

10-29-17 Message

**KNOWING THE DEVICES OF THE DEVIL**

II Corinthians 2:5 But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all.

II Corinthians 2:6 Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many.

II Corinthians 2:7 So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.

II Corinthians 2:8 Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him.

II Corinthians 2:9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

II Corinthians 2:10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ;

**II Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.**

This Tuesday is Halloween. I encourage each of you to discourage your children from celebrating this Holiday - its history is rooted in paganism.

The reason we have our fall family fellowship that night is to give you an opportunity to do something spiritual that night with your family.

The custom has it's origin in the Celtic celebration of (Samhain:) actually pronounced SOW-IN) The origin of Halloween can be traced to this "ancient pagan festival celebrated by Celtic people over 2,000 years ago," "The Celts believed that the dead could walk among the living at this time. People would dress up like demons and devils and dead people to thwart off the spirits.. Sacrifices were made to appease the dead.. This Holiday is the most sacred Holiday for the church of wicca or the church of Satan..

USA TODAY actually interviewed a professed witch from the church of wicca and she said,

***"Christians `don't realize it, but they're celebrating our holiday with us. We like it."-The newspaper USA Today, quoting a professed witch.***

There is no way to Christianize this holiday. We provide a family fellowship to provide a convenient way for you not to have to participate in the trick or treat activities of that night.

It is amazing how people decorate their houses with skeletons and images of dead people that night and think it is nice, and cute.

Now the reason I am telling you not to let your kids get involved in this is because the devil is real and demons are real. We ought to not make light of these things, nor have anything to do with making us think there can be friendly devils and demons.

**All the old traditions of Halloween are steeped in superstition, and evil traditions.**

The tradition of **going house to house** was to receive gifts to pray for the dead.

The **wearing of costumes** was to fool the demons so they would think you were one of them.

VAMPIRES, WEREWOLVES, WITCHES, ZOMBIES: These creatures have long been associated with the evil spirit world.

**PUMPKINS:** Carved, candlelit turnips were displayed to repel evil spirits. To some, the candle in the turnip represented a soul trapped in purgatory. Later, carved pumpkins were more commonly used.

**Samhain** is the pagan origin of Halloween - and its terrifying rituals include human sacrifices and pumpkins filled with burning human fat.

Now in light of this devilish History behind this holiday I thought it good to take some time to look at what the Bible says about Satan and what he is up to today.

Satan is indeed real and is actively working in the day that we live.

Our text is **II Corinthians 2:11**

II Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Though Satan is real and is working behind the scene to destroy as many people as he can, we believe that Jesus has defeated Satan at the cross and his days are numbered. All power is given to Jesus and He has given us the power to go and preach and tear down the strongholds of this great enemy.

This is missions month and this is the last Sunday of our missions month. The great commission is actually a mandate to go into this demon infested world and bring people the good news of liberty and salvation through Jesus Christ. Now you can't go into this world and do as they do and think you are going to bring the message of deliverance from the Kingdom of Satan to them while celebrating one of his high days!

What deliverance is there when you are honoring the god of this world in his greatest holiday, according to a spokesman from the church of wicca.

How said it is that so many Christians are totally ignorant of the devices of the enemy.

There is no temptation without a tempter, and the tempter is the devil. He is the author of all evil and sin. So when we pray deliver us from temptation and evil, we are asking God to deliver us from the power of Satan.

Yet so many Christians are totally ignorant of Satan's devices.

In a war every soldier needs to know the devices of the enemy.

Needs to understand what kind of weapons the enemy has.

Needs to know what kind of planes he has...

His artillery.

His Airplanes.

His weapons, etc. Does he use land mines or machine guns?

Paul told the Church at Corinth that he was not ignorant of the devices of Satan.

It is sad but true that for the most part Christians today are ignorant.

So this morning let us review the devices of Satan, so we will not be ignorant of them.

## **I. THE FIRST DEVICE OF SATAN IS TO USE DECEPTION.**

***Satan is a Master Of Working Behind The Scenes and Is A Very Subtle Enemy  
He Uses The Device of Deception.***

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Satan is a liar and the father of it.

What is the greatest enemy of a lie? The greatest threat a liar faces is the truth.

What light is to darkness.  
So truth is to a lie.

So because of this, Satan works behind the scenes.  
Satan works in the dark.

Why did the ancient druids make October 31st their holiday honoring spirits of the dead? The reason they did this was because it is the time of the year when it starts to get dark earlier. And many people feared the dark.

Satan likes to work behind the scenes.

In Genesis 3:1-5 Adam and Eve never saw Satan.

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Satan doesn't want people to know that he is working.  
Satan very rarely if ever appears personally to tempt someone.

If Satan is going to do anything he will probably do it through one of his servants or messengers.

Don't be ignorant of his devices. Satan rarely works in the open.

Jesus said to Peter, GET BEHIND ME SATAN. Reason He said this is that Peter let his thinking be influenced by Satan. HERE SATAN TRIED TO USE PETER TO TRIP UP THE LORD. THE DEVIL CAN EVEN USE YOUR FRIENDS.

***II Samuel 13:3 But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtil man.***

The Advice of Amnon's Friend. Jonadab was from Satan.

This is why I warn you that your children's friends could be the greatest tool of Satan against your family.

Children are ignorant of the Devil's devices and are especially ignorant to how Satan uses their friends or others to influence them.

Few people buy their first drink.

Few people buy their first cigarette.

Few people buy their first ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) name the drug.

Marijuana, Crack, Heroin, Cocaine.. usually a friend introduces someone to the drug.

II Timothy 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

II Timothy 2:26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

WE WANT OUR CHILDREN TO BE GODLY, BUT WE SUBJECT THEM TO INFLUENCES THAT FIGHT AGAINST THIS VERY GOAL. THAT IS OPPOSING OURSELVES.

The best way to be delivered from temptation is to remove it altogether.

IT WAS NOT AMNON'S IDEA TO DO WHAT HE DID TO TAMAR. IT WAS THE SATANIC ADVICE OF JONADAB, AMNON'S FRIEND.

AGAIN, THIS IS THE MOST COMMON WAY SATAN WORKS BEHIND THE SCENES IN YOUR CHILDREN'S LIVES.

## **II. SATAN WORKS HARD TO TEAR DOWN THE AUTHORITY OF THE WORD OF GOD: DEVICE OF UNBELIEF.**

In the garden Satan tore down the authority of God's word:

HATH GOD SAID?

In the Garden Satan called God A Liar.  
You won't die.

God knows the day you eat the fruit ye shall be as God's knowing good and evil.

One of Satan's primary devices from the beginning was to get man to disbelieve the Word of God and to believe his message.

Today it is no different.

Is it any wonder why it is that young people are taking guns into the public school and randomly shooting people?

REASON IS THAT OUR SCHOOLS, FOR THE MOST PART ARE GIVEN OVER TO SATANIC LIES. We have allowed teachers to come into our schools and tear down the authority of the word of God. To teach a new morality.

To teach things that are not science at all but religious philosophies, and fanciful fairy tales - EVOLUTION.

We make light of the idea that God will judge people after death in a place called hell. We make fun of Satan and Demons as if they are fairy tale characters. Basically we are teaching young people they are no different than animals. The Ten Commandments are forbidden to be taught. The Bible is cast out.

We allow this and then we wonder why our young people do terrible wickedness. HATH GOD SAID? THIS IS THE ISSUE.

ANYTHING OR ANYONE THAT TEARS DOWN THE AUTHORITY OF GOD'S WORD IS PART OF THE SATAN'S DEVICES.

Has the proliferation of Bible versions and perversions strengthened peoples belief in the word of God???? HATH GOD SAID?????????????

With every perversion there are new ideas. HATH GOD SAID?

One version says this another says that, and people will say, well they are only slight changes. There are literally hundreds and thousands of changes. Even some verses left out.

When I was In secular college before I came to know the Lord, there were outright attacks on the integrity of God's word. In my Philosophy class we had a discussion group and the professor asked us to reason out whether God was right to tell Abraham to sacrifice his son even though God said in the same Bible "thou shalt not kill? This was not education but was in fact BEHAVIORAL MODIFICATION 101. In other words, the professor was trying to pry us away from our presupposition that God is good and the Bible can be trusted. The professor was trying to shock religion out of us.

The same year in Humanities class as we studied western civilization and as we discussed the history of Christianity, Jesus was portrayed as the illegitimate son of German Roman Soldier. He was portrayed as some kind of hippie nut in his day. We were told no where in the Bible does it say Jesus is God, or even that he wanted to start a church. The church was just a synthesis of many pagan religions of it's day with the teachings of Christ sprinkled in.

Our colleges are just spewing out students that fit their mold of liberal thinking. I would have been one of them if it had not been that God opened my eyes to the gospel in 1974.

Anything or anyone that tears down the authority of the Bible is part of the pattern of Satan using the serpent. Especially schools of higher education.

II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

II Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

What better place to blind peoples minds than a place that is supposed to enlighten a young person's mind. Instead of getting light they are blinded by the philosophies of this world.

Satan is not only working in our educational institutions, but he also has a foothold in the churches of our nation.

THE CHURCH SHOULD BE CORRECTING THE WORLD AND UPHOLDING THE WORD OF GOD. INSTEAD, WE ALLOW THE WORLD TO PENETRATE THE CHURCH. Music, Styles, Influences, Entertainment, Dress, on and on.

Matthew 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Yet today the church is bowing the knee to the humanistic philosophies of the world. We are more concerned about our attendance and crowds than upholding the truth. There is only one thing we need to be about in this church, that is telling the truth, preaching the truth, and declaring the truth of the Word of God! As Paul the apostle said the Church should be “ the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. I Tim 3:15

- I. BE NOT IGNORANT OF HIS DEVICE OF DECEPTION AND WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES OR USE OF DECEPTION.***
- II. BE NOT IGNORANT OF HIS DEVICE OF TEARING DOWN THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE.***
- III. BE NOT IGNORANT OF HIS DEVICE OF USING SIN TO GET AUTHORITY OVER MANKIND.***

Satan gains power over mankind when mankind yields to his temptations and sin.

When the devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness he tempted him in three main areas of sin, and so it does so with us also.

### ***1. THE FIRST AND THE ROOT SIN IS THE SIN OF PRIDE?***

Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isaiah 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Isaiah 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Isaiah 14:15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Isaiah 14:16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

Isaiah 14:17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

Isaiah 14:18 All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house.

Isaiah 14:19 But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet.

## ***The worst sin is the root sin of Pride:***

I Timothy 3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. **PRIDE IS THE ORIGINAL SIN OF THE DEVIL.**

Pride is what ultimately got Adam and Eve to sin.

WHAT DID THE SERPENT REALLY SUGGEST? Was it not this, "Who is God to tell you not to eat that fruit?"

What did the devil accomplish by asking this question? He in fact caused Eve to have a higher opinion of herself than she should have. This is the essence of pride. When we think more highly of ourselves then we ought to..

ROM 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

PHI 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

PHI 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

PHI 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Jesus was the perfect example to us of what it is to be humble, meek and to have a proper servant's heart and attitude.

Pride makes mankind want to decide things for themselves.

Pride is why Adam and Eve wanted to decide for themselves what is good and evil. Imagine thinking you are wise enough, smart enough, and experienced enough to decide for yourself what is good and what is evil! Satan said, Ye shall be as gods and when man sin they became puppets in Satan's wicked hands and mankind has been a downhill spiral ever since!

Pride is the greatest reason men will not get saved.

Pride is what motivates people to seek self exaltation and serve their own purposes.

Pride is what caused Lucifer to think that he could gain over the majority of the angels of God's heavenly host and cause them to follow him in his rebellion.

**GOD ALWAYS RESISTS THE PROUD.**

**GOD GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. James 4:6**

How can anyone view the handiwork of God and remain proud?

How can any person try to exalt himself above God?

What ever gets into men's minds to make them think they can exalt themselves above the Word of God and God as the creator of the universe?

Was it really the hunger for the knowledge of Good and Evil that drove Eve to eat the forbidden fruit or was it really pride?

Was it not that the serpent said:

GOD KNOWS THE DAY YOU EAT THE FRUIT YE SHALL BE AS GODS KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL.

PRIDE WOULD CAUSE US TO SAY WHO IS HE TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO?

Visited a lady who visited our Church many years ago, and as I talked to her about the role of women in the church she asked me what ministries she could get involved with in our church. I said, to her that in our church there were many things she could get involved in, and that there were only a few things she couldn't do. That was be a deacon or preach. We do not have women deacons, nor do we believe it is proper for a woman to preach or usurp authority over men. She replied to me, "I don't like it when anyone says to me I can't do something...." Maybe that's why she was recently divorced. PRIDE DESTROYS MORE MARRIAGES THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

Pride. Don't be ignorant of this device.  
Devil can spot it a million miles away.

PRIDE IS WHAT DESTROYS CHURCHES MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

A proud deacon.

A proud Pastor.

A proud lady.

A proud Choir.

A proud singer.

Pride is what caused Cain to Kill Abel.

Pride is what causes men to not bow the knee to the Lord God of Heaven.

Pride is what brings strife fighting and wars.

James 4:1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

James 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Proverbs 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

GIDEON WISELY PREVENTED A CIVIL WAR BY ANSWERING WITH HUMILITY NOT PRIDE: IT TAKES TWO TO FIGHT:

Judges 8:1 And the men of Ephraim said unto him, Why hast thou served us thus, that thou calledst us not, when thou wentest to fight with the Midianites? And they did chide with him sharply.

Judges 8:2 And he said unto them, What have I done now in comparison of you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abi-ezer?

Judges 8:3 God hath delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb: and what was I able to do in comparison of you? Then their anger was abated toward him, when he had said that.

**2. THE SECOND SIN THAT CAUSES THE DEVIL TO GAIN POWER OVER MEN IS THE SINS THAT FALL IN THE CATEGORY OF THE LUST OF THE FLESH.**

When Eve ate the forbidden fruit, Satan stirred up in her the same root Sin that motivated him to rebel against God, that sin was pride.

WHO IS GOD TO TELL ME NOT TO EAT?

BUT THERE WAS ANOTHER SIN THAT SIN WAS THE SIN OF LUST.

SHE DESIRED TO EAT THE FRUIT. She lusted after that which was forbidden.

Men want what they can't have. THIS IS THE LURE OF LUST.  
WHEN WE THINK WE CANNOT HAVE IT, A PERVERSE CURIOSITY, A LUST OVERTAKES US.

This story is going to be hard to believe in the day that we live. When I went to high school our school actually had a smoking area for students. It was permitted for students to smoke in that designated smoking area before and after school.

Young people still smoked in the bathrooms. The Cigarette tasted better when it was forbidden. Even this stems from pride. When a person who is filled with pride and rebellion is told not to do something, this stirs up the sin nature and the thing that is forbidden is what they desire to do.

So some people say we shouldn't make laws and rules then people wouldn't want to break them.

So many young people think this way.

The Prohibition Stirred up a greater desire to drink. So the government gave up and made liquor legal, so they are doing the same with marijuana.

Young people want to do what they were told not to do.

This is the power behind weird dress styles. Tight Pants. Baggy pants. Long Hair. Shaved Hair. There is a lure to do the forbidden. The shock syndrome, rebel against authority. When long hair is in, the style is to shave your head, the hippies started the sexual revolution which shocked the establishment, and today the next generation, is not satisfied with this freedom they take it a step further now they want the freedom to decide what sex they are, cross dressing, transgendering, Homosexual marriages.

WANT PEOPLE TO FISH IN A POND PUT UP A SIGN - NO FISHING.

Lust is going after the forbidden fruit.

God says it is unlawful men want to do it.

ADULTERY, FORNICATION, HOMOSEXUALITY.

Cross Dressing. Homosexual Marriages. Do they care about marriage?

Once they receive the right to marry they will go on to the next perversion. Mark it down the next step is to make pedophilia acceptable.

WHAT MAKES THE EATING OF THE FRUIT FROM THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL WRONG? GOD SAID DON'T EAT. THAT IS WHAT MADE IT WRONG! God said you can eat from any other tree in the garden.

In every case in essence what makes sin sin, is that God says it is sin. For instance, the same act that transpires between two people who are not married that we would say is wrong which is ADULTERY OR FORNICATION, Is all right when the same people get married. WHY? In fact that act is blessed and sanctified and called the marriage bed.

HEB 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Is it the act that is bad?

NO IT IS THE UNLAWFUL ACT THAT IS BAD. THE FORBIDDEN ACT.

Eating from one tree in the garden was wrong, eating from all the other trees was ok and good.

Sex is not evil. Unlawful sexual activity is.

Just like the cigarette in the bathroom was unlawful in my high school.

But in the smoking area it was all right. Why didn't the students like the taste of the cigarette in the smoking area? It tasted better in the bathroom where it was forbidden. This is the nature of sin!

So it is that the very thing that married couples do with God's blessing is cursed outside of the marriage contract. If a man has a wife and he can fulfill the sexual desire anytime he wants with his wife why does he seek to have a relationship with someone else? The reason why is because of the excitement of the forbidden!

AND THE WORLD SAYS WE DON'T SEE IT THAT WAY.

Devil told Jesus to make a stone a loaf of bread and that would have been sin. WHATSOEVER IS NOT OF FAITH IS SIN.

God said don't eat from this tree.

Anything you want to do in the area of satisfying a desire of the flesh that God says is wrong is SIN.

Eating is not a sin, unless God said don't eat.

God told the Jews there were certain things that they were forbidden to eat.

WE shouldn't eat things we could not thank God for.

BEER, WINE, LIQUORS, DRUGS.

### **3. WE SHOULD NOT BE IGNORANT OF SATAN USING THE SIN OF COVETOUSNESS:**

Thou Shalt not covet.

Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Covetousness, is that sin that desires to have what others have.

There is nothing wrong with seeing something someone else has and going out earning money and lawfully buying it. But there is something wrong when you want what your neighbor has and would do them evil to get it.

Covetousness leads to stealing, wishing ill on those who have what you want.

Just like those high school students who felt that the cigarette tasted better in the bathroom so too for some people it is not enough to have something like what someone else has. They want what they have.

Proof that a person covets is that they will compromise to get what they want. LIE... STEAL.. HURT OTHERS... TRICK.... ETC....

Satan gets people wrapped up in covetousness and soon they are compromising all kinds of things. If you have to skip church to make money you are in the sin of covetousness. For the most part there is not a person that could not choose to be off on Sunday if they really wanted to.

I have seen this happen so often. A brother or sister asks us to pray for them to get a better job and the Lord gives them that job and then that job keeps them from Church and serving God....

Covetousness keeps people from tithing.... If you don't come to church faithfully I am sure you do not tithe..

I have a business. Just like when Moses lifted up his rod and there was victory over the Amalekites, so too, when I tithe I see victory in the economic world.

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Remember, the Devil said to our Lord. all these things will I give you if you fall down and worship me. Matt. 4:9

So many people have bent their knee to Satan for so much less than was offered to our Lord. We sell out our spiritual birthright for less than a bowl of soup.

#### **4. *THOUGH THESE ARE ROOT SINS IN FACT ALL SIN GIVES SATAN SOME AUTHORITY OVER US:***

I John 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

***I John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil;*** for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

John 8:35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

John 8:41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

John 8:42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

John 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

We are born into this world in bondage to sin and the devil.

When we are saved we are delivered from the kingdom of darkness and translated into the Kingdom of light.

Are you a Child of God or a Child of the Devil?

Who you serve is who you will abide with forever.

THE MAIN REASON PEOPLE GO TO HELL IS BECAUSE THEY ARE FOLLOWERS OF THE DEVIL. AND WHERE HE WILL BE THOSE WHO FOLLOW HIM WILL BE ALSO.

If we follow Christ, where he is we will be also.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

If a person goes to hell it will be because they are choosing to follow the Serpent or Satan.

While we are on this planet we can choose who we will serve.

THIS IS ACTUALLY THE CONTEXT OF OUR PASSAGE.

II Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

In the context of this passage, Paul is talking about bitterness and unforgiveness.

#### ***IV. BEWARE OF THE DEVILS DEVICE OF BITTERNESS AND UNFORGIVENESS.***

II Corinthians 2:5 But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all.

II Corinthians 2:6 Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many.

II Corinthians 2:7 So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.

II Corinthians 2:8 Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him.

II Corinthians 2:9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

II Corinthians 2:10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ;

II Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

In the context of this passage Paul tells those at Corinth to be careful that people in the church be ready to forgive those who show true signs of repentance.

One of the greatest weapons of the Devil is this weapon of bitterness:  
Paul taught the Church at Corinth how to initiate Church discipline.

WHO WAS HE TALKING ABOUT?

I Corinthians:

### **1. WAS IT THE FELLOW WHO WAS IN FORNICATION THAT HE HAD IN MIND:**

I Corinthians 5:1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

I Corinthians 5:2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

I Corinthians 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

I Corinthians 5:10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

I Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

I Corinthians 5:12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?

I Corinthians 5:13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

### **2. WAS IT THE BROTHER THAT HAD DEFRAUDED ANOTHER BROTHER?**

I Corinthians 6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

I Corinthians 6:2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

I Corinthians 6:3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

I Corinthians 6:4 If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

I Corinthians 6:5 I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?

I Corinthians 6:6 But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.

I Corinthians 6:7 Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?

### **3. PAUL GIVES SOME INSIGHT IN II CORINTHIANS.**

II Corinthians 7:8 For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season.

II Corinthians 7:9 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.

II Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

II Corinthians 7:11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

II Corinthians 7:12 Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you.

II Corinthians 7:13 Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all.

Paul realized that the Church was greatly affected by his stern letter (Probably the first Epistle) He says he is glad that his letter worked to bring sorrow to repentance.

II Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance

Paul breaks out in praise over their Godly repentance.

HE EXCLAIMS IN THIS VERSE THAT HE WAS PLEASED THAT THEY RESPONDED TO HIS LETTER PROPERLY.

II Corinthians 7:11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

Notice Paul was pleased that they sorrowed over the matter. They carefully considered what he said, they tried to clear themselves of this error, Then Paul says, WHAT INDIGNATION:

WHAT DOES THE WORD INDIGNATION MEAN? It means to show grief, to have great affliction, to be sore displeased with themselves.

WHAT FEAR: To be terrified of the consequences of sin.

WHAT VEHEMENT DESIRE: This was Paul's vehement desire to see the Church repent of their sin.

WHAT ZEAL: This all brought about a godly zeal and fervency to do right. Sometimes God has to rock our boat to get our attention.

WHAT REVENGE: Now what does this have to do with anything? Vengeance is mine I will repay saith the Lord.

WHO IS PAUL TALKING ABOUT: There is vindication. We take vengeance on our enemies.

Paul was saying that all this was a blow to the enemy.  
Who is the enemy?

II Corinthians 2:10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ;  
II Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Paul knew he was waging warfare against the kingdom of Satan and he triumphed in the victory at Corinth... His letter worked it set things in order.

People got right with God and now Paul says, lest the devil come in the back door. Accept the repentant with open arms.

Goal of discipline in the Church is not vengeance against the sinner but against the Kingdom of Satan. One of Satan's greatest devices and tricks is to sow discord with the brethren:

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This brings is to the very device that Paul had in mind when he said, we are not ignorant of his devices.

The device that Paul was making reference to in this passage was the device of sowing a seed of bitterness in a persons heart.

THINK ABOUT THIS. Why do we get bitter? Why are we not willing to forgive?

We should forgive like our Lord forgave. He paved the way for forgiveness. Did he ask us to do anything for him to forgive us? All he asked was for us to come to him and ask.

Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. This calling is an act of humility on our part. But on the Lord's part everything was taken care of even before we asked. He paid for our sins on the cross. He provided all that was necessary for reconciliation.

Why did He do this? He did it because He loved us. And think about this.  
PRO 10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

If God almighty could do this for us who are we to hold a grudge against anybody!?

**We must make provision for forgiveness before a person asks,** this paves the way for restoration and unity, and reconciliation, etc. However, there is no practical change until a person repents. This is how our Lord operates. He offers salvation and forgiveness to all, however some people would rather side with Satan and reject our Lord's offer of reconciliation. It is none other than confusion. And you know who is the author of confusion. You know who deceives peoples minds and hearts.

Now it is not for you to force people to reconcile with you, but it is up to you not to be bitter. Jesus cannot force people to be saved, he did pay for their sin on the cross but it is up to them to come to him and be reconciled and receive this forgiveness.

It's like this, a few years ago someone bought an expensive instrument from me and was suppose to pay it off in 6 months. They drug out the matter for 2 years with little payments here and there. Finally I went to their house and they gave me everything they owed me except \$400.00 and promised they would pay that in 1 week and mail me a check. They said they didn't have the money. While they were saying that, they were having expensive furniture delivered from "Raymor and Flanagan into their expensive house. I told them they were lying and I didn't believe them. 1 week went by, 1 month went by .. 6 months went by. Then I found out this fellow was selling the instrument he owed me money for on ebay and had it sold and still I received no money.

Then the fellow who bought the item on ebay called me to move the instrument. When he found out the man owed me money he backed out of the deal. Then the guy got mad at me because he lost the ebay sale and got very bitter at me. Soon I found myself getting bitter at the guy. I was thinking about taking him to the magistrate. Finally, I prayed about it and realized I was doing more harm to myself over the \$400.00 than it was worth. So I wrote the fellow a letter and used the \$400.00 as an illustration of what Christ did for us on the cross and far more. He forgave us of our sins and his salvation was more valuable than the \$400.00. So I paved the way for forgiveness before the fellow ever asked. You see I need to protect my heart against bitterness at all costs. Getting bitter over \$400.00 is just not worth it!

The most valuable thing you own is your heart. Bitterness will corrupt your heart.

PROTECT YOUR HEART AGAINST BITTERNESS.

HEB 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Satan wants to make you bitter like him. Once that happens you are good for nothing for God! Protect your heart from bitterness.

So someone does you wrong. This is no excuse to get bitter.

WE ARE NOT IGNORANT OF SATAN'S DEVICES.

What are they so far:

- I. THE DEVICE OF DECEPTION.**
- II. THE DEVICE OF UNBELIEF.**
- III. THE DEVICE OF GETTING US TO SIN AGAINST GOD.**
- IV. THE DEVICE OF MAKING US BITTER.**

These are just some of his devices in our next lesson we will learn more about his bag of tricks to destroy is spiritually.

**KNOWING THE DEVICES OF THE ENEMY**  
**PART TWO**

His Devices:

- I. DEVICE OF DECEPTION: HE WORKS BEHIND THE SCENES.***
- II. DEVICE OF UNBELIEF DOUBTING GOD'S WORD: HE WORKS TO TEAR DOWN THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE.***
- III. HE GAINS POWER OVER PEOPLE THROUGH SIN.***
- IV. THE DEVIL USES BITTERNESS, UNFORGIVENESS TO DIVIDE THE BRETHREN.***

2CO 2:10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ;

2CO 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

In the context of the verse that says, we are not ignorant of his devices.. Paul is talking about forgiveness. Truth is there are many devices of satan that we should not be ignorant of. But the one that Paul had in mind in this particular passage was the device of UNFORGIVENESS, WHICH STEMS FROM BITTERNESS.

We must be careful to remember the goal of discipline is to get a person to repent and get right with the Lord not just to punish them.

So it is with Child's discipline. A person needs to know that the motive is love and not vindication or malice or revenge.

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

A child will accept discipline if they know that you are doing it because you love them.

- 1. A PERSON WHO IS DISCIPLINED IMPROPERLY CAN BECOME BITTER.***
- 2. Note how Paul Used Expressions that Show how he knew his enemy was the devil and not the person who was disciplined..***

HE EXCLAIMS:

II Corinthians 7:11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

Goal of discipline in the Church is not vengeance against the sinner but against the Kingdom of Satan.

**V. BE NOT IGNORANT OF THE DEVILS DEVICE OF SOWING DISCORD AMONGS THE BRETHREN BY THROWING OUT ACCUSATIONS.**

He does this by spreading accusations and suspicions.

One of Satans greatest devices and tricks is to sow discord with the brethren:

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: **for the accuser of our brethren** is cast down, **which accused them before our God day and night.**

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Even one of the names for the Devil is; The Accuser.

DIABOLOS: Means false accuser or slanderer, devil.

Satan : Means adversary or to withstand.

Lucifer: Means angel of brightness or Son of the morning.

One of the tactics of the Devil is to accuse people, and to get people at odds with each other.

Lets not be ignorant of the way the devil works.

When we are given to bitterness and unforgiveness we fall victim to his devices.

The devil loves it when people are fighting with each other.

This gives him power to work behind the scenes.

What greater way to get us fighting with each other but to get people accusing one another unjustly?

Jesus never went around stirring up problems.

He certainly knew enough to do that.

Jesus was careful about accusing people.

John 8:10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

John 8:11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

Proverbs 26:18 As a mad man who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death,

Proverbs 26:19 So is the man that deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport?

**Proverbs 26:20 Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.**

Proverbs 26:21 As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.

Proverbs 26:22 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

Proverbs 26:23 Burning lips and a wicked heart are like a potsherd covered with silver dross.

Proverbs 26:24 He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him;

Proverbs 26:25 When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart.

Proverbs 26:26 Whose hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shewed before the whole congregation.

**BE NOT IGNORANT OF SATAN'S DEVICES WHICH STIR UP PROBLEMS!!!**

Now people do not think it wrong to accuse someone if it is true.

Do you think that the devil accuses us before the throne of God of things that are not true?

The Bible says,

Leviticus 19:16 Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

Just because it is true does not mean you should go about spreading it around to tear down someone or cause hurt feelings.

The devil loves it when people are fighting with each other.

This gives him power to work behind the scenes.

Jesus never went around stirring up problems.

He certainly knew enough to do that. He knew a lot of true things about people to indite them.

He knew Judas was a thief all three years he was with him. But said nothing and even when he betrayed Him he did not accuse him of anything.

SOLUTION: Is given in the Bible: How you thwart off bitterness and divisions in the church.

***FOR THE OFFENDED:***

Matthew 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Matthew 18:16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Matthew 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

***FOR THE OFFENDER:***

Matthew 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

Matthew 5:24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Matthew 5:25 Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

The Devil loves to work in darkness.

Nothing will repel the devil more than to bring things out in the light. So when people get together and talk everything comes out in the open.

When things are brought out in the open than the truth is revealed and people can get right, and restitution and forgiveness can prevail.

RULES:

**A. *Don't tolerate slander in your presence, check it out.***  
***If the devil knows you are the type of person that will check things out he will not bring tidbits of gossip and slander to you.***

***Often the Pastor is the Last to know something.***

**B. *Don't let bitter feelings brew in your life.***  
***When someone has offended you go and seek reconciliation as soon as possible.***

**C. *Learn to exercise the Christian virtue of forgiveness:***

Matthew 18:23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

Matthew 18:24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

Matthew 18:25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

Matthew 18:26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

Matthew 18:27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

Matthew 18:28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

Matthew 18:29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

Matthew 18:30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

Matthew 18:31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

Matthew 18:32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

Matthew 18:33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

Matthew 18:34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

Matthew 18:35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Note there is no sin that any human being can do to you that you have not done to God.

YOU OWED THE 10,000 talents our sin debt should put us in hell for eternity.

When we refuse to forgive those who are truly repentant.

We must be willing to forgive like Christ forgives.

Forgiveness is available for all but only becomes efficacious for those who ask.

This fellow servant asked for forgiveness.

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Colossians 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Colossians 3:14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

**1. BEWARE OF SATAN'S DEVICE OF GETTING PEOPLE TO STOP COMMUNICATING WHICH CAUSE DIVISIONS IN CHURCH AND FAMILIES COMMUNICATE.**

This is why Matt. 18 commands people to go and talk to each other face to face.

Tower of Babel is a perfect object lesson concerning unity and division.

Genesis 11:2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

Genesis 11:3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

Genesis 11:4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

Genesis 11:5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

Genesis 11:6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

Genesis 11:7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

Genesis 11:8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

Genesis 11:9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

The devil knows that when God's people unite they pose a great threat against his kingdom.

Here at the tower of babel they were united with one mind, one purpose, and one goal, and they would have been successful.

Lesson of Iraqi war, operation desert storm, military genius, cut off communication. Saddam Husain.. exaggerated the brutality of the US forces, and then their communications were cut off. Because we had a better grid of communications, the war was won even though we were outnumbered, sometimes 3-1.

Therefore one of the greatest goals of the devil is to divide the brethren.

Get us at odds one with another by miscommunication.

By getting us to misunderstand one another, or because of offenses, we cease to talk one to another.

Never ceases to amaze me how people develop problems in Church.  
Church is ready to split.

They are broken hearted can't sleep, etc., makes them sick.  
Yet church members stop talking one with another.

Usually this happens because of misunderstandings.  
Verbal miscommunications.

II Corinthians 2:10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ;

II Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

When we refuse to forgive, when we are too hard on each other.  
Satan gains an opportunity to cause division.

Churches and christians have been divided when people take sides against each other.

### **THE DEVIL KNOWS HOW TO DIVIDE US OVER PETTY DIFFERENCES.**

Paul allowed for differences of opinions.

Paul and Barnabas disagreed at times.

Acts 15:37 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

Acts 15:38 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.

Acts 15:39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

Paul and Apollos disagreed.

I Corinthians 16:12 As touching our brother Apollos, I greatly desired him to come unto you with the brethren: but his will was not at all to come at this time; but he will come when he shall have convenient time.

How does the devil get this power in the Church?  
Petty disagreements and offences.

THEN PRIDE SETS IN AND THEN THERE ARE CONTENTIONS:

Proverbs 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

We need to be mature and realize:

Psalms 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

**2. Along with his device of being an accuser is his device of causing offences, THE GREATEST DEVICE OF THE DEVIL IS THAT HE WILL BE THERE TO CAUSE OFFENCES AND TRY TO TRIP US UP. THIS IS NECESSARY.**

Matthew 18:7 Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

For some reason God says it is necessary that offences come.

WHY? THE REASON WHY IS BECAUSE IT TRIES OUR FAITH.  
OFFENCES ARE A TEST TO SEE WHAT YOU WILL DO.

The hardest thing to do in this life is to work through petty offences and dealing with conflicts of people.

Why has Pastor Bissol stayed at the Elkdale Baptist Church for 34 years?

Here is why. I look at every thing every obstacle as a challenge that God has put before me to solve, and not blame others for. Did not God promise us all Power to do His work?

Many a Pastor has left a church because of a vote that did not go the way he thought it should go. Do you know every vote we take in our church is an opportunity to split. We need to vote less and pray more! The reason why is to be perfectly united we need to all want to do the Lord's work.

The church should never be divided about anything.

BECAUSE WE ARE SINNERS, IT IS NECESSARY THAT OFFENCES COME, SO OUR FAITH CAN BE TRIED.

WAS NOT JOB'S FAITH TRIED?  
WAS NOT EVERY GREAT SERVANT OF GOD TRIED?

WHY ARE WE SURPRISED THAT PEOPLE ARE OFFENSIVE?

One of the Grandchildren were in a devilish mood and said some of the nastiest things to me. Am I going to stop loving them because the devil got in them for a moment? No I smacked him and said sit still, and then I prayed with him.

Why is it we get offended when the devil gets into people in the church at times, or family members? The Baby cries and pouts. The more mature person chases the devil out of them.

I'll tell you why we are surprised. WE ARE IGNORANT OF THE DEVICES OF SATAN.

WE BLAME PEOPLE AND DON' SEE WHO THE REAL ENEMY IS.

Jesus said to Peter GET BEHIND ME SATAN. WAS HE SURPRISED.

When we let the Devil use us we get punished.

When we let people who let the devil get to them get to us, we get hurt and punished.

DON'T BE IGNORANT.

DON'T BE IGNORANT.

### **3. GOD ALLOWS US TO BE EXPOSED TO THE DEVIL TO SEE IF BY FAITH WE WILL STAND AND RESIST HIM. IT IS A TEST. IT IS A TEST.**

HERE ARE SOME VERSES THAT SUM IT ALL UP AND EXPOSE THE DEVICES OF SATAN:

James 3:14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

James 3:15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

James 3:16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

James 3:18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

James 4:1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

James 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

James 4:5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

***James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

Why do we get upset and offended? it is because we are immature and unsure of what the Bible says. Wwe do not know or love the law of God as we should.

So instead of seeing who is behind all the offences we divide we fight. We get bitter, we war, etc. over things that all are going to burn.

MORE CHURCHES GET DIVIDED IN BUILDING PROJECTS.  
REASON IS THAT IN A BUILDING PROJECT THERE ARE MANY DECISIONS THAT NEED TO BE MADE. WHO IS GOING TO MAKE THE DECISIONS?

SOMETIMES LEAST LITTLE THINGS CAN CAUSE DIVISION.  
COMMITTEES OFTEN CREATE CONFUSION.  
ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO DIVIDE.

Nothing is more important than the unity of the church.  
No material thing.  
No project.

Think of the things that divide the church, and then think about the times in the history of the church when the church did not have these things!

Everything we fight about is going to burn someday.  
Judas betrayed the Lord for what? MONEY.  
What are the things that cause divisions in the church?  
Money.  
Buildings.  
Opinions.  
Programs.

I Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

We all need the mind of Christ.

### **CONCLUSION:**

II Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

ARE YOU IGNORANT OF THE DEVILS DEVICES?

#### **I. HE WORKS BEHIND THE SCENES TO MAKE YOU BELIEVE HE IS NOT INVOLVED. CLUES:**

PEOPLE SAY I DON'T KNOW WHY I DID THIS AND SO.  
WHEN PEOPLE CONTRADICT THEMSELVES AND DO THINGS TO HURT THEMSELVES. WHEN A PERSONS ACTIONS ARE BIZZARE AND CONFUSED AND NO REASON TO IT.

#### **II. HE WORKS TO TEAR DOWN THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE.**

#### **III. HE GETS POWER OVER US THROUGH SIN. BEWARE OF THE SIN OF PRIDE. A ROOT SIN.**

**BEWARE OF THE SIN OF COVETOUSNESS.  
BEWARE OF THE SIN OF LUST.**

I John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

**III. BE CAREFUL OF HIS DEVICE OF UNFORGIVENESS LEADING TO BITTERNESS.**

**IV BE CAREFUL OF HIS DEVICE OF BEING AN ACCUSER OF THE BRETHREN.**

**V. THE DEVIL LOVES TO DIVIDE THE BRETHREN OVER PETTY OFFENCES AND GRIEVANCES**

Matthew 18:7 Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

For some reason God says it is necessary that offences come.

WHY? THE REASON WHY IS BECAUSE IT TRIES OUR FAITH.  
OFFENCES ARE A TEST TO SEE WHAT YOU WILL DO.

THE DEVIL IS A TALE BEARER.  
HE IS A LIAR AND THE FATHER OF LIARS.  
HE IS A MURDERER AND THE FATHER OF MURDERERS.

THE DEVIL WORKS OVERTIME SEEKING TO DESTROY EVERYONE THAT HE CAN.

LET'S NOT BE IGNORANT OF HIS DEVICES.

WHY ARE WE SURPRISED? IN THIS LIFE, THAT THE DEVIL GETS TO A LOT OF PEOPLE.  
IT IS BECAUSE:

WE ARE IGNORANT OF HIS DEVICES.

## **PART III**

### **HOW TO PROTECT OURSELF FROM THE DEVICES OF SATAN**

Preached Oct 31<sup>st</sup> at the Fall Family Fellowship

**I. HE WORKS BEHIND THE SCENES TO MAKE YOU BELIEVE HE IS NOT INVOLVED.**  
**CLUES:**

PEOPLE SAY I DON'T KNOW WHY I DID THIS AND SO.  
WHEN PEOPLE CONTRADICT THEMSELVES AND DO THINGS TO HURT  
THEMSELVES WHEN A PERSONS ACTIONS ARE BIZZARE AND CONFUSED AND  
NO REASON TO IT.

**II. HE WORKS TO TEAR DOWN THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE.**

**III. HE GETS POWER OVER US THROUGH SIN.**  
**BEWARE OF THE SIN OF PRIDE. A ROOT SIN.**  
**BEWARE OF THE SIN OF COVETOUSNESS.**  
**BEWARE OF THE SIN OF LUST.**

I John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

**IV. BE CAREFUL OF HIS DIVISE OF UNFORGIVENESS LEADING TO BITTERNESS.**

**IV BE CAREFUL OF HIS DEVICE OF BEING AN ACCUSER OF THE BRETHREN.**

**V. THE DEVIL LOVES TO DIVIDE THE BRETHREN OVER PETTY OFFENCES AND GRIEVANCES.**

Halloween actually started because of the ancient Celtic people who were afraid of evil spirits. They thought that if they dressed up like devils and demons this would protect them from the devil. Kind of stupid isn't it? People still doing this. They are ignorant of his devices.

The hardest work to do and consistently do is spiritual work.

Physical work you combat machines, money, breakdowns, etc., but does the devil really care if you succeed? He is not going to attack you too much. He may only because you are becoming too fruitful for him spiritually.

But it is much easier to succeed in the business world than it is in the spiritual world.

In the spiritual world we are fighting an unseen enemy.

How do you fight an enemy you cannot see?  
God gives us certain tools.

We were losing a lot ships in WW I and WW II because of German U Boats, which would attack late at night.. There was very little defense against their threat until WW 2 with the development of sonar. And radar.

How do we fight the devil when we cannot see him? We need spiritual radar.

II Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

What are the signs of the enemy?

HOW DO WE DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST SATANIC ATTACKS?  
HOW DO WE DEFEND OURSELVES WHEN WE CANNOT SEE HIM?

WE NEED SPIRITUAL RADAR.

### ***I. FIRST WE MUST RECOGNIZE HIS ATTACK AND PRESENCE.***

Get out your spiritual radar!

ANYTHING THAT EXALTS ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IS OF SATANIC ORIGIN.

II Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

II Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

There should be a bleep on your spiritual radar telling you that the enemy is detected.

Anything that rejects the authority of the word of God. BLEEP.

Anything that makes you question the Bible. BLEEP.

Anything that teaches rebellion against God. BLEEP BLEEP.

Enemy spotted.

### ***II. ONCE THE ENEMY IS SPOTTED WE NEED TO GO TO BATTLE STATIONS. WE NEED TO KNOW OUR WEAPONS AND KNOW HOW TO USE THEM.***

Here are the weapons.

Ephesians 6:11- ff

#### ***1. WE NEED ARMOUR TO WITHSTAND AN ATTACK.***

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 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.

Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

We need superior weapons. Our armour will protect us.

The beauty of certain weapons of war is how the bullets of the enemy will not penetrate their armor.

THE TANK IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF SUPERIOR ARMOR!

God has given us spiritual armor to withstand an attack.

In WW I the German U boats would make mince meat of merchant ships which had no armor or weapons. These were sitting ducks and often required a convoy for protection. Without the convoy they were sitting ducks.

The local church is God's protective convey. The devil will try and separate you from the convoy to make you a sitting duck!

Just like a wolf or lion tries to separate weaker cattle from the herd, so too the devil tries to separate Christians from the protection of others who are well armored and discern the presence of Satanic attacks.

## **II. CONSIDER THE ARMOUR OF GOD THAT WILL TWART OFF ATTACKS.**

### **1. SINCE THE ATTACK OF THE ENEMY IS A SPIRITUAL ATTACK.. OUR DEFENSE IS A SPIRITUAL DEFENSE.**

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

#### **A. TRUTH IS A DEFENSE. HOW CAN THE FIERY DARTS OF ERROR PENETRATE TRUTH?**

The light of truth will dispel all error and lies.

Imagine that the fiery darts of the devil are but shadows. A shadow is really a blockage from light. When you shine your light on a shadow what happens to the shadow? A shadow is made up of darkness, where there is the presence of light there is no shadow. Light and darkness cannot co-exist.

To Gird your loins with truth is to wrap yourself under the protection of the truth. Just like this belt is wrapped around your body so too we need to gird ourselves about with truth. It is what holds everything up.

#### **B. THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. RIGHTEOUSNESS IS TO DO RIGHT. TO BE JUST AND TO DO THAT WHICH IS GOOD PURE HOLY EQUITABLE.**

I John 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

So notice that right out front is this breast plate of righteousness.

If you are doing evil, if you are doing wrong, than you are not righteous.

As you do right, and good, then you are righteous and this in and of itself is a defense.

THOSE WHO STRAY FROM THE PATH OF THE TRUTH AND STRAY FROM DOING RIGHT SET THEMSELVES UP AS A TARGET OF SATAN.

Talked about desert storm recall how there was a convoy and for some reason some soldiers were not paying attention and strayed from the road they were suppose to be on and got ambushed by Iraqis. There was a woman soldier amongst them.

THEY WENT DOWN THE WRONG ROAD.  
THEY STRAYED FROM THE RIGHT ROAD.

## **2. PART OF EVERY SOLDIERS WEAPONS IS PROPER FOOTWEAR. Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;**

Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

We need to always be ready to witness. We are left in this world to be a witness, and Satan's servants are repelled by the preaching of the gospel.

AS we learn to be a witness, you will be amazed how the devil will flee from you and he will get his cohorts to flee.

THE DEVIL WILL FLEE WHEN WE WITNESS, AND HIS COHORTS WILL GET NERVOUS.

WHY ARE WE SO SHY OF SHARING THE GOSPEL?

THE WORLD IS BOLD IN PROCLAIMING THEIR ERROR WHY ARE WE SHY OF TELLING THE TRUTH?

## **3. EVERY SOLDIER NEEDS A SHEILD.. AND SINCE OUR ATTACKS ARE BASED ON ATTACKS AGAINST THE WORD OF GOD, FAITH IN THE WORD OF GOD WILL THWART OFF THESE ATTACKS. FAITH IS OUR SHIELD.**

Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

## **4. THE HELMET OF SALVATION**

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

A helmet protects our minds.

When we have the assurance of Salvation this gives up hope and protects us from discouragement's in this life.

I Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

I Corinthians 15:32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT IS THE WORD OF GOD.

## **5. PRAYING ALWAYS WITH ALL SUPPLICATION.**

Ephesians 6:18 **Praying always** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Our prayers are the supply line to heaven for the Christian.

THESE ARE OUR DEFENSIVE AND OFFENSIVE WEAPONS IN THE SPIRITUAL WAR.