

SATAN AND DEMONS

SERIES: DOCTRINE | WEEK 10 | 10.31.2021

[Teaching today: Pastor Lee Wiggins]

Lord God,



We come to You, our great God and our King, and we declare your greatness in this place this morning. We bow before You, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, and we thank You for your dear Son, Jesus, who gave His life so that we could have life, so that we could have freedom from sin, so we could have freedom from the enemy, so we could have the power of your Holy Spirit, and we invite your presence in this place right now. Overwhelm us with your presence today, Lord Jesus. We love you, Jesus. It's in the strong name of Jesus that we pray. Amen.

You can have a seat. Good morning. Thank you so much for being with us this morning. Those of you jumping on online, welcome. I'm just so happy that you've decided to be with us today, so glad for you to be here.

We are in the middle of a "teaching" series, a teaching series is very different than our normal preaching series that we're normally going through. In fact, what we're doing right now since the beginning of fall is something we've never done on a Sunday morning. Here's what we're doing, we realized that the main tenets of what we follow in the Bible called DOCTRINES—what we should believe, what every Christian should believe—are things that oftentimes no one really ever teaches us. And unless you've taken a deep dive into each of these subjects you haven't had an opportunity to drill down on them, and so we decided we're going to spend this fall drilling down on the major things that we believe.

Oftentimes if you go on a website of a church you'll see the doctrinal statement, and you'll see that same thing at our church, but as you begin to get to know that a little bit more you probably have a lot of questions. So what we've done, we've created a series—your small groups are going through it, the women's groups are going through it, the men's groups are going through it, the youth groups are going through it—we have questions online that your groups are using to go through it, we have all the notes of these messages, the transcripts of these messages, we have our podcast online, we have our Thursday night video with [Bible Study Hub](#) online, and then obviously these services. And our goal is that you'll be able to just continue to get to know more and more and more and download that information into your life so that you'll understand the truths of Scripture.

Here's what we're trying to do is lay a foundation. A lot of people ask me all the time how do I know truth from a falsehood or a lie or a false teaching? And the best way to do that is to just know the truth, to hear it, to have it drilled into you, to have that as a foundation, that way when something that is not true comes into your brain you'll say, "Something's wrong," and it will allow you to go back and look at your Bible and you'll know not to be sucked into that. And so join us in this process. Hopefully you're printing out the notes ahead of time, many of you are showing me your notebooks, which is just outstanding, take notes, don't hesitate. A lot of people from first service were just taking pictures of the screen as each slide comes up. We have a lot of slides today. We have a lot of material to go over today.



We have a topic today that is very relevant and it was very much planned this way to talk about Satan and demons when Halloween falls on a Sunday. And I want to share this with you as we begin this morning. Years ago I heard this illustration, I almost got a pair of weird glasses to wear in here today but it would be amazing if there were a pair of glasses that we could just pop on and look around and see into the spiritual world; when we can get beyond the

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physical and see what's going on, what's taking place in the evil, demonic Satanic realm, what if we could throw on some glasses and see that? And before that gets to a place that sort of tenses you up, I also want you to know that next week we are going to be studying angels, God's holy angels.

And we are reminded that we're not just dealing with the forces of darkness but we as a group of people here today, if you know Jesus as your Savior, God promised that He gave you His Holy Spirit to come into your life to indwell you. That's why coming together as Hebrews¹ says, gathering together, is such a powerful thing because as we gather together and the Spirit of God is in our lives, this becomes a place where the spiritual world of what God is doing becomes more and more powerful and multiplies in this room. That's why we want to just ask you come early, stay late, grab a bagel, sit down at one of the tables with someone sitting there alone, talk to each other, encourage each other because we need each other.

And in a world where we know—and we're going to say it this morning—you need to know that there is an enemy, there is an enemy who's trying to take you down. He seeks to lie, to destroy, and to kill you. When you see lies in this world, when you see destruction in this world, when you see death in this world, it is at the hand of Satan. And yet I want you to know this today, he doesn't win. He is a loser and we are going to proclaim here in this room today that at the name of Jesus even Satan has to step down. [APPLAUSE] He is under the authority of Jesus. And today as a group of people we come in here, yes, we have lived in a world of destruction this week and lies and death and we are tired of all the fear that is being propagated by Satan, but we are here today to remind ourselves of the cross where Jesus died, He hung and His blood was shed so we can be forgiven, and so that we can have hope, and so that we can have life, and so that we can live in the truth.

And that's why we stepped into this place today – to sing it, to verbalize it, to proclaim it, to share it with each other through our love and through our care for each other. If you're sitting in this room alone today, we don't want you to leave alone. If you've come in here today feeling separated, I don't want you to leave separated. If you've been coming in here today impacted by death and by fear, I don't want you to leave here with that. I want you to leave here with the hope and the love and joy of Jesus Christ.



While the words on the screen behind me that say **"SATAN & DEMONS"** may be a bit fearful to any one of us—and should be, because he is a formidable enemy—I want you to know today that he is a defeated enemy. He has lost. His end is written, [APPLAUSE] he knows what his end is. And what I want you to know today is if you know Jesus as your Savior, the Scripture says that He who is in me is greater than He who is in the world.² The Bible tells us that it's going to give us methods of dealing with the schemes of the enemy; the enemy has schemes but he cannot force you to follow him in his ways.

And so today I just want you to start out by saying be encouraged, be excited, encourage each other, strengthen each other. If you're sitting alone in this room, someone move over next to them. If they're sitting there shaking their head stay away from them, they didn't want that, [LAUGHTER] it's okay. We love you and we want this to be a place of love. I want when you walk into this building you know you're cared for. If you're watching online, that's why we have the chat on there, that's why we have a

¹ Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV): **And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.**

² 1 John 4:4-5 (ESV): **Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.**

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pastor on there, you can go and you can be prayed for right there in that spot. We want this to be a place of prayer.

The Scripture, Jesus made clear to His disciples there's some things that aren't going to come out but by prayer.³ We have the weapons of warfare, we have God's power, and we today are going to talk about it, but we've got to figure out who this enemy is first. When we lay the foundation you need to understand what we're dealing with, where it came from, and what all is involved. So if you have your Bibles, I'm going to be taking you there. If you have a notebook, write it down. If you just want to just use your phone and take pictures of it or come back later and download the notes, you can.

So right now I want to talk about when God created a beautiful, intelligent, angelic being named Lucifer. That very word, you know the root of that word meaning "shining, light, bright, shining one," the chief among the angels, but Lucifer—Satan, which is defined as "the accuser of the brethren"—Satan had a will. I'm going to read a verse that describes how this will fires up against God of Heaven Himself, but I remind us that we, too, have a will and God created us with a will. We are not just merely puppets on a string unable to affect what's going on around us, we can make a choice, we know truth.

Again, that's why we're sharing truth here today, so that we can see truth, we can see the information laid in front of us, and then we can make good decisions based on that, but we have a will, you have an opportunity to choose. Satan has a will, Satan was created with a will even though he was created as a beautiful, bright one, he chose. So let me read about that Isaiah Chapter 14 starting at verse 12, speaking of Satan, and at the very beginning it's going to name off his name, "O Day Star, son of Dawn!" Let me read it:

- ¹² **"How you are fallen from heaven,
O Day Star, son of Dawn!
How you are cut down to the ground,
you who laid the nations low!**
- ¹³ **You said in your heart,
'I will ascend to heaven;
above the stars of God
I will set my throne on high;
I will sit on the mount of assembly
in the far reaches of the north;**
- ¹⁴ **I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High."**

– ISAIAH 14:12-14 (ESV)



Did you catch those words "**I will**" five different times in there? He makes a decision based on his will that he is convinced that God has lied to him, that it is not true that God is the king of the universe, and God the Uncreated One, he's convinced that he is over Him. And so in his mind and in his pride, despite what he knows, he says, *I will* eclipse God, *I will* go into that place. He is doing the exact same thing with us. In Genesis Chapter 3 [vv. 4-5] to Eve he says you'll not die, you'll not die if you eat this fruit. God knows that if you eat this fruit your eyes will be opened and you'll be like God. Again, the word Satan means "accuser" and under the guise of a serpent he comes as Satan, he comes as a serpent.



³ Mark 9:27-29 (AMP): He replied to them, "**This kind [of unclean spirit] cannot come out by anything but prayer [to the Father].**"

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At the end of Genesis Chapter 1, verse 31, God's done with creation, the seven days of creation are over, and God ends by saying it's good, it's good:

³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

– GENESIS 1:31 & 2:1-2 (ESV)

Sometime between Chapter 1, verse 31, of Genesis and Chapter 3, verse 1, where Satan shows up as a serpent, disguised as a serpent, we go from everything being good to Satan, choosing by his will that we just read, to come up against God and God kicks him out of Heaven and he falls. And now he is on a mission to cause you to fall, to take as many people with him where he is going as he possibly can. Ezekiel Chapter 28 gives us more detail in the midst of an Old Testament prophecy about this ancient enemy Satan. I don't have it on the screen, I want to read it to you, it's a little bit long, it's Ezekiel 28 starting in the middle of verse 12 it says this, speaking of Satan:

^{12b} "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared.

¹⁴ You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.

¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.

¹⁶ In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

¹⁷ Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you.

— and I'm going to skip down to verse 19:

¹⁹ All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more forever."

– EZEKIEL 28:12b-17, 19 (ESV)

And in those last words Satan is alerted to his end that has already been determined by God. Incredible pictures and explanations of who Satan is, of the beauty that he had, of where he was located, the opportunities that he had, and yet in the midst of that – made a choice, and in the midst of that choice – fell.

Now I want to give you a description of Satan, I want to walk you through just a bunch of words and I want you to understand who he is. As I give you the explanation let me remind us that we started out a bunch of weeks ago when we were talking about who God is, which is the foundation for everything that we talk about here, it's the foundation of who we worship and of our lives. We discussed words like *omnipresence*, God's everywhere all the time; *omniscience*, He knows everything, He knows what you're

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thinking, He knows what you're about to do, He knows what your future is, He knows what your past is. We talked about *omnipotence*, His power, His unlimited power. We talked about His sovereignty, how He decides what He does and whatever He does is right, whatever He does is good, and He can do whatever He wants whenever He wants. We talked about all those types of things. Well, if you line those things up against who Satan is it begins to help us understand the major difference between God and Satan.

Here's what we need to know: Satan is limited, he is massively limited and I want you to know that, I want you to hear that because oftentimes even as we throw the name up on the screen behind me – **SATAN & DEMONS** – there is this huge fear of what might come of that. We need to call him out for what his end is: You are a defeated foe, you are a loser, you are going to spend an eternity in the bottomless pit, you're done. I mean, why would you hang out and give any allegiance to a loser? Makes no sense. That's why I've made the decision not to have a favorite team, that way whatever team's playing I can choose whichever one is going to win [LAUGHTER], it is no-stress football—guaranteed, every time. I switch back and forth oftentimes, but I'm going to tell you when you know who the loser is going to be you just stay on the winning side the whole time.



My Bible tells me which side is the winning side—God wins. And we're not talking here like Satan and God are duking it out back and forth and we're sitting there going, "How's this thing going to end?" God is in charge. God wins. And, you know, the key thought in this subject of the omnipresence of God is to never see God and Satan as equals that are in a battle with each other. Understand this, Satan, and this is the omnipresence issue, he's not omnipresent. Satan cannot be in two places at one time. That means there's a pretty good chance that he hasn't shown up here this morning. That's good news. The fact that he can't be in two places at one time makes me wonder if you've *ever* come into contact with Satan is probably a slim possibility. It's a probability that

SATAN
His Limitations
He is not omnipresent

most of us in here are not a high enough target for Satan himself to ever come up against, so we'll talk about demons later. Maybe... maybe you're a high enough target for a demon to come up against.

But I remind you of this, and we talked about it in Genesis 3 just seconds ago, that when mankind fell sin – according to Romans⁴ – was passed to all mankind and as soon as we were born that sin nature came right through Adam to each one of us. And this world has been radically impacted by sin and most of us are enough affected by sin and give in to sin just easy enough that Satan doesn't have to do much with us. We're already just falling all over our own feet and looking really stupid and he just laughs and says, "Yep, it worked for him."

We understand that the flesh, this fallen body that we have even though we've been redeemed, Paul says we carry around this body of flesh, it causes us to stumble⁵ so Satan doesn't even need to mess with most of us most of the time. When we talk about the fact that Satan is not omnipresent we realize that God is infinite, Satan is not. Just remember, the way Satan has been portrayed in the books that you've read and the movies that you have watched, the stories that you've been told, creates this powerful being – and he is – as almost an equal to God, or an equal to God, or even one it seems like maybe he will ultimately win out. If you live in the world that I live in and you see the wickedness in the world, sometimes it feels like *Is the other side winning?!* even though we know the end of the story, and we're told and we're

⁴ See Romans 5:12-21

⁵ See Romans 7:7-25

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going to be reminded of it, sometimes it's just coming at us so fast and furious and you're just seeing it so ugly in front of you that you're not sure. And here's what I want you to know: **God is all-powerful.**

SATAN

His Limitations

He is **not omnipresent**
He is **not omniscient**

Satan is not omniscient, he does not know everything. That is really good news and a lot of you are going to be really happy to hear this—he cannot read your mind. Remember, God's omniscient, He knows everything. He knows what you're thinking right now. He knows what you thought yesterday and what you're going to think tomorrow. Satan cannot read your mind. He does not know what you are thinking. Just understand this, the study of psychology is understanding how "on average" most of our brains work and what we do and why we do it, and if you study mankind enough you get to sort of figure out how we behave and how we act and what motivates us and what makes us do what we're doing.

Satan has been around for a very long time. He knew your dad and your grandfather and your great-grandfather, your great-great-great-great and he's known generations back all the way back to The Fall. He knows—he's an ancient enemy, he has studied mankind, studied people—and he knows when you're poked this way you're going to respond this way. He knows when certain things happen, because of the sin nature he knows how you're going to respond. So he is very smart and he knows a whole lot, but he is not omniscient and does not know everything. Here's the phrase I like to use – he's ancient, smart.

SATAN

His Limitations

He is **not omnipresent**
He is **not omniscient**
He is **not omnipotent**

He's not omnipotent. He's not all powerful. God cannot be overthrown by Satan. Satan doesn't get to do just anything that he wants to do. He does have at his disposal demons, we're going to talk about that here in just a moment where a third of the angels, when he fell, a third of the angels fell with him and he has those demons at his disposal. He hates God but God is in charge, and he [Satan] is under God. Satan is under the authority of Jesus Christ and when Jesus speaks Satan falls down.

Satan is not sovereign, he cannot just do what he wants and be right and get away with that, he has to ask permission before he does anything. One of the best examples of this is in Job, Chapter 1, you ought to read the whole book of Job, but at the beginning of the book of Job these words are said, I want you to listen to this carefully because this will both encourage you and also realize what we're dealing with here. Job Chapter 1, verse 9:

⁹ Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason?"

¹⁰ Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face."

¹² And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

– JOB 1:9-12 (ESV)

This is not just a metaphor, Satan actually has to ask God's permission before he does anything against you. Yes, Satan is powerful but he is not sovereign, he can't just go after you.

SATAN

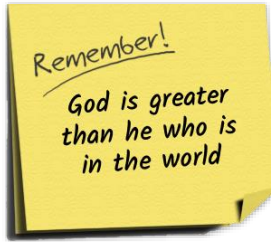
His Limitations

He is **not omnipresent**
He is **not omniscient**
He is **not omnipotent**
He is **not sovereign**

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A couple things in this passage that were really encouraging to me. One, it says Satan's bothered because there's a hedge around Job. I believe that as a child of God, God has put a protective hedge around you. You have the Holy Spirit in your life and God has protected you. And it talks here in this verse Satan's⁶ telling God this, there's this hedge around him, I can't get to him. It says in this verse, "You've blessed the work of his hands, You've given him what he has"—remember, we talk about this all the time, all that we have is from the hand of God, He has blessed you. He's put this hedge of protection around you. Again, if you're sitting here scared because of the words on the screen behind me, I want you to stop for a moment. He, our God, is greater than he who is in the world. Remember that, don't forget that. But it appears as we study this verse that there are moments where, for some reason in the eternal plan of God, He allows us to be tested.



In this situation Satan⁷ comes with this accusation, "He only loves you for the good stuff" – that's his testing, but don't take his life. Evidently there are limits, Satan just can't do whatever he wants. Satan's on a leash and God keeps him under control. And yet, for whatever His eternal purposes are, He's working in our lives to make us who He wants us to become that He gives permission for Satan to have access. And for a moment for some reason God gives a little breach in that hedge of protection so that Satan is allowed in his life to come up against him. And if you read the rest of the book and you should, you'll find how it all works out at the end, but Job continues to turn towards God.

Now listen, Satan is not self-existent, he is created by God. When I was reading that passage from Ezekiel earlier I sort of stopped on that word "created" – he is a created one. You see what I believe Satan was wanting to do back there while he was yet that beautiful angel, this thought came into his mind that *I can be God, maybe I wasn't created, maybe I was here equal with God*, and those thoughts began to come in his mind. That's exactly what's being taught to us in our world—you are a god. Many religions have even come out with it in saying you are a god, you can become a god, you can go through these stages and you will become a god. It's the same lie put into religious terminology. That's what Satan wanted to become and that's what he wants to tell you—that's the lie that he tells you—you can become a god.

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His Limitations
He is **not omnipresent**
He is **not omniscient**
He is **not omnipotent**
He is **not sovereign**
He is **not self-existent**

Take this a couple steps further. When we read these words that Satan is created here's what that means, and this is what drives him nuts: If you're created you are subservient to the creator. You are under the authority of the creator. The creator is in charge because he created you. Then it should be no surprise to any of us that the subject of creation is one of the most hotly contested things in our world. And I think it's a shame that Christians blow it off and just blow right by it and try to come up with accommodational language to allow for all the other theories to come in so that they can push creation aside. No, the Bible says "God created." If we believe that God created then it means we are responsible to Him. If you want to get rid of God, if you want to rebel against God, the thing that caused Satan to be kicked out of Heaven and a third of the angels, if you want to rebel against God you have to get rid of creation. Satan is not self-existent.



⁶ Transcriber edit/correction: "Job's telling God" is stated in the sermon video, it should be "Satan's telling God" as Job himself is not a participant in the conversation, but the conversation is *about* Job.

⁷ Transcriber edit/correction: "In this situation, Job comes" is stated in the sermon video, it should be "In this situation, Satan comes."

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So let's go a little further, what's he do? Satan hinders the believer. The Apostle Paul made this comment, he says I tried to come to you (the Thessalonian people) and I couldn't, Satan hindered me from coming to you.⁸ It's a crazy thought to think that there are things in our lives where Satan can push back. We believe that the Holy Spirit is in our lives and when the Holy Spirit is in our lives Satan cannot be in our life, so demons cannot be in our lives, we cannot be demon-possessed. Let's talk about that for a moment. In the book of Revelation it tells us in Revelation Chapter 12, verse 4, how these demons, these angels fell. It says:

⁴ His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.

– REVELATION 12:4 (ESV)

SATAN

What he does...

He has his own angels – Demons

A third of the angels of heaven fell with Lucifer, with Satan, and so these angels followed him, wanted to be loyal to him, and today are at his disposal to accomplish the tasks that he wants to accomplish here on this earth. We call them demons and it's a concerning thing; it should be. If you want to read a story about it go to Mark Chapter 5, don't go to your TV channel and watch the movies about it. You don't need that influence in your life, you don't need to give that opening, you don't need to as the Scripture says give the devil an opportunity.⁹ The demonic stuff that you're seeing in books and movies and writings—stop taking it in. It's not funny. It's not cute. Don't assume you can handle it. In fact, if it's even questionable, if it's even possible, just say no. I encourage you, please, don't let your kids be watching this stuff, demonic stuff is real and you never know where it's going to go.

Mark Chapter 5 there's a story about Jesus arriving and there's this man that's demon-possessed. It says he's living in cemeteries, that he's naked, it says that he's cutting himself, it says that he's so loud and screaming because of these demons that are in him. By the way, when asked what the name of the demon was, it (the unclean spirit) said, "Legion," which I think was like two thousand.¹⁰ This guy is jam-packed with demons. And it says that they had tried to chain this guy up with chains but he's so strong, these demons inside of him, and he'd burst these chains open. The entire region around there was just absolutely traumatized by this guy that was demon-possessed.

This is real stuff, these are real issues. This is happening in our world, it's happening around the world. I think it is oftentimes covered up in our world. I think there's a lot of things that we're using, chemicals and this kind of thing to hide it and to paper it over so that we don't really see it or know what's going on, but it's a real issue.

When Jesus comes, when Jesus shows up there in that cemetery that day—again, Mark 5, you've got to read it—this man comes to Jesus and falls down. The demons are freaked out because they're under the authority of Jesus. They weren't expecting Jesus to show up. They know Jesus is coming back, they

MARK 5:7-9 (ESV)

And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country.

⁸ See Romans Chapter 15

⁹ Ephesians 4:27 (AMP): **And do not give the devil an opportunity [to lead you into sin by holding a grudge, or nurturing anger, or harboring resentment, or cultivating bitterness].**

¹⁰ How many angels in a legion? See <https://www.gotquestions.org/demon-Legion.html>

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didn't see it happening there that day. They know what their end is. Furthermore, they even know what some of the other demons' end has been and they're freaked out. They're saying at that point, *Don't throw us in the pit, don't throw us in the pit*. And the reason why is somewhere back in Genesis Chapter 6 there's this thing called Nephilim, where these demons came and they had relations with women and created these giant, you know, super-human people and eventually have to be wiped out by the flood. I

JUDE 1:6-7 (ESV)

And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

2 PETER 2:4 (NLT)

For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell, in gloomy pits of darkness.

mean, it's a crazy story. And the Scriptures tell us in Jude that these were in ancient times thrown in the pit, and so demons are afraid that they might be put into that kind of situation.

And in that moment they're under the authority of Jesus they have to respond to Jesus. Jesus gives them permission to leave this man, they go into pigs—and that's a whole other story—that go down over the cliff. It's quite a story. When that guy got healed of that demonic possession—everyone knew who he was, everyone had seen him, everyone was freaked out by him—he asked Jesus, "Can I come along with

You? I want to follow You." And Jesus was about ready to leave the area, He wanted the Gospel to go out in that area and He says, "Go tell everyone what I did for you. Go tell them the great story of what Jesus has done for you." When you've been freed of Satan, when you've been freed of the enemy, there is a story to tell. And He says, "I want you to go out there and tell everyone."

In the book of Matthew Chapter 12 starting right around verse 43 it talks about a person who has been freed of demons, Jesus had been casting out a lot of demons in the region at that time. And Jesus was talking to the Pharisees there and trying to give them an illustration about something else, but gives us some information here about demonic activity. He talks about if a demon were to leave the house (speaking of the body), so the demon leaves and it says that what happens in this house is it gets swept clean. There's this release, *Oh, wow, I don't have a demon any longer*, and life's starting to come back together.

MATTHEW 12:43-45 (ESV)

"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation."

Which would be a good thing, but He says if he (the demon) comes back and finds that the house is swept clean, He says that – I think it was like seven times more demons come back into this person – and He says – and worst demons. So evidently there's different levels of demons and the power that they have. And that when a demon is removed if something doesn't fill that spot—namely Jesus Christ, putting our trust in Him and His Holy Spirit—what becomes of that person next is even worse. So you can have the blessing of God in your life, you could get rid of that demon, but if you don't trust in Jesus like that man did in that tomb yard, cemetery, that day (the reason I said tomb yard, he's living among the tombs is what the text tells us), if you don't put your trust in Jesus and believe Jesus, what's about to hit you is even worse.

And so even as you come in here today you feel a boost by the love of Jesus in this room and by the message of the cross and the power of the Holy Spirit moving in this room, you need to allow the Holy Spirit to come into your life. You need to confess your sins, you need to repent of your sins, you need to turn from your sins and accept Jesus into your life. That is the only power that you have against Satan.

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There is a reminder here in this passage that God's Holy Spirit when in you will not allow a demon to be in you. You cannot be demon-possessed if you have Jesus in your life, but we do know that there is an oppression that can occur. Each of us have been around certain people, we've walked into certain places saying, "Something's wrong in here." We've turned something on on TV and we're just, "Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Something's wrong here." And my, again, my hope is that you leave that room, that you leave that place, that you turn off the TV at that moment. A reminder: Hell is real. Matthew 25, verse 41, it says:

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

– MATTHEW 24:41 (ESV)

The devil and his angels, the demons, they know what their eternal location is. As we get closer to the end of time, I can guarantee you that they are getting more and more wound up and they are getting more and more upset because they know their time is short.

Let's go back to Satan a minute. He appears as the angel of light. Understand that every movie and every book depicts him in this dark way. Understand Satan's trying to come to you in the happiest and best ways. That's why oftentimes he's created in a laughing way, a comical way, with a great storyline. I hear that all the time, *Yeah, I was able to separate the two.* You're not able to separate the two. He's coming to you as light, he's trying to produce himself in a way that you go, *Yeah, that's cool... That was funny... Oh, it's good, that was a great cartoon... That was a great movie, I loved it. Well, yeah, it was a little dark but I get, you know, you know, it's just story, it was just a joke. Right? It was just funny.* And

SATAN

What he does...

Appears as an angel of light

that's how Satan comes to you. He wants to come to you as the angel of light.

He's not going to say, "Hey, if I come to you I'm going to suck all life out of you. I'm going to cause you to live in fear and trembling. I'm going to ultimately take your life and the life of all those around you" — because remember—he lies to you, he steals from you, and he ultimately kills you. You don't hear that. No, he's coming, "I am the angel of light. I'm good. I'm going to give you comfort. I'm going to provide for you all these wonderful things." And then he steals it all from you and comes after you in a very awful way. Second Corinthians Chapter 11, verses 13-14 says:

13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

– 2 CORINTHIANS 11:13-15 (ESV)

And this leads us into the next thing, he sounds good, he looks good, everything about it seems to make sense. It's why we are taking the time for these weeks—and thank you for choosing to come in here, thanks for watching online—because we've got to lay down the foundation of the truth. It'd be fun to talk about some little message that just caused you to leave here going, "I feel good, I feel inspired, I feel pumped up," but if we don't know the truth then Satan can come in here and lie to you and steal from you and ultimately destroy you. And one of the ways he does that is by coming looking like he is the angel of light and one of the ways he does that is through false teaching. Teachings are available everywhere right now, podcasts, internet, online, on TV – be careful. **This is why you have to know, know, know, know the truth.** You can't know enough false doctrine to be able to catch every false thing being taught

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to you, but if you know the truth because there's a limited amount of truth. Even in this subject today, I'm probably missing something, there's probably something we can drill down deeper on, but I'm giving you the major categories of the truth about Satan. When you know that and you hear something that is opposite to this it causes the red lights to come on and say, "We've got a problem here." So even when you're hearing a message by one of these guys saying they're an apostle of Christ but rather the Scripture is telling us they're a deceitful workman and you hear something and you're like, "That didn't sound right. I mean, it sounded good, I like it, but I don't think it sounds right." The alarms go off and you go back and you dig in your Bible going, "I know it says something about here..." And now you're on the track to making sure you stay true. The lies are always carefully padded and prettily wrapped, but they just keep on getting recycled and you can dig down and find out what the Scripture's saying.

First Timothy 4 says this:

¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ²through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,

– 1 TIMOTHY 4:1-2 (ESV)

We live in a moment where a word that you'll hear a lot in Christian circles, I think it's *deconstruction*, is that you'll see a lot of people deconstructing their faith. And you're going to hear a lot of stories of people that once stood up here and preached like this who are walking away from their faith, who are starting to say, "I don't know if I believe that it." And it all begins with this questioning, *that sounds good*, and it's like, *Yeah, yeah, that's a good point. I wondered that, too.* And pretty soon that questioning goes to disbelief to eventually just totally walking away.

Again, this is why we've got to be in our Bible. It's why we've got to be careful; we hear something – to be digging into it. And I beg you this, if you hear stuff that's not truth don't keep hanging around. **Lies and false doctrines are never an only child.** And that's why I oftentimes hear from some, "I know, he's wrong on that and, yeah, that's certainly not biblical, but the rest of stuff sounds really good. I'm liking it." Don't mess with it! The Scripture's warning us that Satan's very involved in that. Remember, he perverts the Word of God, that's what he did to Eve in the garden, "Did God actually say you shall not eat of that?"¹¹

Listen to these words, 2nd Corinthians 4:

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

– 2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-4 (ESV)

SATAN
What he does...
He perverts the Word of God

He's blinding. He's blinding. So that's why we've got to keep alert. That's why we want to talk about this, why we want to lay the foundation. Now remember, Satan is the *accuser* of the brethren, that's what that name means, he's accusing you.

Remember, we talked about he has access to the throne and what he likes to do is show up there as a tattletale, *Hey, look what Lee just did... look what he's doing... look what he just said... Are you kidding me? What a hypocrite Lee is! This is ridiculous, and he says he's a Christian?* He's saying this all at the throne of God and in that moment here's what Jesus says—by

¹¹ See Genesis 3:1b

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the way, any of you ever feel condemned? Any of you ever feel like I'm not good enough? I mean, by the way, you know, Satan will start out with *You can be a god, you can be a god, come on, come on, you'll be a god.* You go, "Oh, I like that!" And then all of a sudden he gets to this place and he looks at you and says, *You're worthless, you're no good, you're not good enough.* And here's what he does when he gets to the throne room of God he says, *Lee's done these things.* And Jesus looks at him right back in the face and He says, "Lee trusted me with his life, he trusted the shed blood on the cross of Calvary to forgive him of his sins. My blood was shed and he accepted that as the forgiveness of his sins." And He turns to God and says, "Because of my shed blood these sins are forgiven."

By the way, I just want you to hear this, when we put that on this stage [POINTS AT WOODEN CROSS] we're not worshipping that piece of wood, we're worshipping Jesus who hung there and He died to shed His blood on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. [APPLAUSE] There is an incredible pressure to remove that from our churches. You need to sit here every time you worship thanking Him for the blood that was shed because when you sin He's sitting at the right hand of the throne of God interceding on your behalf, going before God on your behalf saying that the blood that I shed on the cross is there to forgive Lee's sins – put your name in that to forgive your sins. I love Romans 8, it says this, that for those of us who are in Christ Jesus there is no condemnation:

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do.

– ROMANS 8:1-3 (ESV)

That's what I love about that cross, that's what I love about what took place on the cross, that's what I continue to be reminded of when I ask myself, "Do I have eternal life?" Do you ever ask yourself that question? Am I going to spend an eternity in Heaven? Are my sins going to keep me from God? No, because I trusted in Jesus and what He did on the cross to forgive me of my sins.

Listen, his destiny is clear. The next thing that is going to happen on the prophetic calendar that's going to happen one of these days, I don't know when, probably soon, there's going to be a seven-year period of

tribulation. It's getting close to the end of that point, Satan knows that he's going to be cast away for eternity in this bottomless pit, he's getting furious and he's going to unleash his wrath and anger on this earth

during a seven-year period of time, after which Jesus is going to come back and He's going to set up a thousand years of peace. At the end of that tribulation he [Satan] is going to be placed into the abyss, then we'll

have a thousand years of peace here on this earth. At the end of that time he's going to be let out again for just a tiny little period of time, again, where he's going to lose his mind and he will be thrown finally into the lake of fire for eternity. Understand that Satan is defeated.

I love the verse in Colossians 2:15:

SATAN
His destiny
The Abyss during the Millennium

REVELATION 12:12b (ESV)

"But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"

REV. 20:1-3, 7, 10 (ESV)

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

⁷ And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released . . .

¹⁰ and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

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¹⁵ He [speaking of Jesus] disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

– COLOSSIANS 2:15 (ESV)

Again, on the cross of Jesus Christ. [APPLAUSE]

Hebrews Chapter 2 says:

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

– HEBREWS 2:14-15 (ESV)

SATAN
His destiny
He is defeated

Fear has gripped our nation, it has gripped everything about it and Satan is cheering like crazy because he deals in fear, he deals in death, and it's all we hear constantly. But it's what we've always heard constantly, it's what has caused people to be enslaved for years, their fear and their fear of death. Jesus has won and is victorious over that. I'm gonna get very practical here real quick, 1st Peter Chapter 5, verses 8-9:

Very practical

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

– 1 PETER 5:8-9 (ESV)

I picked this up on some site called, um, I don't know, cool facts on the internet, I'm sure, yeah, I'm sure it's great. It describes a lion this way:

- eyesight five times better than that of a human
- it can hear from a mile away
- roar can be heard from five miles away
- it can go four days without drinking
- it can run short distances at 50 miles an hour
 - your Tesla can't even do that and...
 - no, but... I guess it can beat that
- it can leap 36 feet – that Tesla can't do that
- the lion is the king of the jungle
- they can hunt at any hour
- they can go after large prey after dark



Listen to what it says: **Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion.**

If you're going to go to war, if you're going to go to battle—and we are at war and we are in battle—you need to know your enemy. There is a very real formidable enemy, but we also talked about the enemy's limitations today. We also talked about the enemy's end point today and this text here, Peter wants us to know resist that enemy. Say no to sin.

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I love the passage in Galatians Chapter 5, verse 16,¹² you ought to write it down:

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

– GALATIANS 5:16 (ESV)

Remember, I told you we have a sin nature, there are the desires of the flesh, and then ultimately you're dealing with demons and you're ultimately dealing with Satan. The Scripture's saying let's never get to that point. If you don't give the devil an opportunity, he can never get there. Resist him by walking in the Spirit of God. That's why we talked about that two sessions ago. We talked about the Spirit of God who's living in our lives, walking in the Spirit of God, letting the Spirit of God live in our lives. Be in your Bible, you need to know who the Commanding Officer is.

Can you imagine a soldier at war going, *Hey, this is great, I have all the weapons I need ... take off all communications devices, throw them away... I've got this thing!* You need to be in touch. This is why the Holy Spirit needs to be in your life and you need to be talking to the Holy Spirit, to God, praying in the Spirit, in touch. You need to be getting the manual, you need to be in His Word to know the manual so you know what to respond. Even Jesus when Satan came up against Him, Jesus responded to

him, "Man will not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God." He quoted Scripture. You need to know your Bible.



Know the Manual

MATTHEW 4:4 (ESV)

But he answered, "It is written,

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

This is why I read three chapters a day and normally my goal is just to come up with something that I can just pull out of that, just one little phrase, one little sentence that I can meditate on all day so that it's on my mind. And it's amazing to me no matter what's going on in the day it's the one little thing that just seems to pop up and it just seems to be the right thing. I tell people all the time I'm not the Bible answer man, I'm only as good as what I've read today, and yet it seems to be relevant and right there right for me right on that day. And church, I just want to just encourage you know your Bible.

And here's how I want to end today: God wins. God wins every time. [APPLAUSE] He's in charge. He has won the victory. He has won the battle. That's exciting! And I want you to be a people that are aware of the schemes of the enemy or saying no to it. Team, come on up here, I gotta stop. [LAUGHTER] They agree, that's what's even worse. [LAUGHTER] Love you, church, love you so much, and I just want you to know our God is great. He loves you and He wants you to follow Him. He wants the Holy Spirit to live through your life. And I just want to encourage you this morning – live in that victory. You don't have to be yelling at Satan all the time, you don't need to be praying to Satan, you have Jesus in your life, you have His Word. Bow your heads before Him, trust in Him, I want to pray for you right now.

Lord Jesus,



I love, I love, love, love these people. And there's a bunch of people who came into this room this morning scared; they've got stuff going on in their life they feel like they're losing, they feel like the enemy's beaten them. Lord Jesus, I pray that they will leave here more than conquerors through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

¹² Transcriber correction/edit: Verse 12 is stated in the sermon video, it should be verse 16, Galatians 5:16.

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Keywords: enemy, demons, sin, fear, win

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