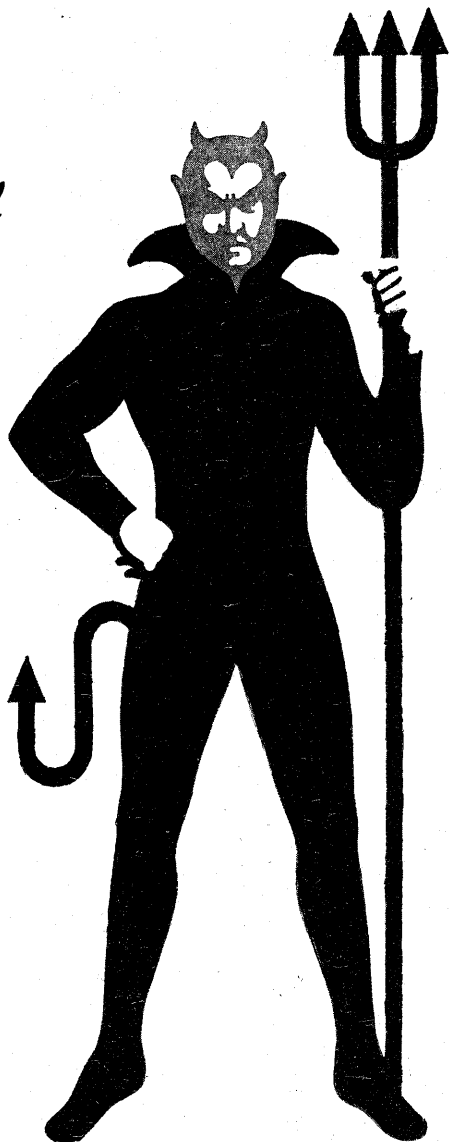


How To Have The Victory

Over The Devil

Over Demons

& Death!





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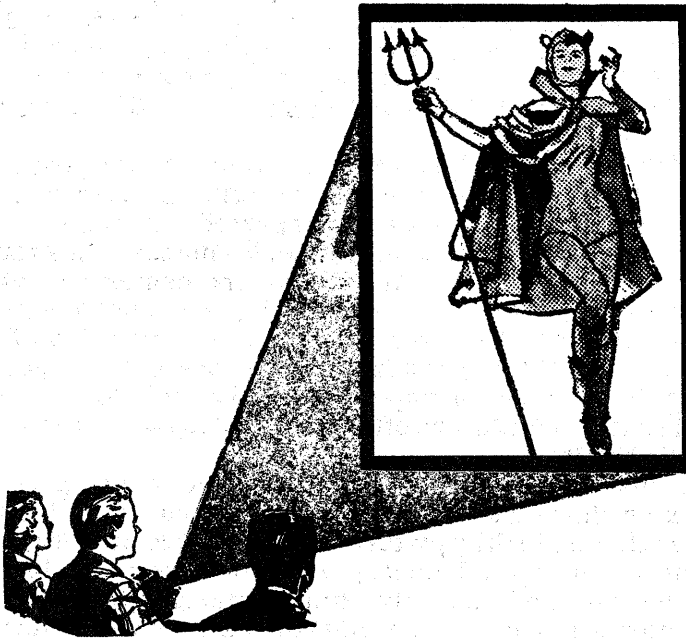


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GOD'S NEWS ..BEHIND THE NEWS
RAY BRUBAKER - COMMENTATOR
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DEMON POSSESSION (#958)

A writer comments on one of the films being shown in theatres across the country, saying: "The devil has made a movie about himself." It is "the most vile, sinister and filthy movie ever made!"

The film story is based on a 14-year-old boy who gave evidence of being demon-possessed. When the demons were exorcised, he raged and shouted obscenities in unnatural falsetto and bass voices.

In the Hollywood film, it's a 12-year-old girl that is shown to be demon-possessed in scenes filled with obscenities. The story reportedly begins with the girl playing with a Ouija board and having conversations with a spirit named "Capt. Howdy." She quickly slips into a state of depression and violence (murdering a family friend,) and finally becomes totally deranged. Psychiatric exams, hypnosis, medical tests all fail to turn up any cause for her symptoms. Finally, a psychiatrist recommends exorcism.

Now, this would all seem to fit a Bible-based pattern of deliverance, except that Hollywood has a way of playing up sex and violence along with the occult, so that the film glorifies Satan, sin and sadism. One university psychologist described the film as satisfying the public's demand for shock, outrage and violence, declaring: "If it's a trend, I find it frightening."

The film is declared to be so nauseating that people get sick during its performance and some actually pass out. One San Francisco theatre manager reported as many as ten people passing out during a film's performance. In Atlanta, one man who sat in the middle of the center row of the theatre, suddenly threw up his hands, let out a scream, forced his way to the aisle, and fell over in a dead faint.

Because of a tendency toward nausea, one man suggested: "They should give you a paper sack like they do in an airplane." Theatre ushers are often required to treat customers with smelling salts.

That's just part of the description we might give of a movie making the round of theatres--declared to be the most horrible, rotten and filthy picture ever produced by Hollywood.

Of course, the film industry will continue to exploit any who are foolish and actually stupid enough to go for this kind of entertainment. The horror mills are turning out motion pictures that are simply preparing our world for the day when there will be "great tribulation, such as the world has never seen, nor shall ever see again." When an audience feeds on the vile and the filthy, it simply is setting the stage, when, as in the days of Rome, the people gloated over watching bloody scenes of people being fed to hungry lions. It would appear to us that history may be repeating itself. We are preparing for the day when Satan himself will actually come down upon the earth, as predicted in the book of Revelation. The Bible warns: "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." (Rev. 12:12)

Don't you sense that day approaching? An avalanche of letters coming to my desk report unbelievable oppressions that many people are going through. Here's a letter in front of me which reads: "I am a person in a terrible shape. I can't even go to church. Sometimes I wish I were dead. I look at everyone like I'm mad at them and I don't mean to be. There is something wrong with me inside."

This, my friends, is evidence of the working of Satan who tries to tempt people to sin, and if he can't do that, he will test them with spiritual depression.

Analyze this letter. This man says, 'I can't go to church.' Who is it that keeps people from going to church? Isn't it the devil who doesn't want you to hear the Word of the Lord?

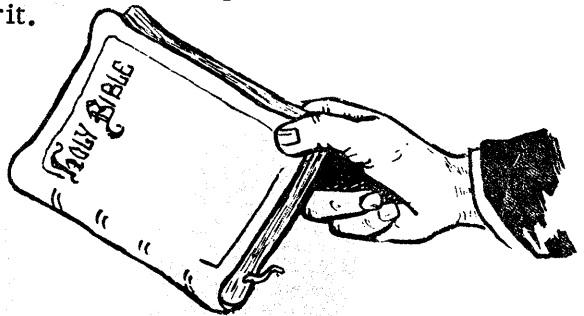
Then he writes: "I wish I were dead!" Here, again, is the devil at work, trying to get us to give up, showing life as hopeless, and urging us to commit suicide.

I just answered a letter from another man who wanted to know what the Bible says about "suicide." Jesus said, "The thief (meaning the devil) cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10) Christ is the author of life...even abundant life, eternal life.

How I like to read Hebrews 2:14-15, which reminds us that our Lord defeated the devil when He died on the cross and rose again. We read: "Through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

Isn't that tremendous? Death is the devil's greatest physical weapon to work havoc with saints and sinners alike. But Jesus has defeated the devil, destroying his work, and delivering those who fear death.

If you are tempted to commit suicide, simply rebuke Satan, reminding him that Christ is the author of life while he is the progenitor of death. It's not improper or out of place to say to Satan: "I rebuke you in Jesus' name. You have no power over me." And Satan has to flee. Unless you're living in known, wilful sin, the devil has no right to afflict or oppress you. His vexations must cease if you will remind him you are trusting Christ and the power of deliverance wrought by the Holy Spirit.



My friends, when dealing with the devil, we have no idea as to how he works, unless we read the Word, or God gives a spirit of discernment. Sometimes he appears as an angel of light. But be assured that he is the oppressor of mind and body.

We read how when Jesus was on earth, He went about healing all who were oppressed of the devil, which leads us to believe that much of our sickness today is of Satan. And, rather than succumb to the temptation to be ill, why not rise up in the power available to the believer today and rebuke the devil and claim victory over all of his oppressions.

To His disciples, our Lord testified, saying: "Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall in any way harm you." (Luke 10:19)

This is not an invitation to play with snakes, but a reminder of the great power of God in defeating the devil who would harm us, hurt us, oppose us, oppress us, and possess us.

That there is much demonic oppression and possession, is increasingly in evidence today. And the picture painted by the Hollywood film of children being tormented by demons is not uncommon. We wouldn't hesitate to suggest that if a child behaves abnormally with fits of rage and anger, or loud screaming, or acts of violence, it indicates the need of the parents or a minister of the gospel to rebuke Satan, and if necessary, to cast out the demons. Such children should not be punished, but rather prayed for.



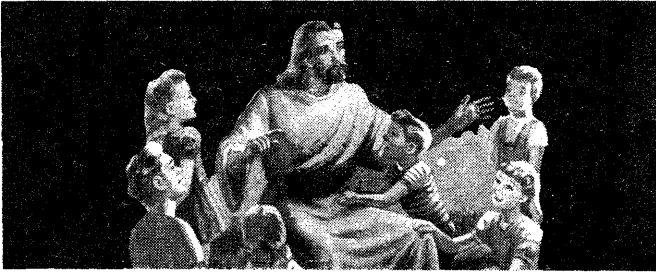
In Mark's Gospel we read of one who was demon possessed and our Lord asked the father, "How long is it ago since this came unto him?" For the man would gnash with his teeth and foam at the mouth and did not speak. The father replied, "Of a child." And he told how this spirit which came on his son would cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him. The father cried out, "If thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us and help us."

How many today are similarly crying out for help?

To this father's cry for help, our Lord replied: "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." Did you hear it?

The Bible then describes how the people gathered together to see what was happening as Jesus rebuked the foul spirit. "Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him," commanded Jesus. We read how the spirit came out but not without a struggle. The spirit cried out within the lad and threw him down as one who was dead, insomuch that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up, and he was made whole and normal again.

Now when the disciples were alone with Jesus, they asked Him, "Why could we not cast out the demons?" Our Lord replied: "This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting." (Mark 9:14-29)



Beloved, we are convinced that the same Jesus who cured the demon-possessed lad in the Bible, likewise heals today. Our Lord would say, "Which is easier, to say thy sins be forgiven thee or arise and walk." He has all power both in Heaven and in earth.

The question is, are we willing to believe God for the supply of our every need?

What is your need today? Can you trust Him who said, "All things are possible to him that believeth?"

Our desperation may demand fasting and prayer in order for Satan's power to be broken, but there is the promise of deliverance to those who will believe God. Joel, relating God's promise to the Endtime would remind us, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be delivered."

Tertullian, one of the early church fathers, calls attention to the fact that the authority over demons was in the name of Jesus, in recalling to their memory the woes with which God threatens them at the hand of Christ their Judge.

Notes Tertullian, "...overwhelmed by the thought and realization of those judgment fires, they leave at our command the bodies they have entered."

Somehow, I fear lest we have lost the Scriptural injunction which gives us command to "cast out demons" in the name of Jesus.

There is deliverance from Satanic oppression and there's glorious freedom to those who will put their faith and trust in Christ. His power is available to all who will believe, coming and confessing their need to Him, and trusting Him to both save and heal.

What greater way to wait for the coming of our Blessed Lord than to believe Him for the sanctification and preservation of our entire being. As we read in I Thess. 5:23-24: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Do you want the Lord to preserve you until He comes? The next verse says: "Faithful is he who calleth you, who also will do it."

Trust Him today. If you've never done so, believe on Him without delay, and then live for Him daily, for He is coming soon. Indeed, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

DEMONISM ON THE MARCH!



“Demonism,” observes CHRISTIANITY TODAY, “is a growing phenomenon throughout the world.” (2/17/67)

As evidence of this, it is reported in Germany that there are more witches, wizards and necromancers than full-time Christian workers.

In London, the Witchcraft Research Association has a membership of over 8,000 with a thousand new members enrolled just last year.

John Kohler, in the SATURDAY EVENING POST, reveals a strange revival of witchery in England with spiritism operating under the guise of such high-sounding terms as “psychic manifestations.” Notes Kohler: “There is more Satan worship today than ever since the dark ages.”

The Scriptures would remind us that as we approach the end of the age, the activity of demons would greatly increase. Writes Paul, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.” (I Tim. 4:1)

Did you hear it?

Much of the demonic activity of our day is expressed in violence. It is not by coincidence that the word "demon" is in the word DEMONSTRATION.

Then, too, the immodesty of our time is the work of Satan. The man of Gadara is a perfect example of what happens when a man is possessed of demons. The Bible says, "He ware no clothes."

This trend toward nudity that we are witnessing today certainly must be of the devil. From coast to coast there are topless waitresses serving in restaurants. Go-go dancers and even shoe-shine girls can now perform without penalty--thanks to decisions rendered by our highest court permitting such exposure.

Where will it end?

In 1958, when the U.S. Supreme Court lifted a ban on NUDE publications, we predicted that "unless the trend is reversed, nudity and homosexuality will propagate unhindered." We asked the question, "What would prevent nude Hollywood models from parading before television cameras in view of the ruling that nudity is not obscene?"

In New York City, churchmen led by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, predicted that the public will not tolerate this indecent exposure. But what have you and I done to help stop this declining moral situation?

At least, of this, we can be certain. When the Lord Jesus cast out the demons in this man from Gadara, we read, he is found "clothed, and in his right mind."

What we need is more ministers who sense what is happening, who will cry out against this moral depravity.

Mental sickness tops the list of social problems afflicting mankind.

H.V. Caneday, member of the editorial committee of Religion Analysis Service, Inc., has observed that "tampering with spiritism is the shortest road to insanity." He quotes a former spiritist, now converted, as saying, "If I had stayed with spiritism another year, I would have gone insane or committed suicide."

The Bible expressly forbids all forms of demonism and black magic, fortune-telling and wizardry. God warned Israel to avoid "anyone who practices divination, a soothsayer, or an augur, or a sorcerer, or a charmer, or a medium, or a wizard, or a necromancer." (Deut. 18:10b,11). And in the book of Revelation, those who are sorcerers are plainly condemned to the "lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." Rev. 21:8.

Psychiatry today is big business. The term, incidentally, comes from the same greek word from which we get our word "soul." It is not surprising, therefore, to find many medical men declaring that most of their patients have deep-seated spiritual difficulties, perhaps harboring evil thoughts, having guilt complexes, which if settled can restore mental balance.

A young lady wrote to us asking for help as she was deeply disturbed mentally and emotionally to the point where she feared a complete mental breakdown. We wrote to a minister in her community and asked him to call on her. In her letter which we received, she writes that the pastor and his wife "helped me so much both mentally and spirituallythe power and control of Satan was dethroned....life seems so new and even the folks around me have commented on the change. I believe it is only the beginning of a wonderful thing. As I keep my eyes on Christ, the path of life must be bright." And she concludes her letter by thanking us for the small part we played in her release from nervous depression.

Someone has said that the devil's best tool is DISCOURAGEMENT.

A professor in a Bible college became discouraged and allowed this to defeat him. Finally, he ended up on Skid Row.

A pastor became discouraged and gave up the ministry. Today he is a funeral director, looking after dead bodies instead of ministering to living souls.

A famous Christian poet gave in to discouragement and died of despondency in a mental institution.

Even Martin Luther became greatly discouraged. Opposition was strong. Luther looked as if he had lost his best friend. Suddenly his wife addressed him, "Martin, too bad that God is dead!" Shocked, Martin Luther replied, "God isn't dead." "Well," she replied, "You sure look as if God were dead." Immediately, Luther cheered up, seized the initiative, put the devil to flight, and came through his experience victoriously.

Hear me, today. There is no need to be defeated or discouraged.

The secret is to be so surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ that the devil cannot disturb or discourage us.

In I John 3:9, we read, "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not, but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself and that wicked one toucheth him not."

Did you hear it?

If we are surrendered to God, indwelt by His Spirit, there is an invisible sign posted which says "KEEP OUT," and the devil cannot touch us unless we yield to sin, fail to resist him, or God is permitting some test to come our way.

To his disciples, our Lord had said, "I give you power over all the power of the enemy...." (Luke 10:19) Again, he said, "Ye shall cast out devils in my name."

By way of helpful personal illustration, I would refer to times when as a radio commentator in Chicago, I would go to bed at night and wake up shaking violently. I would ask my wife to pray for me as I sensed a feeling of frustration as if I were going off the deep-end into mental oblivion. Then one day, I heard Brother Epp, of the BACK TO THE BIBLE broadcast, say that we had the right to use the name of Jesus in rebuking the devil. So, the next time I had one of these attacks, I simply rebuked Satan in the name of Jesus and the attack ceased immediately and I have NOT had any similar experiences since then.

Now, the Lord did show me that there were little sins in my life--what many might describe as petty things, but that these were partly responsible for my affliction.

So, my friends, as we forsake sin, resist temptation and rebuke Satan, we can be victorious over him.

Just remember, although the devil is a defeated foe, he will not let you alone, but you can be victorious over him. Whenever Jesus was tempted by Satan, He would say, "It is written." Your victory over the devil will be demonstrated as you cling to the promises of God's Word and command Satan to loose his hold in your life.

The devil is no respecter of persons. Billy Graham relates how in a campaign years ago, he was preparing a sermon on the subject of the devil. Just to show the opposition he experienced, his dictating machine caught on fire, and on his way to the meeting that night, he lost his notes. "It always seems to happen that way," commented Billy, "when I preach on the devil."

Remember, you can be victorious over the devil as you yield yourself to the control of God's Spirit and allow your life to be lived for Christ. Then, taking the weapons at your command you can "resist the devil and he will flee from you; draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you."

In Bible times, Jesus commanded His disciples to cast out the devils in those who were afflicted.

If your affliction is an oppression of the devil, doesn't it seem sensible to believe that the same power that wrought your salvation can also bring your deliverance from Satanic oppression?

Did not Jesus say, "Which is easier, to say thy sins be forgiven thee, or arise and walk?"

Indeed, He has all power today. He will save you if you will come to Him, confessing and forsaking your sins. He will deliver you from the power of the devil if you will claim victory over him in Jesus' Name.

DEMONS TODAY!

Some time ago, at a meeting of Anglican Bishops, the subject of "demons" was brought up in connection with the Church Commission's report on the ministry of healing.



Do demons exist? -- the British Bishops asked themselves.

Replied the Right Rev. Eric Hamilton, Dean of Windsor: "I would rather believe that the devil exists than that he does not...."

Quite agreed was Canon Arthur Shepherd, who observed: "The first tactic of the devil is to persuade Christians that he does not exist, next to persuade them that God does not exist."

Though some of the members present felt that a further study should be made, the proposal was turned down. Commented the Anglican's CHURCH TIMES: "The Son of God had no doubt about the existence of such forces. Where he was certain, it is hardly necessary for Christians to doubt." TIME, 10/13/58.

To our Lord, demons were very real, and on many occasions He and His disciples are seen casting out these evil spirits.

Today, many in our cultured society would deny the existence of demons. The Word of God, however, not only assures us of their existence, but also reveals their intensified activity as we approach the end of this age.

The Apostle Paul writes: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." (2 Tim. 3:1)

Friends, are these not perilous times? It behooves us to alert ourselves to Satan's devices lest we fall victim to his prey.

There are some well-meaning folk who tell us that our day is no different from any other day. We must be careful with such reasoning lest we become like those, whom the Apostle Peter describes, who declare: "All things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." These, says Peter, are "scoffers, walking after their own lusts."

Any truly honest person must agree that sin has become progressively worse until we no longer blush, our consciences apparently seared, our hearts no longer heavy for those walking the broad way that leadeth to destruction.

I remember as a boy, hitch-hiking to our nation's Capital, and one thing I wrote home about was seeing a woman smoke a cigarette. It so attracted my attention that it distressed me greatly. Today, it is no longer uncommon to see women smoking. A recent government survey tells us that 3 out of 10 women smoke, and we think nothing of it.

Yes, these are perilous times...when many have lost their sense of propriety and modesty, and have allowed Satan to captivate their minds and bodies.

We would like to point out here that this greek word for "perilous" used in 2 Timothy 3:1, is used in the Gospels to describe the maniac of Gadara out of whom Jesus cast 2000 demons. Thus, some have interpreted this verse to read: "This know also that in the last days "demonized" times shall come."

That these are demonized times is seen in the fact that many today are like this man from Gadara. Like him, many are suffering mental derangement and physical anguish.

It is reported that more people are in hospitals for mental illness than for polio, cancer, TB, heart disease, and all other diseases combined. Some ten million Americans are said to suffer from some form of mental disability.

Canon Evan Burrough of Oxford made this striking personal observation when he said: "I believe that the majority of patients in our mental hospitals are really possessed by demons rather than suffering diseases of the mind."

After Jesus cast the demons out of the man of Gadara, we read that he was found "in his right mind."

Nervousness, frustration, and mental sickness--even physical illness, can often be traced to sin, or lack of trust in the Lord. Whereas, to rest in the promises of God and to walk in obedience to His Word, finds the believer enjoying peace and victory.

A person may be like the Pharisees--ever so pious, morally right, and outwardly religious---but inwardly entertain impure thoughts, lust and hate. Think of it. To these very religious folk, Jesus said: "Ye are of your father, the devil."

So, unless we too have been born again, having become new creatures in Christ, our father is the devil. You can see at once that Jesus never taught the "Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of man" idea.

Only as men truly repent of their sins and obediently follow the Lord, can they become members of God's family.

As the Apostle Paul then writes: "Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

We are convinced that many are unable to enjoy spiritual victory and constant mental and physical strength because--either they have not come into actual possession of the Spirit of God, or else they fail to realize the power of God to give victory over our enemy, Satan.

Again, the Apostle Paul writes: "If the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you."

What tremendous power! Power that brought the body of our Lord Jesus Christ forth from the grave--power that could bring the Apostle Paul literally back from the dead. Recall how he was brutally stoned, left for dead, and his body dragged by the mob to the outskirts of the city. Suddenly, in the presence of the disciples who came to him--perhaps to weep, or no doubt, to pray--we see the Apostle Paul rise up and walk right back into the city to face the mob, and again witness for Christ.

That, dear friends, is the power of God's Holy Spirit available to the believer today. When Jesus walked this earth, He cast out devils through the power of the Spirit of God!

Thus, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we too, have every right to rebuke Satan in the name of Jesus, and through the power of the Holy Spirit be set free from his many oppressions.

Now, the devil must recognize the name of Jesus. He has every respect for that name. The Bible tells us that when Jesus died on the cross He defeated him that had power even over death--that is, the devil.

However, notice--to yield to lust, and pride, and sin, allows Satan to gain inroads into our lives. To allow our bodies to become poisoned by tobacco, for instance, gives Satan opportunity to afflict the body with cancer. So it is with the many other little sins and weights in our lives which we consider harmless, and so long as they exist, they allow the devil to have an advantage in our lives.

Today, the call of God is that we present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, unto God. Jesus expressed it this way, saying: "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

In other words, God's Holy Spirit cannot come into full possession of our beings until we die to self and allow Him to possess us. Some people Jesus healed; whereas, in others (like the man of Gadara), he cast out the demons.

It seems to me the trend toward nudity is demon-inspired. Many who dress immodestly do not realize that they have been deceived by the devil, and that they are being used by the devil to lead others astray.

Concerning this man of Gadara, we read, "he ware no clothes," until Jesus cast out the unclean spirit, and then we see him fully clothed!

Listen to what Dr. Luchtenstein, physician at Tomb's Prison in New York City, has to say: "The so-called crimes of passion are increasing alarmingly, and will continue to do so, in my opinion, until the principal cause is eliminated. This, it seems to me, is the present style of dress which, to say the least, is immodest. Immodest dress," says this prison physician, "has a direct bearing on crime incitation no matter how innocent the wearer may be."

The Bible, friends, says, "Let women adorn themselves in modest apparel," and to disobey God is to yield to Satan.

Rock-n-roll, our missionaries tell us, is demon-inspired... the music of the jungle driving our youth to unrestrained passions. Writes Dr. Joost Meerlo, well-known Dutch psycho-therapist now practicing in New York: "Become a follower of rock-n-roll and, as in drug addiction, a thousand years of civilization fall away in a single moment." NEWS-WEEK, July 20, 1958.

We would believe that alcoholism is actually a form of demon possession. Is not alcohol sometimes referred to as "spirits?" Certainly, when we read of the murder, and rape, and the many auto accidents resulting from drunkenness, we must certainly call these spirits, "evil" spirits.

The findings of a certain Liquor Research Laboratory concluded: "It is impossible to prove that drunkenness comes from drinking liquor."

A newspaper editorial commented on this wryly saying: "We can't believe it then is the result of drinking milk."

We might reason, if it isn't the wine that makes the man drunk, it almost must of necessity be the evil spirit that controls a man whose senses are inebriated.

The fact that a man can't quit drinking is almost proof that a greater power holds sway in his life--the power of Satan--which power is broken upon the willingness of the individual to fully surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ.

"For whom the Son maketh free, he shall be free indeed."

Again, we would observe that these are demonized times as witnessed by the violence and unrest among nations today. Communism, for example, feeds on such violence and hate, and is the work of demons.

Proof that demons influence kings and nations is seen in Rev. 16:14, where we read of the "spirits of devils... which go forth unto the kings of the earth and the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty...the battle of Armageddon."

So, we see it is the work of demons to engender hate, foment crises, bring revolution, cause unrest, kill, murder, produce strife, until one day Satan will mastermind his most merciless move of maneuvering mankind into battling the Most High God...on the plains of Megiddo in Northern Palestine.

Finally, we would observe that these are demonized times as witnessed by the many religious cults abroad today.

Writes the Apostle Paul: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons (devils)...forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."

Did you hear it? The Apostle warns that some will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Yes, even under the guise of Christianity--with outward form and ritual--some pretend to be Christ's Church on earth while corrupting men's minds with false practices and false hopes.

God's Word clearly establishes the fact that salvation is in Jesus Christ alone...not from learning catechisms, observing rituals or even abstaining from meats.

Search the records of history and you will not find another who, like the Lord Jesus Christ, came to this earth--His birthplace prophesied in detail, born in Bethlehem--born of a virgin. He Himself predicted that He would rise from the dead on the third day, and though soldiers guarded His tomb, and Caesar's seal secured the door, Jesus arose triumphantly. Neither death, nor hell, nor men could hold Him captive. By His resurrection, He proved Himself to be the Son of God and our eternal Saviour, and Satan was again proven to be a liar, deceiver and defeated foe. Hallelujah.

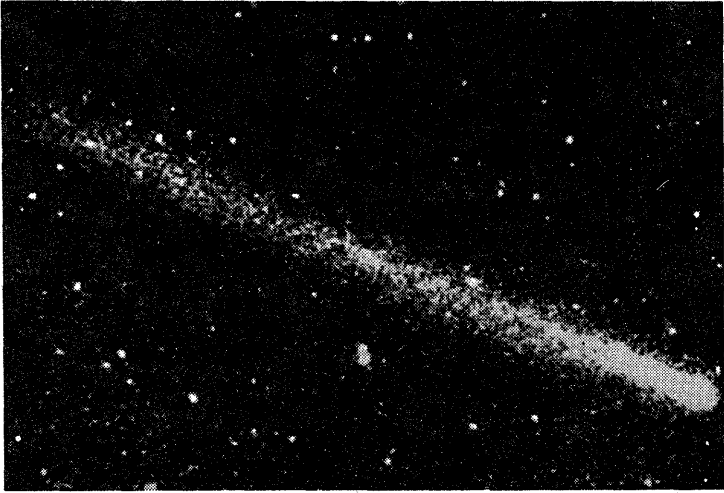
Do not the facts of history so well attest to the authenticity and genuineness of our faith? Our calendar is as a Bible in itself speaking the language of redemption--Christmas attesting to the fact of Christ's birth--born to die for sinners. Good Friday speaks of the wondrous love of Christ in bearing our sins in His body on the tree--the just for the unjust--that He might bring us back to God. Easter--sign and symbol of a living faith that finds its truest expression in a living Christ--proof positive that He alone is as He said--the Son of God with power!

Mohammed is dead. Confucious, Buddha--their tombs are with us to this day containing their dusty remains. But JESUS IS ALIVE, and now seated at the Father's right hand to intercede for our needs.

Let no man be deceived today. There is no salvation in any other. Jesus alone can give forgiveness of sins and eternal life. He has said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by me."

Today, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and live for the day of His coming. For He hath said, "Be ye ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

Deliverance From Demons (#523)



Recently, we followed with interest the news report of a comet streaking through the solar system at amazing speed. Can you begin to imagine what would have happened if this spectacular mass would have collided with our earth? Apparently, scientists were not worried that this would happen, and so no warning was issued.

However, in the Bible, a day is described when during the great tribulation a star from Heaven will hit the earth. John, writing the vision the Lord gave him of this event, describes it most vividly in Revelation, chapter 9, saying: "I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth; and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the reason of the smoke of the pit."

That the earth upon which we live may have a core of fiery, molten lava is indicated by the volcanoes that pour forth their fumes of sulphuric fury. Scientists estimate these chambers of extremely hot steam and explosive gases to lie some 20 to 40 miles below a volcano applying great pressures which cause it to erupt. These also may cause earthquakes. Of particular interest to our discussion today is the reference to the earth's inner-chamber as being called "the bottomless pit." And we are told of weird and strange creatures that inhabit these lower regions. We are told of an angel which is king over this bottomless pit, named in the Hebrew tongue, Abaddon, and in the Greek, called Apollyon. This is one of Satan's angels. The bottomless pit is said to be the future abode of Satan who is now prince and power of the air but one day will be cast into the bottomless pit.

Today's message is given in the hope that many may recognize that in the name of Jesus, and in the power of His shed blood, they have authority over these demonic spirits to rebuke them and cast them out. Alcoholics, too, can be set free; those addicted by dope and tobacco delivered; those beset by evil passions can know freedom from captivating sins. It is strange that there are not more ministers aware of the fact that there may be those in their congregations who are oppressed by demons.

Luke, who was a physician, declared that when Jesus was on earth, he went about healing all that were oppressed by the devil. (Acts 10:38) The Scriptures would indicate that as we approach the endtime the activity of demons would greatly increase. I Timothy 4:1 says: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to SEDUCING SPIRITS, and DOCTRINES OF DEMONS (devils)." Did you hear it? Here we find demon activity even in the religious realm. You see, not all demons are filthy spirits like the one who drove the man of Gadara to tear off his clothes and inhabit the tombs of the dead. Some demonic spirits are very religious, parading as "angels of light." (2 Cor. 11:14) Cults today can trace their existence to the work of demons. So-called revelations of truth which some claim to possess are actually the work of seducing spirits which are sent forth to deceive the people. The only way to be set free from deception is to know the truth--to believe the Word of God.

Even the insidious denials of Holy Scripture, calling the miracles of the Bible "myths," is nothing more than the work of demons. So long as error is garbed in "religious robes," it is often accepted by those blinded by what they see. Just because a man may call himself a minister, and wear the cloth of the clergy, is no indication that he is a man of God. If he denies the Word of God, he is of Satan. Man's first encounter with Satan found the devil seeking to deny the Word of God, saying to Eve, "Yea, hath God said!" Ever since, the devil's scheme is to seek to belittle the necessity of conversion, falsify the need of genuine repentance, ridiculing the atonement, urging delay in making decision for Christ. In countless ways the devil is busy trying to keep men from the kingdom of God. In spite of the fact that Christ defeated Satan at Calvary, he is still a potentially dangerous enemy and must ever be resisted. We must never allow our minds to dwell upon any thought that is motivated by lust or hate or similar evil, for this is the way Satan works. That's why our hearts should be possessed by God's Holy Spirit and thoughts of love and purity should be entertained in our minds.

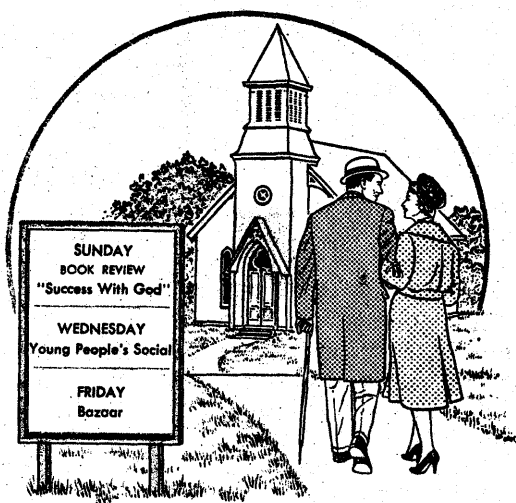
Yes, Satan's insidious work is to bring to our minds again and again evil thoughts. (Husbands may think their wives are unfaithful, or wives may be jealous of their husbands. Church congregations have been split because of imaginary injustices. This, too, is the work of Satan.) Thus, we are commanded to resist the devil, with the promise, "he will flee from you." Never allow your mind to dwell on gossip, evil report, feelings of ill-will, doubt or discouragement. Quickly go to your Bible and read the delightful promises of God, or sing a song of faith and hope. It is no wonder that the Scriptures admonish us to think on things that are lovely and of good report.

Even symptoms of ill health can be "fiery darts" of the devil, and these must be resisted lest we fall victims to Satanic oppression. One child of God who thought she was suffering a breakdown, went to prayer on behalf of her need. She related how a soft and gentle voice spoke to her saying, "Today thou shalt be with me in Paradise." Thinking this to be the voice of God, she yielded to it, when later the same voice suggested she drink some poison. She was found drinking this poison and restrained, shown this to be of Satan, and thus delivered. How careful we must be not to yield to Satan in any area of life, lest he try to possess us. But, on the other hand, if vexed, or oppressed or possessed by Satan, there is deliverance. That is the work of God today through faithful ministers who are praying for those whose minds and bodies are oppressed by the devil.

When our Lord stated, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few," He was relating this to the various oppressions of mankind. For immediately after making this declaration, we read: "He called unto Him His twelve disciples," giving them "power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease." Thus, the work of ministering is clearly related to delivering those oppressed by Satan, whether through disease or demons. Not only did the disciples cast out demons but the early Church Fathers relate how this practice continued following Pentecost.

Justin Martyr relates: "Numberless demoniacs throughout the whole world and in your city, many of our Christian men--exorcising them in the name of Jesus Christ; driving the possessing demon out of the men, though they could not be cured by all other exorcists, and those who use incantations and drugs."

The message we proclaim today is that Christ came to set men free, to break chains of sin and fetters which bind men's minds. "For whom the Son maketh free, he shall be free indeed." Amen.



POWER OVER DEMONS

A lady passed a fashionable New York Church. She observed on the cornerstone these words of Jesus which He had uttered upon commissioning His disciples. She read: "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils..." Stopping in at this church and finding the pastor, she asked, "Do you?" "Do we what?" was his reply. She then asked, "Do you heal the sick...and cast out devils, for if you don't you shouldn't advertise..."

Well, we're afraid the church largely has gotten away from the idea that demons possess some people today. Billy Graham, in one of his radio broadcasts asserted, "I believe we could be the subjects of a special attack by Satan. It could be that he has released a new army of demons or unclean spirits upon our world..."

Many are becoming increasingly aware of such demonic activity in our world today. James Reston, newspaper columnist noted: "There is something in the air of the modern world: a defiance of authority, a contagious irresponsibility, a kind of moral delinquency, no longer restrained by religious or ethical faith. And these things are now threatening not only personal serenity but public order in many parts of the world."

Reston went on to declare, "The assassins of President John F. Kennedy, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Lee Harvey Oswald, and the attacker of Senator Kennedy may merely be deranged demons, tormented by frustrations and intoxicated by fear or revenge."

Could it be that the church is largely failing to accept the challenge of its greatest responsibility in this hour to cast out these demons of hate leading to vicious crimes of rape and murder, or of lust and impurity seen breaking up marriages, demons of doubts and fears disturbing people emotionally who are filling our hospitals, and demons of disease seen afflicting mankind?

Luke, who was one of the devoted disciples who accompanied our Lord, was a physician. He reminds us in Acts 10:38, that our Lord while on earth, "went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil..."

Did you hear it? Whom did Jesus heal? His reply-- "Those oppressed of the devil."

It would appear that Satan would blind us to the fact that he is the cause of much of the oppression, the physical suffering and the mental anguish seen afflicting mankind today. He certainly does not want us to know that we can command in the name of Jesus that he loose his hold upon men. Jesus commanded, "In My name shall ye cast out devils..."

Traveling in various meetings, we have had encounters with those oppressed by demons. On one occasion we felt led following a service to speak to different ones about their need of Christ. One to whom I had spoken suddenly looked dazed, legs buckled, and this rather heavy-set lady fell to the ground in a dead faint. Discerning what had happened, we knelt down and simply rebuked the devil in the name of Jesus. Her eyes opened and she came to her senses. "What came over me?" she exclaimed, and then went on to relate how she had been an active worker in the church--a Sunday School teacher; but when one of her children met death in an accident, she blamed God, and ever since has had these blackouts.

Ah, my friends, it doesn't pay to play tight and loose with God, nor to play with sin.

Oswald J. Smith of the People's Church in Toronto, observes: "When an individual yields to sin, he invites a demon into his heart and his life, to a greater or less extent, and is controlled by that demon." He goes on to list five demon powers that control men today. He says, "Men know them as gambling, drink, immorality, dope, and dishonesty; but God recognizes them as vices of Satanic origin." Take the person who gambles or the person who drinks. "He is not, strictly speaking, a slave to his passions; he is a slave to a demon," observes Smith. The gambler must keep on gambling--something compels him, drives him on; the alcoholic must keep on drinking until gripped by an uncontrollable thirst; the immoral person is bound by filthy books and unclean habits; the dope addict is driven to insanity or suicide.

"In each instance," notes Dr. Smith, "there is but one answer. The one who plays with fire gets burned. Those who indulge in sin of any kind throw themselves wide open to the demon of that particular vice, until at last, having silenced conscience, the demon enters the heart and takes full control. They may not want to do wrong, but they are driven on in spite of all they can do, and then it is too late to turn back. 'Something within me,' men will say, 'compelled me to do it.' And when it is all over and they sit behind the bars, filled with bitter, bitter remorse, wondering how they could have fallen so low, how they could have done such a vile deed, the demon but laughs and mocks at their plight."

Ah, hear me today. There is One Who came that men might be delivered from the power of enslavement--One Who came to cast out demons. He can break every fetter and snap every chain. Christ will set the captive free.

Should you find yourself so bound by the power of Satan as to need personal help, we urge you to see your pastor, or a Bible-believing minister. Or, come to us, and our staff will gladly counsel and pray for you or refer you, if necessary, to someone who will command Satan's power to be broken in your life.

Daily, beloved, as Christians, we must commit ourselves to the Spirit of God to guide us and control us. When we take to the highways we need to pray that the Lord will protect us from demon-possessed drivers behind the wheel of cars coming toward you. Throughout the day we can have an awareness of the Spirit's guidance and protection, for we read: "That through death He might destroy him that had power of death, that is the devil." (Heb. 2:14)

If you have never received Christ as your Saviour, invite Him now into your heart and life. Then "resist the devil and he will flee from you; draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you." (James 4: 7-8)

Today, totally and completely submit to Christ. Resist every temptation. Avoid all appearance of evil. And, should the devil seek to rob you of victory--resist Him in Jesus' name.

You have been bought with a price. You are not your own. You are God's property and Satan cannot touch you...unless... unless you yield some area of your life to Him.

God's promises stand every test. "DRAW nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." Hallelujah. Praise His Name!

The Devil Wants You . . .

In San Francisco, a wedding was performed by Anton Szander LaVey, who calls himself the priest of the prince of darkness. Wearing devil horns, LaVey asked the blessing of Satan upon the couple being wed and pronounced the marriage as conceived "not in heaven, but in hell."

Perhaps the most shocking aspect of this cult of demon worshipers is the fact that the right hand man for this group is Patrick Taggart. According to CHRISTIANITY TODAY, Taggart was once active in the First Baptist Church of Chatsworth, California and served as a counselor in Billy Graham's last Los Angeles crusade. Taggart was introduced to the Satan-worship cult by Lois Murgenstrumm who during the wedding reclined in the nude on a purple velvet robe atop a mantlepiece.

That Satan is busy, who among us can deny!



Radical socialist Anton Szador LaVey, "Black Pope" of the First Church of Satan, now claims over seven thousand members around the world.

Take Steve Hamilton, 22, arrested at the University of California's Berkeley Campus as one of the leaders of the spicy Free Speech Movement. Hamilton, too, "converted" in an evangelical Baptist church and active in youth work, trained for the ministry at Wheaton College, and once worked in a Chicago slum Sunday School.

Now claiming to be a communist and a "true atheist," Hamilton claims it was reading books by liberal theologians that brought about the "change" and as for Christ, he notes: "I haven't thought about Him since."

What is it that turns men away from the Saviour to Satan? Is it true that Satan is so powerful that he takes men captive?

At least, it is true that the devil will stop at nothing to deceive and destroy, IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, the very elect. We're reminded of what John writes of those anti-Christ's who should appear in the last time of whom it is said, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us..." (I John 2:19)

Although it is true that Satan cannot touch us if we are born again and not practicing sin (I John 5:18), it is also true that the devil wants all who will yield to him.

In Luke 22:31, we read where Jesus warned Peter of the desire of the devil to have him. "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat, but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

Did you hear it?

Here Jesus is saying, "SIMON, THE DEVIL WANTS YOU."

Now, the WILLIAMS translation is more emphatic in indicating that our Lord was saying that the devil wanted--not only Peter, but the whole band of disciples. Notice, as I read from this translation: "Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has asked permission to sift ALL of you like wheat, but I have prayed especially for you that your own faith may not utterly fail."

And then the WEYMOUTH translation suggests that Satan was granted this permission, for we read: "Simon, Simon, I tell you that Satan HAS OBTAINED PERMISSION to have all of you to sift as wheat is sifted. But (said Jesus) I have prayed for yourself that your faith may not fail, and you, as soon as you have repented, must strengthen your brethren."

At least, we would call attention to the fact that the devil wanted Peter and all the disciples, even as he wants you and me today.

You see, Satan has a kingdom. He is a powerful prince. Unless we are saved, having truly repented of sin to trust the Saviour, we are in the devil's kingdom.

No matter how good or how religious one might be, unless born again of the Spirit of God, he is in Satan's kingdom. This may be difficult to comprehend, but from the Scriptures, we would like to show how the devil operates to gain a following.

For instance, as children, we have been told when we were naughty, that it was the devil who wanted us to be bad. True! But did you know there are times the devil would have us to be GOOD?

Now wait a minute--I hear someone say. What do you mean?

This is what we mean. There are many today who think they will get to Heaven simply by being good. They have the idea that if they do more good things than bad things, that at the judgment, God will put their good deeds on a scale. And if they have done more good things than bad things, they will go to Heaven!

In revival meetings, the minister has preached the Word and people are under conviction, and I see a young person wanting to come forward to be saved. But the mother says, "Child, you're not very bad. You don't need to be saved." How wrong is that mother. For the Bible says, "There is none good, no not one. We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God." Thus all are in need of salvation.

Although it is admitted that we should seek to live a good life, yet unless we receive Christ, we are not good enough to go to Heaven. It is a lie of the devil to deceive people into thinking they will be saved by their good works. Whereas the Bible says, "By grace are ye saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of WORKS, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9.

Now, if the devil can accomplish his purpose, he will try to get you to be religious. You see, religion doesn't save us, but CHRIST does. I have talked to people about the Lord and they reply, "I have my own religion." That is a trick of the devil--to deceive, and many will miss Heaven because they have their own religion but do not have Christ.

Another deception of the devil is to make people think they're all right if they join the church.

Certainly, joining the church is proper. We should be identified with God's people once we are genuinely converted. But how many think their membership in a church will save them, and that when they stand before God, an angel will be sent down to find the records, and if their name is on a church roll somewhere, all will be well!

How foolish. Unless your name is written in Heaven as a result of your personal faith in Jesus Christ, you are lost--even though your name is on a church roll somewhere.

Then notice, if the devil can accomplish his purpose, he will have some think their baptism saves them. I remember preaching in a church in Georgia on the subject of coming judgment. A little girl said to me, "I'm sure glad I've been baptised," thinking that made everything right. Bless her heart. Baptism is important. Properly understood, it is an act of identification with Christ. But water will not wash away sin. How many have testified that they went down into the baptismal pool a dry sinner and came up a wet one.

My friends, it is the blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses from all sin. We must be born again by repenting of our sins and trusting the Saviour and then be baptized, and associate with a Bible-believing church.

Now the devil is a sly creature. The Bible tells us that he goes around in the guise of an "angel of light" and notes: "Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness."

Did you hear it?

Just because a man claims to be a minister of righteousness, does not make him qualify. Cassious Clay is seeking exemption from the draft, declaring he is a minister, but is meeting with difficulty because he is not performing the duties of a minister. But how many are performing the duties of a minister who do not preach the Bible, and failing to emphasize that a person must be saved by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ in order to go to Heaven.

We could go on and on indicating how the devil is slyly working today to accomplish his purpose, getting people to believe the Bible and yet not coming to know Christ.

You know, the devil quoted the Bible to Jesus; but if you'll check, you will find that he misquoted it. It is not uncommon to have someone come to your door with a Bible or religious magazine in which they have formulated a religious belief that centers around the Bible. But if you will investigate, you will find that they take a few key verses of Scripture and build a religion around them.

So, if the devil can accomplish his purpose, he will go so far as to permit you to believe the Bible--except that he wants you to believe only parts of it. Don't believe in the miracles. Don't accept the virgin birth! Forget repentance! Throw out the idea of hell and eternal damnation!

That's exactly what the devil did to Eve in the garden. After agreeing that God did give her commandment not to eat of every tree of the garden, the devil tries to throw doubt on God's Word by saying, "Yea, hath God said?" So, there

are those today, deceivers, followers of Satan, who say that God didn't really mean we were to accept His Word as inspired, suggesting much of it to be fable instead of fact.

Yes, Satan's purpose is to deceive. If he can get us to deny the Word, doubt it, omit parts of it, explain it away, or add to it, he knows he will increase his following. Most of all, he has no objection if we hear it but do not heed it.

The devil doesn't object if you believe in God as long as he can continue to have you as a part of his following. Sure, the Bible says that he, too, believes in God, so why not you!

Somewhere we get the idea that Satan just wants some to be bad, murder, steal, become atheists and communists. Well, this is a result of obeying Satan, that people do these things. But the "drunk" is a poor testimony for the devil, so that he would sooner have people become proud and sophisticated like himself. And, to "believe in God," certainly is the key to Heaven--he declares.

How often I have talked to people about the necessity of receiving Christ and they will reply, "Well, I believe in God." Beloved, this is a trick of Satan.

Certainly, believing in God is important. But it is not enough. The devils believe in God and tremble, the Bible says, but they're not saved. To be saved, we must humble ourselves and admit that we are sinners and then ask Christ to forgive us, and by repenting, turn our lives over to Him, trusting His shed blood as remission for our sins.

In our message today we sought to show how the devil wants you--how he sought to have Peter and the disciples--but how we need not be deceived if we will come to Christ and receive Him as Lord and Master, henceforth to live to serve Him.

Will you do it? This is the most important decision you'll ever make. Remember, if you do not trust Christ, you will be lost forever. But if you do humbly surrender to Him, He will save you now and for eternity. "For there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved."

AMEN.

CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG



Mao Says **"I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD!"**

Chairman Mao Tse-tung of Red China told a delegation of visiting diplomats recently that he is very ill and, in his own words, he declared: "I have an appointment with God."

What confusion such language generates in a land where the belief is that there is no God! Or, is it true that when men are about to depart from this life, their thoughts turn to God and the hereafter?

Mao's philosophy as once expressed in his "Little Red Book" declared: "Our God is none other than the masses of the Chinese people."

Like all great philosophers we would suppose Mao is finding an insufficiency in his belief without faith in the Creator.

Sir Francis Bacon expressed this thought so well when he wrote: "A little philosophy inclineth men's minds to atheism, but depth in philosophy bringeth men's minds about to religion." Wrote Bacon at the time of his death: "I bequeath my soul to God...my body to be buried obscurely."

While we know religion doesn't save anyone, it is fair to say that a concept that accepts religion most always acknowledges faith in God. The Scriptures tell us this is the first step to believing. As Hebrews 11:6 reminds us: "He that cometh to God must believe that he is...."

Yes, faith in God is important, but it is not enough for salvation. How many times do you hear people say, "Well, I believe in God." We might truly reply, "So does the devil, but that certainly does not save anyone."



From R. P. Guaccius' *Compendium Maleficarum*, Milan, 1626.

The Apostle James writes: "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well; the devils also believe, and tremble." (2:19)

What do you think of that? Belief in God is not enough. Nearly all of the major religions accept a belief in God, but this does not bring man to salvation.

Peter, following Pentecost declared: "Neither is there salvation in any other (save Jesus); for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

The Mohammedan says: "Repeat the words, 'There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is his prophet,' five times daily; give alms to beggars; keep the fasts; read the Koran and make a pilgrimage to Mecca."

The Hindu priest replies: "Observe the rules of the caste; worship the monkey and the cow; crawl through the dust like a measuring worm to some sacred temple; bathe in the waters of the Ganges; erect a temple to one of the million divinities. You may then escape rebirth as a reptile, or a beast, or a woman and become absorbed in the deity."

The Buddhist replies: "Forget that you have a body; become indifferent to pleasure and pain and you may attain to Nirvana--the state of the extinguished flame."

The Confucius scholar suggests: "Study the sacred classics and learn the rules of righteousness." Confucius shows the path of duty but cannot help you to follow it. You must save yourself."

Here's where the Scriptures would remind us that religion doesn't save, nor can we save ourselves. Rather, we are told: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31.

We would then repeat--belief in God is important, but it is not enough. It is by trusting the Lord Jesus Christ that saves us.

Plato, one of the greatest minds among men, believed in God and once wrote: "The soul of man is immortal and imperishable." His most illustrious student was Aristotle who, in 320 BC, wrote: "God is mightiest in power, fairest in beauty, immortal in existence, supreme in virtue; therefore, being invisible to every mortal nature, He is seen through His works themselves."

We could go on mentioning others who believed and recognized God. Virgil and Horace were among the brilliant Roman poets who wrote of the Almighty. Dante declared God's greatest gift was the freedom of the will. Shakespeare, in one of his plays, wrote: "God be praised, that to believing souls gives light in darkness, comfort in despair."

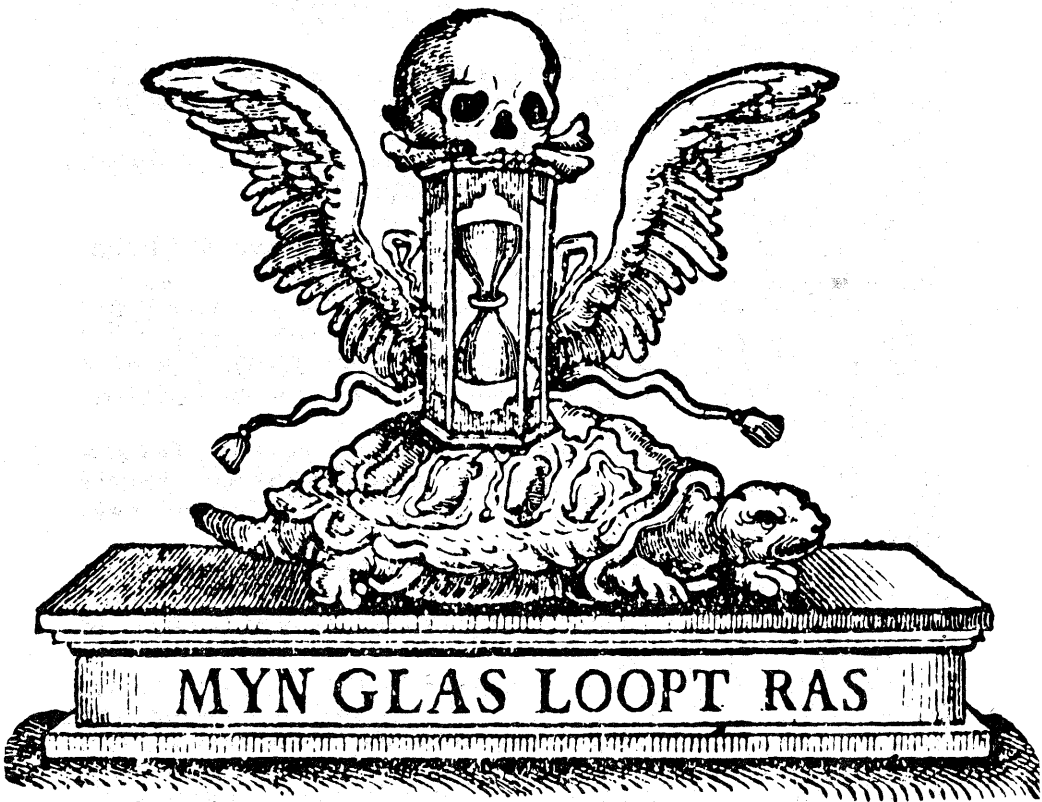
What we are saying is that it isn't unusual to hear great intellectual minds speak openly and freely of God. But it is rather strange for Mao Tse-tung of Red China to refer to God and to speak of having an appointment with Him.

In reality, all men have an appointment with God. As we read in Heb. 9:2, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

Science concedes this fact. Dr. Robert H. Williams, a distinguished author of the book, "To Live and To Die" admits: "Everyone must die; our genetic and metabolic patterns assure death."

A Christian publication, THE UNIVERSAL INQUIRER, declares: "Death has gained new and perhaps unprecedented prominence as a theme in modern religion and culture."

Notes a professor: "The media is alive with death," declaring, "I've never seen so many newspaper and magazine articles, books and television programs on the subject."



Symbol of Death with the motto "My glass runneth quickly." Printer's device of Joost Hartgers, Amsterdam, 1651.

At one of our universities, a course called "Death Education and Suicidal Behaviour" was the second most popular class in 1972. (University of Maryland)

What a difference death makes in the lives of those declared to be atheists and infidels, compared with those who were believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sir Thomas Scott, on his deathbed, remarked: "Until this moment I thought there was neither a God nor a hell. Now I know and feel that there are both, and I am doomed to perdition by the just judgment of the Almighty."

Voltaire cried out: "I am abandoned by God and man! ...I shall go to hell..." It is said that the nurse who witnessed the death of this French infidel exclaimed: "For all the wealth of Europe, I would not see another infidel die."

An atheist once said: "There is one thing that mars all the pleasure of my life--I am afraid the Bible is true. If I could know for a certainty that death is an eternal sleep, I should be happy. But, here is what pierces my soul, IF THE BIBLE IS TRUE, I AM LOST FOREVER."

What an acknowledgement!

There is a fear which grips the hearts of those unprepared to meet God. Tom Paine cried out, "Stay with me, I fear to be alone." Hobbs lamented; "I'm taking a fearful leap in the dark." Talleyrand, feeling the fears of death, sighed: "I suffer the pangs of the damned."

What a way to die!

On the other hand, John Knox wrote: "Live in Christ, live in Christ, and the flesh need not fear death."

Luther wrote: "God is the Lord by whom we escape death." For the believer, death is in reality "sleep," the cessation of body functions until the resurrection. Luther's last words were joyfully spoken, "Into thy hands I commit my spirit."

Dwight L. Moody, the great evangelist, exclaimed: I see earth receding; heaven is opening, God is calling." Moody died gloriously, declaring: "This is my coronation day. If this is death, it is sweet."

No wonder the Scriptures conclude that for the believer in Christ ultimately "Death is swallowed up in victory." We read, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" I Cor. 15:55-56.

The wife of the famous founder of the Salvation Army, General Booth, said joyfully: "The waters are rising, but so am I. I am not going under, but over." Catherine Booth then gave this advice to those approaching the twilight hour of life: "Do not be concerned about dying; go on living well. The dying will be right."

The Apostle Paul, with death approaching, could conclude his life with these words: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (2 Tim. 4:6-8)

Paul, facing a martyr's death, could sense the triumph of knowing he would soon see his Saviour. For it was he who declared: "Absent from the body, present with the Lord."

What a glorious hope!

No wonder the martyrs of the past found death glorious.

John Noise, kissing the stake and comforting those dying with him, declared: "We shall not lose our lives in this fire, but change them for a better, and for coals have pearls."

We could not conclude this broadcast without a reminder that all of us face death. It is an absolute certainty except for the coming of the Lord when those believers who are alive will be suddenly transformed, changed in a moment of time.

Writes the Apostle Paul, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment in the twinkling of an eye." (I Cor. 15:51-52)

It surely is a mystery how these bodies will suddenly be fashioned in the likeness of our Lord's glorified body at His coming. Like the caterpillar turned into a butterfly, we shall leave earth's habitation to adapt ourselves to a heavenly world. Life henceforth shall be a glorious paradise with no more trouble, no more sorrow, no more heartache, and no sickness nor death.

Won't it be wonderful?

While it is wonderful now to be a Christian, yet we are reminded: "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable (or, to be pitied.)" I Cor. 15:19)

Yes, life with Christ, lived for Him, can be joyous and meaningful. But we rejoice in the fact that there is life beyond the shadow of death. Our Lord declared to His disciples: "In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:2-3)

Really, isn't that precious?

If you're not saved today, and on your way to Heaven, don't you want to be? People plan excursions to distant lands to see the sights and shrines...why not plan on seeing Heaven and the mansions our Lord has gone to prepare? I especially like to read where our Lord says: "If it were not so I would have told you." But He has told us all about it. There should be no excuse why you should miss Heaven.

Repent of your sin, turn to Christ for pardon and forgiveness, and find peace with God in knowing you're ready...either for death should you die, or for Jesus when He comes.

For, remember, He hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be supported by a valid receipt or invoice. This ensures transparency and allows for easy verification of the data. The second part of the document provides a detailed breakdown of the financial data for the quarter. It includes a table showing the revenue generated from various sources, as well as the associated costs and expenses. The final part of the document concludes with a summary of the overall financial performance and provides recommendations for future actions. It suggests that the company should continue to focus on improving its operational efficiency and expanding its market reach to achieve its long-term goals.