

Give The Devil His Due

Chapter 8

“Casting Out Devils”

Let's consider the casting out of devils as recorded in the scripture. There seem to be instances in the New Testament where there are such things as evil spirits or demons, which are cast out of individuals by Jesus and His disciples. Three such instances occur in Matthew.

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

Matthew 4:23-24

The word “lunatick” means “made crazy by the effect of the moon.” Apparently, some had devils and some were made crazy by the effect of the moon. If you believe one, you might as well believe the other.

When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

Matthew 8:16

As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil. And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multi-

tudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.

Matthew 9:32-33

Generally speaking, where the Bible says devils in people are cast out, the word “devil” is translated from the Greek word “daimonion” or its equivalent. It is from “daimonion” that we get our English word “demon.” Where there is an individual devil, such as the one that tempted Jesus, the word is “diabolos,” which is quite different — as far as the Greek is concerned.

Now, I am going to quote another book, which someone sent me some time ago, in which the author quotes from other sources as to why people in those days referred to people with physical or mental aberrations as having demons or devils. He speaks of the word “daimonion,” itself, and says:

“It was the name given by the Greeks to beings imagined by them to exist in the air and to act a mediatorial part between God and man for good or evil.

“These imaginary beings would be expressed in English by “demon,” “evil genius,” or “tutelary deity,” “all of which belong to pagan mythology and have no place in the truth. We quote the following observations on the subject from Parkhurst's Greek Lexicon, an exemplification of the origin of the idea.”

He then quotes some of the scripture verses in both the Old Testament and the New where these people, supposedly, are subject to some sort of a “power of the air.” That was what the Greeks considered these demons to be.

Again quoting this author:

“Most expressive are the words of Plato in Sympos: 'Every demon is a middle being between God and mortal men.' If you ask what he means by “middle being” he will tell you: “God is not approached immediately by man, but all the commerce and intercourse between gods and men is performed by the mediation of demons.” Would you see the particulars? Demons are reporters and carriers from men to the gods and, again, from the gods to men and, of the supplication and prayers of the one, and of the injunctions and rewards of devotion from the other. Besides those original material mediators or the intelligence residing in them, whom Appellias calls a higher kind of demons, who are always free from the encumbrance of the body, and out of which higher order Plato supposes that guardians were appointed men, besides these, the heathen acknowledge another sort, namely the souls of men deified or canonized after death.”

“There were two kinds of demons according to the Greeks. One kind were just spirits of the air and the other were actual souls of men who had died. So, Hesiad, one of the most ancient heathen writers, describing that happy race of men who lived in the first and golden age of the world saith that after this generation were dead they were, by the will of great Jupiter, promoted to be demons, keepers of mortal men, observers of their good and evil works, clothed in air, always walking about the earth, givers of riches and, this, saith he, is the royal honor they enjoy.

“According to Greek mythology, these demons have power to give things to people or withhold them.

“Plato concurs with Hesiad and asserts that 'He and many other poets speak excellently who affirm that when good men die they attain great honor and dignity and become demons.' The same Plato, in another place, maintains that: 'All those who die valiantly in war are of Hesiad's golden generation and are made demons and that we ought, for ever after, to serve and adore their sepulchres as the sepulchres of demons. The same also,' says he, 'we decree whenever any of those who were excellently good in life die either of old age or in any other manner.'”

So, good people, then, become demons and, according to Plato, we should revere them.

“According to Plutarch, it was a very ancient opinion that there were certain wicked and malignant demons who envy good men and endeavor to disturb and hinder them in the pursuit of virtue lest remaining firm in goodness and uncorrupt they should, after death, obtain a better lot than they themselves enjoy.”

So, demons attempt to bring you down so that you become a worse demon than they are.

Then the author of this article says this:

“Christ's conformity to popular language did not commit Him to popular delusions. In one case He apparently recognizes the god of the Philistines.”

“If I by “Beelzebub” [or Baalzebub] cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast them out?” (Luke 11:19)

“Beelzebub” (or Baalzebub) was the god of the flies, a god worshipped by the Philistines, according to 2 Kings 1:6. Christ, in using the name, takes no pains to dwell upon the fact that Beelzebub was a heathen fiction but seems rather to assume, for the sake of argument, that Beelzebub was a reality.”

Then, he goes on to point out that just because Jesus did not rebuke them and tell them Beelzebub didn't exist, doesn't mean that Jesus believed he existed. Jesus talked to them as if their gods were real, which they were to them.

This requires a little more study because the casting out of demons or devils is mentioned quite a few times in the Bible. So, let's read on, right from where we were in Matthew nine, where Jesus cast out this devil or demon and the dumb spoke:

But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils. And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Matthew 9:34

Whenever the idea was brought up that there was a chief or a prince of the devils, we find it was the Jewish Pharisees who brought it up. In the above passage they charge Jesus with casting out devils through the prince of the devils. What happened? Jesus did not even answer them. He just went on about His business of healing sick people.

The Insane Man And The Swine Stampede

What about the casting out of the devils into the swine? In Mark, chapter five, the story is given in more detail:

And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

Mark 5:1-2

In the story in Matthew eight, there were two men. Here there is only one. This, then, may not be the same incident. There might have been two similar incidents. Continuing in Mark:

Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.

And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son

of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. And he asked him, What is thy name? And he [or the unclean spirit] answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many. And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country. Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

Mark 5:3-13

As you read on, you find that the people living in that area discovered what happened. They came out and asked Jesus to leave.

And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

Mark 5:18-19

According to modern terminology, the man was, obviously, insane. Many people who are considered insane have mental aberrations because of toxins in their body, lack of certain nutrients, or some physical injury to their head. They don't, necessarily, have a demon in their body to make them have these mental aberrations or to show unusual strength. This is not uncommon.

Belief In A True God Separates Israel From Heathen

Is it possible that, when Jesus cast out these devils or demons, He was doing nothing more nor less than healing a person who had some physical defect? That still doesn't explain the swine, does it? Think for a moment. People who were blind were said to have a demon and Jesus cast it out and healed them. The same was true of people who were dumb or who were ill from some disease they might have. Here we have a man who is raving, insane, said to have a devil or a demon, and Jesus cast it out and healed him. I am not arguing that Jesus tried to show people that demons did not exist. He did not deny it. He just healed the people. But, consider this: Jesus, also, taught in parables. When the disciples asked Him why, He said: "Because they can't understand the truth." Jesus allowed certain people to remain spiritually blind by teaching in parables. Do we have to insist that Jesus enlightened every person with whom He came in contact? Might He have allowed them to continue in their own ignorance and superstition, allowing them to believe that demons existed? It is obvious that God allows the heathen to go on worshipping false gods.

Psalm 96:5 says the gods of the nations are idols, and Paul writes that idols are nothing. In Isaiah, chapters 41 through 45, God goes to great lengths to tell Israel that there are no other Gods beside Him, He is the only God. However, God obviously has not corrected the nonIsraelites. They still believe in other gods. Why do we insist that Jesus had to correct the nonIsraelites in their false belief about demons? If He allowed them to believe a lie by teaching in parables, why do we not accept the fact that He allowed them to believe a lie by casting out "demons" and allowing them to continue believing that?

There is another principle involved which may be the answer to this. In Exodus 33, Israel has sinned and God has threatened not to go with Israel into the Promised Land. Here Moses is speaking to God:

And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so [or in this manner] shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.

Exodus 33:15-16

How is Israel separated from all the people upon the face of the earth? It is only Israel who worships the one true God. Moses said this will separate us from all the other people of the earth.

Earlier, I mentioned a book entitled World Mythology. It is a beautifully done, very large book with page after page of pictures and drawings of statues, idols and gods. To the heathen these are their gods and they believe in them. God Almighty, up to this day, has not disabused them of that falsehood. He has allowed them to believe in their delusions. In fact, God sends strong delusions to those people who do not want to believe the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12). Why is it not possible then, that the seeming evidence of demons which we hear so much about in the heathen world is not something that God allows so that they continue to believe in their false gods.

Israel continues to be separated from all the people of the earth by being the

only race of people upon the earth who worship the true God of the Bible. In fact, one of the major evidences in the world today that we are the Israel People is the fact that we worship the God of the Bible. Other races worship other gods. That is what God was saying to Moses in this conversation in Exodus.

Micah four is a prophecy of the Kingdom. One verse of this prophecy has been confusing to me until it just began to make sense in this study of the devil. Verses six and seven of chapter four refer to the regathering of the Israel people:

In that day, saith the Lord, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted; And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.

Micah 4:6-7

We know this is speaking of the regathering of the Israel people to this great, North American continent, which we know is the Zion of Bible prophecy. It is the verse preceding these two which was very confusing to me:

For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

Micah 4:5

That didn't make sense to me before doing this study. What does it mean? It means that, in the age of Israel's regathering, nonIsraelites would all have their own religions and their own gods and only Israel would worship the true God of the Bible.

As I mentioned earlier, God has not yet taken away from the heathen their belief in false gods or even in demons. Jesus healed people who desired to be healed or whose relatives or friends asked Him to heal. He "cast out demons." The non-Israelites went right on believing in demons, just like they had before and Jesus did not correct them, no more than He corrected the nonIsraelites when He spoke in parables so they would not understand. The Bible makes it plain that you only understand the Word of God by the gift of the Holy Spirit. People who do not have the Holy Spirit cannot understand the Bible. God leaves them in ignorance, just as Jesus left the heathen in their ignorant belief of devils and demons.

Messenger Of Satan: Carnal Nature

There has been great speculation on the following verses down through the centuries:

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

Some say this "thorn in the flesh" was a physical disability. Some believe it must have been some sort of a demon since Paul called it "the messenger of Satan." He prayed that it would leave him but it did

not go. What was it? I believe it was nothing more nor less than the carnal nature of man, which Paul was bothered with just as every other Christian is. The old man never dies. he is only put under control. This carnal nature was “the messenger of Satan.” It is easier to understand Romans seven, if we believe that 2 Corinthians has this meaning.

Some have wondered if Paul wasn't a raving madman when he wrote some of the verses of the seventh chapter of Romans. The law was against him, the law was for him. He couldn't make up his mind:

Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Romans 7:13-17

Paul is saying that he is trying to do good, but there is something in him that makes him do evil. He doesn't like it, but it happens. Then he tries to follow the law and he is buffeted by the carnal man within him, just as it is within every Christian. There are some people in the world that God has given over to this carnal nature. We call them the heathen, the carnal man, or the natural man. The devil in them is their complete and total ruler.

We, as Christians, have been given God's Law for our intellectual understanding and the Spirit to move us to obey the Law.

Therefore, we have a war going on within us in which we can be a victor. The heathen cannot win, they are always the victim and lose the war. Israel does not lose as long as they read the Word, take the Word, study the Word, and obey it. The apostle Paul wanted the war to end. I believe he prayed to God to end it and God told him no. God said His strength was sufficient and that He is glorified because of Paul's weakness. The fact that we are not perfect glorifies God when we obey Him. God is glorified because we are weak and subject to the sins of the flesh. Through His Word, His Spirit, and His Power, we do that which is right in contrast to that which is wrong.

Paul says:

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death. I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Romans 7:22-25

I believe the lust of the flesh is the thing that Paul had asked to be removed and which was not removed, no more than it is of any Christian. We live with that old carnal man, that old devil, that old satan, all of our lives. We have a war against him. This “devil,” as you can see, is no great, supernatural, everliving archangel that is tempting us. That tempting comes from within us and it stays there. But by the Power and the Spirit and the Word of Jesus, the devil, or satan, is brought under subjection.

Remember, also, in both the Old Testament and the New, God always accuses the sinner of the sin. When Israel sinned, God never said that “the devil” tempted them. Instead, He told them they had sinned and were going to come under judgment until they turned from their sin and followed Him. The same thing is true in the New Testament. It is the individual who is always accused of the sin and exhorted to obey and turn from the sin. That message is always given to Israel. God never gave the heathen a Book telling them to follow His Law. He gave it only to Israel.

The very existence of this demon, or devil, or Satan, or whatever it is which wars in our bodies, in our minds and hearts and our ability to overcome it by the Word and the Power and Spirit of God, sets us aside from every other race upon the earth. The other races believe in those demons, make gods out of them and worship them. They draw pictures of those “gods,” they make statues of them and build temples to them. God tells us what to do with those demons and devils: subject them to the Power of Christ and give no place to the devil.

God Allows Heathen To Remain In Ignorance

What about the pigs that went into the water? Do you believe that demons get water in their lungs and drown when they go into the water? Do you actually believe there were demons that came out of this man and went down, with the pigs, into the water? Or was Jesus healing a man and doing something that left the heathen in their sin and their iniquity? I am more inclined to believe the latter. On top of all that, this is one of two places where Jesus destroyed property. Jesus destroyed an unclean animal that they were not sup-

posed to raise, touch, or eat. So by His act He gave them a lesson in the Law, which they apparently ignored and did not believe. It almost seems that some “demons” spoken audibly. But is it not possible that God Almighty allowed voices to be heard so that the heathen remained in their ignorance? However, let's not join the heathen in that ignorance!

Some Christian missionaries in heathen lands claim to have seen evidence of demons actually throwing people about, cutting bodies and causing people to speak in other languages, uttering things which, supposedly, a human being could not utter. Isn't it strange that kind of activity does not happen among Christian Israel believers when they follow God's Word? It always happens in heathen countries, among the people God is allowing to believe in false gods.

We must accept the absolute and total sovereignty of God. Whatever it is that the heathen believe, it does not have to exist except in their own minds and in things which God causes in order to send them strong delusions that they will believe a lie.

“Ye Are Of Your Father The Devil”

Speaking of strange behavior and having a demon, in Luke seven, John the Baptist sent men to inquire about Jesus and we find that the enemies of Christ said that John the Baptist had a demon. In chapter eight of John, Jesus had this to say to the scribes and Pharisees:

Ye are of your father the devil [diabolos], 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.

John 8:44

In Jeremiah, we read that the heart is desperately-wicked above all things. These people worshipped sin in temples that have actually been excavated in old Canaan land. These acts of sin are in violation of God's Law. God told them: "Ye are of your father the devil." In other words, they were of the god which they worship, which was sin or the devil.

He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

John 8:47

Jesus told these scribes and Pharisees that they were incapable of understanding the existence or non-existence of other gods because they cannot hear God's Word.

Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil? Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.

John 8:48-49

The Great Super Demon Not In The Bible!

Because He opposed them, Jesus was said to have a devil or a "daimonion" in the Greek. We know from verse 49, above, that Jesus did not have a "devil." Whether these devils or demons are imps, evil spirits, or evil influences, they are always quite limited in effect. This is true throughout the New Testament. Usually, only one person is involved. The damages to those possessed are usually very slight

and restricted to that person and, in a couple of cases, someone who was injured by them. Demons were always subject to Jesus, to His disciples, and to His name. They seemed not to affect nations or kingdoms. They seemed not to give a person any great mental power. In fact, their effect was the exact opposite. The "possessed" person became what we would call "insane." However, regardless of what you believe about the demons that were cast out in the New Testament, those passages can in no way be used to build up a great super demon, super tempter, super devil, archangel, Satan, or whatever.

In order to clear up some of this, we are going to read some more about Satan in the New Testament. In Mark eight, we found that Peter was a satan because he opposed Jesus in what Jesus had to do as far as being crucified. In Luke, we read of a satan entering Judas Iscariot:

Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover. And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill him; for they feared the people. Then entered Satan [sawtawn] into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them. And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money.

Luke 22:1-5

If Judas was actually acting as the agent of a great archangel why did he want to do it in order to get money? The archangel wouldn't have needed money would he? No, Judas was acting in obedience to his own lust and desire for money, for praise, or whatever. Reading on in this same chapter, we come upon some strange verses:

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.

Luke 22:31-32

It appears that Jesus was saying that this great archangel wanted Simon Peter. But, could this have something to do with what had just happened before that?

And there was also a strife among them [the disciples], which of them should be accounted the greatest. And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

Luke 22:24-25

Jesus rebuked them for arguing as to which one of them would be the greatest under Him. They were giving way to the desires of the flesh, to their own ego, to their own desire to be great. Jesus said to Simon: "Satan wanted you." What wanted Simon? His own ego or desire.

In 1 Timothy, we read:

This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

1 Timothy 1:18-20

Paul said some believers had turned away from the faith. They could hardly have been turned over to the great archangel, Satan, because Satan certainly

would not have "taught them not to blaspheme," would he? I believe that they were turned over to the lusts of the flesh, to the destruction that would come upon them from having turned away from the faith and then, because of that, they would "learn not to blaspheme." This same thing is written in 1 Corinthians, chapter five:

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.

1 Corinthians 5:1

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1 Corinthians 5:4-5

Paul is saying that this sinner who had committed fornication should be delivered to Satan for the destruction of the flesh. What did he mean? He meant they should deliver the sinner to his own sin. In the next verses Paul says:

Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed [slain] for us:

1 Corinthians 5:6-7

They were to kick out this man who is deliberately sinning and turn him over to his sin that the flesh may be destroyed. Paul is obviously-not telling them to turn this sinner over to some literal great archangel.

Chapter two of Revelation contains another passage that needs explaining:

And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

Revelation 2:12-13

The Satan of the churches dwells in a place called "Hell" or "Hades." John is telling this church in pergamos that they are right where Satan's seat is. History gives us the answer to this. pergamos was the center of the antiChristian activity at that time. There were people there who were trying to destroy Christians and the gospel of Christ. That is evident by John's referring to one martyr as being "slain among you, where Satan dwelleth." What was he talking about? He was talking about the adversaries, or their enemies. "Satan" is used in both the Old and New Testaments to mean simply your enemy, or your adversary.

Upon investigation we have seen that, of the many passages in the Bible that seem to speak of a great "Devil, or a Satan," almost all the passages can be shown not to uphold that theory. The great fallen archangel is completely missing from the pages of the Old Testament. Even the words used by the churches, such as "Devil," "Serpent" and "Lucifer," are either misused or, in the case of "Lucifer," mistranslated and should not even be in the Bible. So the great one, the Devil, disappears when we search for him in the pages of the Old Testament. The great one of Revelation 12, that Serpent, that old Dragon, called the Devil, is, obvi-

ously, a description of a great world empire with several heads, representing kings and nations.

Many of those who teach that the serpent of Genesis three is the serpent or Satan of Revelation teach that this serpent of Genesis three was so beautiful and handsome that Eve fell for him and desired him because of his beauty. But, can you imagine any Adamic woman falling for and wanting to be sexually intimate with a creature with seven heads and with horns upon those heads? It must be an entirely different creature. The serpent stands for "the cunning one," but the seven headed beast of Revelation is not the serpent of Genesis three.

In most cases in both the Old and the New Testament where the title "tan" is used, it simply means "opponent" or "adversary." We saw that in many of those places the person was named or his title was given and he was a mortal man. In most cases "satan," or "the devil," can be used interchangeably with the words "sin," "lust to sin," or "desires of the flesh."

David became a "satan" when he numbered Israel (2 Samuel 24:1-2 & 1 Chronicles 21:1). Judas became a "satan" when he desired to get money to betray Jesus. Peter became a "satan" when he tried to interfere with God's plan for Jesus to be crucified (Matthew 16:23). Their acts came from their hearts, from what they thought or desired, in opposition to that which God had planned.

In conclusion, let me quote from a writing of over 100 years ago about who or what the devil of the Bible is:

"The great Satan, or Adversary, then, which every man has to fear and which is ever inclining him to a course opposed to

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GIVE THE DEVIL HIS DUE!





AND DO THEY THINK GOD - MR. CLEAN, HIMSELF - IS CAPABLE OF RUNNING THE **EVIL** DEPARTMENT? I MEAN, HE'S POWERFUL - SURE - BUT HE CAN'T DO EVERYTHING!

THANK GOD (OOPS) MOST PEOPLE SHOW ME SOME RESPECT AND GIVE ME AN IMPORTANT PLACE IN SOCIETY, BLESS THEIR SOULS.

WELL, I DON'T CARE WHAT THOSE ATHEISTS AND HERETICS THINK! I STILL HAVE MY DIGNITY. **I AM WHAT I AM!**



BUNCH

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wisdom and Godliness, is the tendency of the mere animal instincts to act on their own account. This tendency is the spirit or the inclination of the flesh, which must be vigilantly-repressed for a man to keep out of the way of evil. The truth alone, which is the utterance and power of the Spirit, will enable him to do this. If he surrenders to the flesh he walks in the way of death. (Romans 8:13: 'if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.) The object of the Gospel being sent to the Gentiles by Paul was to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God. Ignorance or darkness is the great power of the adversary lurking within us, for where a man is ignorant of God's will, the flesh has a controlling power with him. The Gentiles are alienated from God in Ephesians 4:18 through the ignorance that is in them. Enlightenment through the hearing of the Word creates a new man within whom, in process of time, kills the old man which is corrupt, according to the deceitful lust, or, at least, keeps him under (subjection) lest the new man become a castaway. Introduce the active, plotting, intelligent fiend of Orthodoxy and the whole picture is changed and involved in bewildering confusion. But he cannot be introduced. Our experience forbids it."

Conclusion

I say this: if you removed the Satan of the churches, Christians would realize many things. They would realize that the antiChrists — the enemies of Christians — are flesh and blood men who make sin

their god. As deliberate sinners who refuse to repent and turn, they are to be punished under God's Law. If we accused them of the corruption that they are causing in the world, instead of laying the charge to a "devil," we would begin to remove the individual wicked men who are fighting Jesus Christ, Christians, and Christendom. At the same time, in recognizing that our own great adversary is our own fleshly lusts within our body, we would more readily understand what it is IN US which must be brought under control in order that we, of Israel, may serve the Living and True God.

We would more truly see and understand that we are to be God's servants and we are to war against our own fleshly nature. And, we would understand that God has allowed other races and peoples and beings to believe in non-existent gods for His purpose of calling out Israel to correction.

God created man with what we might call a defect: the natural tendency to sin (called "iniquity" in scripture). Through that defect, called by some "Satan" or "the Devil," we are sinners. It is done for the glory of God, that He might, in the NEXT age resurrect us perfect, sinless, and ever-living — and that we would understand that that perfect life, that sinless life, that everlasting life came not through anything we ever did, but through God's mercy. God will change our corrupt nature to an incorruptible one, and we will be ever living in a Kingdom where we have no devil (no inherent corrupt nature) to tempt us. Praise God.
