

SERIES: CHOSEN AND EXILED- -7/21/24

PASTOR LEE

-This week's topic: RESISTING SATAN.....and exposing him for who he is.

1Peter 5: 5-11- "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (6) Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, (7) casting all your anxieties on Him, because he cares for you. (8) Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (10) Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. (10) And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will Himself, restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. (11) To Him be the dominion forever and ever, Amen.

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- To reiterate last sermon: While Jesus has done all things for us...there are TWO things we need to do in terms of choices: 1. BE HUMBLE, and 2. RESIST THE DEVIL. Peter addressed this to the people of his time who were subject to tremendous persecution as well as to us today. When in crisis...when backed into a corner...that's when pride can rear up....Peter says, then, humble yourselves. When suffering takes place...as Satan may be coming against you....resist Satan!
 - AND, if you do so, God will restore you, confirm you, strengthen you and establish you!
 - Pastor Lee relays personal story: church office complex that just felt dark/unsettled.....then a college pastor has some sort of attack in that spot...docs couldn't diagnose! So response: choice 1. Bolt asap; or, 2. Resist satan, 24/7/ christian music.... prayer sessions, etc.
 - How resist??? #1 Rule.....know your enemy! There IS an unseen spiritual world....its scary/ horrifying AND exciting. Put on 'spiritual glasses-We would see the angelic world of God AND also the dark, demonic world.....it IS another world but its closer to us than we realize.
 - How did the demonic side of this world happen?

ANGELS

- * Initially, all angels were created as perfect beings... see Ez 28:11-15
- * Due to the sin of pride and his want to be like God- Lucifer fell and one third of the angels with him. Isaiah 14:12-15...How you have fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn!

ANGELS AND DEMONS

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- Satan is actually trying to imitate God! Rev 2:9.....a 'synagogue of satan'.....groups of people, however obscure, who worship him.
 - See 1 Timothy 4:1 re: some will 'depart from the faith' to the 'teaching of demons' in later times.
 - See 2 Thess 2:7 - -For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work..... (Referring to the anti-christ) .
 - See Rev 2:13 ...Satan has a throne!! And worshippers!!
 - See Rev 13:4.... They worshipped the 'dragon' and the 'beast'.
 - See Rev 12:7.... Michael and angels fight dragon (satan) who fought back with his own angels but were defeated and thrown from heaven (TO EARTH).

- Pastor Lee commentary: He is praying for all of us this week.....sin is part of our world's system... satan is not omni-present and we certainly are sinful in our own right without him.....but when you experience 'negative undertow' or sinful tension, without rational explanation, there, at least, is the possibility of a satanic piece to it....involving a spiritual battle for you... light/goodness versus darkness/satanic/demonic evil.

1 John 4: 4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them (sic... 'spirits of the anti-christ'), for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

- So, take comfort all believers, CHRIST WINS!!!! (Satan loses!). Just know that the victory comes through Jesus.
- At the same time, always be wary and on guard: See Romans 7:15 in which Paul, addressing the sin in himself says: *"For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing that I hate."*
- In this same watchful regard, see 2 Timothy 2: 26- *"and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will".* Satan knows people, their strengths/weaknesses...and he knows you.
- Even on God's 'short leash', Satan inflicts! See Job 2: 7- *"So satan went out from the presence of the Lord and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head."*
- Also see 2 Cor 12: 7 *"So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited."*
- Pastor Lee: "Well, that's one way to get humble; I think we need to recognize the deceptive power of satan"....especially in the emerging age of AI, we need to be discerning all the more.
- This notion of satan deceiving us has been going on throughout history....see Rev 12: 9 which speaks of the 'great dragon, satan, ..."*the deceiver of the whole world"*....*was thrown down to earth along with his angels.*

HOW DO WE RESIST SATAN?

- *As Peter says in Ch. 5, V8: "Be sober-minded and watchful"....of the prowling devil..We need to pray to God for discernment.*

- Ephesians 6:11 says: *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."*

*** In Ephesians 11-20, Paul urges that we: take up the whole armor of God, standing firm; fastening the belt of truth; putting on the breastplate of righteousness; putting on the readiness of the gospel (of peace); taking up the shield of faith; taking the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit (The Word); praying at all times; being alert; and proclaiming the mystery of the Gospel.

- Protect your marriage from satan.....see 1 Cor 7: 3-5 which speaks to man and wife giving each other conjugal rights, coming together " *so that satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self control."*
- Romans 8:37, in speaking of what separates from Christ, says: *In all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."* ((Note: See Romans 8:38-....."*.....neither angels nor demons can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord".*))

FALLEN ANGELS AND DEMONS:

- First, the notion that there are two equal forces at warGod and Satan....is not true! Indeed, fallen angels are inferior to God. SATAN IS NOT SOVEREIGN. Angels and demons are under

God's authority. Satan is not omnipresent. God cannot be overthrown. Satan is not omniscient.- he doesn't know everything- he can't read your mind! HE IS A FORMIDABLE ENEMY BUT CAN'T STAND UP TO GOD WHO WINS.

- Ez 28: 13-18 speaks of the fact that GOD CREATED SATAN and cast him out to 'ashes on the ground'.
- Other verses to review as you consider satan/dark world: Math 17:15-18 (Jesus rebuking demon from boy).....Mark 9:22 (demon driven out of boy by prayer)..... Mark 9: 18 (same....by faith).....Luke 13:11 (young woman crippled by dark spirit). In these passages, Satan and his minions cause insanity, muteness, deafness, personal injuries.....and are capable of even more.
- As one general 'application', watch out for and discard/resist any exposure to dark, satanic movies, books, etc.represents just an 'invite' to satan....let that be part of your 'watchful sober-mindedness'.
- Satan is a formidable energy....also called: 'Devil', 'Prince/Power of Air', 'God Of this Age', 'King of Death', 'Prince of this World', 'Ruler of Darkness', 'Light Bearer', 'Dragon', 'Deceiver', 'Wicked one', 'Temptor', 'Accuser of the Brethren', 'Angel of Light', 'Liar', 'Murderer', 'Roaring Lion' and more.
- He is a master at what he does and lives up to his names.....see all of Gen 3 where God establishes the rule regarding the forbidden fruit (lest you die)the crafty 'serpent' tempts and tricks Eve/then Adam into eating the fruit anyway and with grandiose false promises.

RESISTANCE (REMINDERS)

- SEE JAMES 4: 15-16- - FOLLOW GOD'S WILL IN RESISTING SATAN....BE HUMBLE, NOT ARROGANT....SEE JAMES 4:7 - - SUBMIT TO GOD! TRUST IN HIM!
- SATAN IS A DEFEATED FOE!!!!

Rev 20: 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.

Col 2:15....(Jesus) disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.

Heb 2: 14-15....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., and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

SATAN DEFEATED- -GOD WINS- -JESUS SAVES US

PRAISE GOD!