

**TITLE: KNOW YOUR ENEMY**

**INTRO:** Nothing can hurt a person, group, nation, etc. more than *not knowing one's enemy!* Armies don't go to war without knowing who they're up against, their weapons, their history, their goals, etc (**Lk 14:31**-what king going to war doesn't determine whether or not he can w/10k meet him w/20k?). The church's greatest enemy is not the person who would persecute us, it is the source of evil behind this person (**Eph 6:12**-*"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"*).

**I. HIS NAME:**

- A. **Rev 12:9** – Dragon (great serpent), Serpent (snake; “artfully malicious” -Strong’s), Devil, Satan  
**The Devil** – Greek “Diabolos” – devil; slanderer, false accuser. **Satan** – Greek “Satanas” – adversary, opponent, accuser.
- B. Other distinctions: **Mt 13:39** – Enemy (“*the enemy that sowed them is the devil*”); **1 Pet 5:8** – a roaring lion
- C. These names tell us much about his character. There is nothing good in him at all!

**II. HIS ORIGIN:**

- A. This is of extreme importance to many. It shouldn't be for us **1)** because God tells us little of it, and **2)** it makes no difference.
- B. He is not eternal. **Col 1:16** –*"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him."* This would include Satan. He is a created being, who by his own choice is evil.
- C. **Rev 12:9** – *"he was cast out into the earth, and his angels (messengers) were cast out with him."* However, the context is about his inability to defeat Christ in Heaven or Earth. It is not discussing his origin.
- D. **2 Pet 2:4** – *"If God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell (Tartarus)...."* Again, not discussing origins.
- E. **John 8:44** – Murder from the beginning; father of lies. **1 John 3:8** – sinner from the beginning.

**III. HIS MISSION:**

- A. **Rev 12:9** – He **"deceiveth** the whole world." This is his desire, his purpose. He wants to take as many as possible with him.
- B. **1 Pet 5:8** – *"your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour."*
- C. **Luke 8:11-12** – Part of his goal then is to take away the seed (the word) from you.
- D. **2 Cor 4:4** – *"the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ...should shine unto them."* He does not want anyone to believe & be saved! And he doesn't want us to know his mission!
- E. **2 Cor 11:3** – *"...as the serpent beguiled (deceived) Eve through his subtlety (trickery) so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."*

**IV. HIS WEAPONS:** **2 Cor 2:11** – *"We are not ignorant of his devices."*

- A. Appearance: Subtle! He is not a little red man with a pitchfork sitting on your shoulder! **Gen 3:1** – *"The serpent was more subtle (cunning, crafty) than any beast of the field..."*
- B. He uses sin: **James 1:14-16** – He tempts us through our own evil desires (to which we *can* say “no!” if we will-**Titus 2:11-12**). When we let the lust conceive, it brings sin, which results in death. Those who will not repent, eventually let themselves slip too far away to ever return (**Heb 6:4-6**). Satan has won! Plus, many of these people he can use as weapons against others.
- C. He uses the sinner:
  - 1. **Jn 6:70** – *"Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?"* **Jn 13:2** – *"...the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot to betray him."*
  - 2. **\*2 Cor 11:13-15** – *"... transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ...Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."* He does this by using those who have been corrupted– using their influence as so-called Christians (cf. **Mt 7:21-23**).
  - 3. By twisting scripture: **1)** Satan did this w/Jesus (**Mt 4:6**). **2)** His servants do it too (**2 Pet 3:16** – *"they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."*). **\*Gal 1:6-9** – *"Some pervert the gospel of Christ...let him be accursed."* It's hard for us to make this accusation. Some teach false, but with good motives (cf. Apollos), although this is still wrong. But some are false teachers (**2 Pet 2!**)! Paul and Peter both called them such!
  - 4. **1 Tim 1:19-20** – *"Some have put aside and made shipwreck the faith; of whom are H&A, whom I've delivered to Satan...."*
  - 5. **Acts 13:8-10** – 1<sup>st</sup> MJ, on Cyprus, Elymas the sorcerer sought *"to turn away the deputy from the faith."* Paul's rebuke: *"child of the devil, enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?"*
  - 6. Satan's servants – **2 Pet 2:18** – *"they speak great swelling words of vanity."* **1 Tim 4:1f** – *"giving heed to seducing spirits..."*
- D. Specific sins: **1 Cor 6:9-11**-fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, thieves, etc.; **Gal 5:19-20**-hatred, strife, jealousy, envy, etc.
- E. Apathy, passiveness, indifference! **Many Christians just don't care, or think it doesn't matter!** It's easier for Satan to convince us that none of this really matters, than it is to convince us of a false doctrine. What a great victory he's won by our apathy!

**V. HIS END:**

- A. **Mt 25:41** – Day of Judgment: *"Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."*
- B. **Mt 25:30** – *"weeping & gnashing of teeth."*

**VI. HIS FAILURE:** **His success or failure is dependent on us!**

- A. **Titus 2:11-12** – *"the grace of God...teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, & godly in this present world."* Notice the word ‘denying.’ His weapons can't hurt you *if you refuse to let them!* (deny entrance)
- B. **Jam 4:7-8** – *"Submit yourselves to God; resist the devil & he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God & he will draw nigh to you."*
- C. **1 Pet 5:9** – *"whom resist steadfast in the faith"*
- D. **Eph 4:26-27** – *"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil."*
- E. **Eph 6:11** – *"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles (tricks, schemes) of the devil."*

**CONCLUSION:** We cannot expect to win against our enemy if we don't know anything about him. This is why God told us all we need to know about him. It is the *whole* armor of God (not part of it) that will protect us from Satan (Eph 6:11-12). How much of this armor do you wear?