

Are We Mistaken?

I have been in conversation with a sister in Christ, she has experienced some horrendous difficulties to say the least. During our conversation we discussed "who" was behind all these calamities.

In today's society, the first thing you hear when something bad happens is "Why did God let this happen." You see, the modern philosophers and a great majority of "Religious teachers", expound that evil does not have a positive existence, that it is merely the absence of good.

Does God's Word agree with man's evaluation? NO! God's Word clearly and emphatically teaches that evil is not only a positive force, but a personal force, that is Satan is not a myth to personify evil, but that he is a real personality. God's Word clearly identifies Satan as the father of lies ("for he is a liar, and the father thereof." John 8:44), as such he is the master of all evil and the enemy of the entire human race.

Have you ever noticed that professional criminals use "aliases", God's Word lists Satan's "aliases":

1. "Beelzebub" Mat. 12:24; 2. "The Prince of the Devils" Mat. 12:24; "The Wicked One" Mat.13:19; 3. "Enemy" Mat.13:39; 4. "Strong Man" Mat. 12:29; 5. "Murderer and Liar, and the Father of Lies" John 8:44; 6. "Prince of This World" John 12:31; 7. "Satan" Mk.1:13; 8. "God of This World" 2Cor.4:4; 9. "Belial" 2Cor.6:15; 10. "That Old Serpent" Rev. 12:9; 11. "Tempter" 1Thes.3:5; 12. "Adversary" 1Pet. 5:8; 13. "Angle of the Bottomless Pit" Rev. 9:11, this is not the entire list, but I hope it is enough that you will have no problem identifying his character.

Let us take a brief look at some of the crimes that he is guilty of:

1. He has been indicted and convicted of murder on the testimony of God's own Son (John 8:44); His temptation of Eve resulted in the death of all men; Sin instigated by Satan results today in the spiritual death (Rom.6:23), Satan arranged the murder of Jesus Christ (Lk.22:3).

2. He is responsible for the captivity of men and women and of holding them as hostages (2Tim.2:26; Heb.2:15).

3. He attempted to prevent Christ from freeing those captives. Look at how he tried to deceive Jesus at the beginning of His ministry (Mat.4:1-11), He continued his deceptions right up to the end, as the Jews shouted out crucify Him.

Satan is the Prince of this World:

1. All alien sinners are still under his dominion (Eph.2:1, Col. 1:13).

2. He holds power over the kingdoms of this world (Lk.4:5-7).

3. He holds this power, not as a legitimate ruler, but through deception (Rev.12.9).

Satan is not "The Master", but the Enemy, of Christians:

1. As our Adversary, Satan seek to devour Christians (1Pet.5:8).

2. Christians are continually in a state of war with Satan (Eph. 6:10-18).

3. Satan cannot force Christians into his service; they have to defect, as Satan 's power is limited (1Cor. 10:13).

Satan Avoids a Fair Fight. His Mode of Operations is Guile!

1. He does not appear to man as a red, horned monster, but as an "angel of light" (2Cor.11:14).

2. Satan uses "wiles", that is he uses cunning and trickery (Eph. 6:11).

3. He uses snares, or sets a trap for us (1Tim. 3:7)

We have stated many things about Satan and his character, the Holy Spirit has given us warnings, time after time (1Pet.5:8-Be sober, be watchful: your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour,). With all these warnings, and all the evidence in our society today of Satan's work, are we as watchful as we ought to be??? In all truthfulness, the answer is no! How can we instill in ourselves and then others the realization that Satan is at the door and that he will use any method or means to entice us to him? In my few years on this earth I have seen Satan at work, taking a pillar of the congregation on, but not face to face, but through their wayward child, first he operates on the child, then the mother, then mother and daughter on the father, but he allows them a form of godliness, you see compromise is one of his favorite tools. He knows this will ensure his victory. A man that I know was an elder for years has left the Lord because Satan used the death of his mate and the waywardness of his children to cause him to defect.

We have seen brother against brother in the House of God fight over scriptural doctrine, we know that a true follower of Christ cannot standby and let Satan infiltrate the Lord's church (Beloved, while I was giving all diligence to write unto you of our common salvation, I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints. Jude 3). We know that division is a tool of the Devil (1Cor.3:3) and the Holy Spirit has warned us of his craftiness. Question, if we are aware of all this, do we realize that Satan is at our door? Or perhaps he has entered in? Could he possibly have misled us on a path that seems right but the end is destruction? These questions must be prayerfully considered, we need to look at self through the eyes of God, and if we find our condition not in harmony with God we need to take the corrective actions to remove Satan and fill our lives and hearts with the Word of God through our actions.

Beloved, please remember that almost is not enough, you must be fully and wholly dedicated to God (Mat.6:33-But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be

added unto you). Beloved, here is another truth that has been revealed by God, Mat.10:36-38-and a man's foes [shall be] they of his own household. 37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that doth not take his cross and follow after me, is not worthy of me. Yes, there are some hard truths but they are the truths of GOD.