave in Matthew 24:48, evil spirits in Luke 7:21, evil days in Ephesians 5:16, evil desires in Colossians 3:5, an evil conscience in Hebrews 10:22, and an evil heart of unbelief in Hebrews 3:12.

We see from the great list of evil in this world today—sin (evil) dominates the world in which we live! The Bible teaches us that the source of all evil is from the devil, not God. Notice James 1:13-14, “*Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.*”¹⁴ *But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.*”

The one responsible for the source of all temptations and all evil in our world is clearly on Satan's dealings with man (Matthew 6:13; Luke 11:4). Satan instigates and promotes sin in our world to his own purpose of our fall (Luke 22:31). The devil is the one who influences men for evil deeds (Acts 5:3; 1 John 5:19).

II. When We See The Devil, We See All That Is VILE!

The word the Bible uses for vile is the Greek word rhuparos which means "filthy, dirty... metaphorically, of moral defilement, Revelation 22:11." (Vine's expository Dictionary)

"*Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.*" (Revelation 22:11 ESV)

When we generally think of what is vile, we usually are talking about things that are disgusting, putrid, and repulsively filthy! It is usually the things that make our stomach turn even as we glimpse at them, let alone be near them for any amount of time!

The Bible gives us a clear picture of the contrast of what kind of life the devil offers us versus the kind of life God offers us. In Psalm 29:2, we see God's way of life— "*Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.*" (NKJB) God offers us pure, clean, and beautiful life free from the ugliness of sin. There is definitely an attractive draw to God's way to live—in that it brings us up to higher ground!

But what the devil offers us is found in Romans 1:26, "*For this reason God gave them up to vile passions....*" This is the behavior that the Gentiles went to after abandoning God. We see the downward plunge into the depths of immortality that follows in Romans 1:26-31, which includes the practices of homosexuality, sexual immorality, covetousness, maliciousness, envy, murder, strife, deceit.... All that is evil and vile from the devil!

In 2 Peter 2:20-22, Peter describes in very graphic detail about how God looks at the one who goes back out into a life of sin ("again entangled" verse 20). Peter gives us two examples of such vile apostasy in verse 22, "*But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.*" It doesn't get more vile than mire and vomit!

III. When We See The Devil, We See One Who Gives Us A VEIL!

A veil is generally used to cover things or conceal them so that they cannot be seen by others. That is the meaning of the Greek word kalupto, "to cover, conceal" so that no trace of it can be seen; in 2 Corinthians 4:3 it is rendered veiled." (Vine's Expository Dictionary)

Hence Paul uses the description of a veil to describe those in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, "*And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*" It is the condition of blindness to the saving power of the gospel that is result of the devil's veil. When people prefer Satan's lies, instead of the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10), it veils their minds against God's way through Christ.

IV. When We See The Devil, We See One Who Tells LIES!

The Bible teaches us the very place where all lies originate—with the devil. Notice in John 8:44, "*You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*" (emphasis mine, BM)

It was the very first lie told to mankind that some have styled, "THE NOT (knot) IN THE DEVIL'S TALE" (tail). In the beginning, it was the devil that deceived Eve with his lie, "*The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!"*" (Genesis 3:4) That one lie led to sin, and that sin led to Adam and Eve's dismissal from the Paradise of the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:23-24).

When men and women tell lies today, they are following the one who was a liar from the beginning, Satan! Sadly, the devil's lies lead us to death (Revelation 21:8), and that brings us to our final point we see in the devil...

V. When We See The Devil, We See One Who Wants All To DIE!

In all the devil does, he does it because he wants you to fail to please God, fall prey to temptations, sin much and often—and beyond that—even to our eternal death and ruin! (Matthew 6:49; 1 Thessalonians 3:5)

The only power the devil has to bring death to our lives is through his temptations, as James 1:14-15, "*But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.*"

When we give in Satan's lures to sin, we die spiritually (Romans 6:23), and if we stay in that condition (1 Timothy 5:6), we die for all eternity (Rev. 21:8).



Our Fall Meeting is right around the corner
with brother Jarrod Jacobs. Begins
September 30th-October 4th.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Gaddy Hall, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Harris, Katie Ward Coburn, Kathryn's grandmother, Hazel Corner, Clay Ford, & Allison (12 year old girl that received burns from a house fire/ 80% of her body was burned), Karey Trimble, Clois Wright (recent stroke). Marsha Briggs (Russell's mother), and Dan & Linda Hunt.

Gospel Meeting begins Today at the North Jackson St. Church of Christ in Houston, Ms. Monday— Thursday Preaching/ Friday Night Singing Service.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Nathan Meade
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1. "Reaching Right And Wrong Conclusions"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am: Paul Busby
The Book of Acts (Jason Longstreth)
Page 64 Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Jerry Kennemur
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Johnson
Psalm 84:9-12
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper: Fred Johnson
Assisting: Dan Cottrell & Chris Callahan
Singing Service: Men of the Congregation Lead in Singing
Invitation: Brian Meade
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

July 31st:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
The Book of Job (Mike Willis)
Page 24, Question #1
Invitation: Adam Harris
Song Leader: Chris Callahan
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.