

Well, Hello and welcome to Mercy and Truth Bible Church, today we have a hot topic to Go with our Hot Weather, for those of you watching by Video its been 115-120 degrees F all this week. So without much more delay lets get into our Topic for today.

What is are topic for today's sermon, well I am Glad you asked because it is "The Love of the Truth". Turn with me to 2 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians 2:7-10

⁷For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: **only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.** ⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ⁹ even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

- We have talked in previous Sermons about the **He** in the "**only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way**", as being the Holy Ghost of God, until the Church is raptured or Gathered Together if you prefer we are stuck here living with this Godless society.
- That Wicked, we recognize as the Anti-Christ which has been prophesized from so long ago, his big reveal comes when the Rapture arrives, no longer will he be held back.
- His reign will be with Power, with Signs, with Lying wonders, with deceivableness of unrighteousness.
- Notice Carefully the wording unrighteousness..... this, Is the Generic Catch all phrase for doing the opposite of what is Right. Today it is extremely difficult to orchestrate to children what Unrighteousness is. Why? Because the Vast majority of all civilization is doing what is Not Right in Gods Eyes, that is Unrighteousness.
- Pointing out oh well this is wrong and this is wrong, gets tedious because 95% of what is going on in this world is improper behavior, our own personal behavior as Adults is affected, we too are susceptible to the influences of the Devil.
- We can be deceived into accepting unrighteousness, if we are not careful. It can be for a time it can be for a season, it can be in the heat of anger.
- But those that Embrace Unrighteousness as a lifestyle are those that perish.....Why?
- Well you just read it **...because they received no the Love of the truth.**
- **You see that's our Job, the Church getting the "lost" to receive the Truth, how do we do that? We Witness. Everyone knows and if you don't, listen carefully it is up to each individual to Receive the Truth, no amount of Brow beating threatening, cajoling or force on your part will convince someone of the Righteousness of God**
- **The Individual must receive the Righteousness of God of his own free will.**
- **Our witness, must be of such a caliber that the individual would willing chose the Love of the Truth....over the lies of the Devil.**
- **It is in this manner that a person is saved, by the Individuals recognition that God's ways are Superior to their own ways or the ways of Satan or any other.**

So this brings us to our witness as a church, What are we doing so that our example our witness let's our light shine, so that Unsaved people see a way out of the trap of the todays society and all its pitfalls?

So before we can do that we must understand the five traps the devil uses to ensnare mankind in his deception.

- 1) He Quotes and Questions the Word of God: **Genesis 3:1** Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, **Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?**
 - So this is Classic Satanic Deception, Satan Questions the Word of God, and he will Quote it to you, and typically he will change the words or will take it out of its intended context.
 - **So For the Christian this is very first thing that you must be aware of when dealing with an unsaved person**, they are Going to hit you with a Scriptural Quote they have heard via the “grapevine” and of Course it is going to be incorrect, or it is going to be wholly out of context the discussion at hand.
 - i. **This means you must know your Bible, you must understand the words, you must understand the context and you must be able to expound certain simple versus. Here are a few Memory versus that would be good to have in the frontlets of your mind**

John 3:16-18

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

- You say oh I have a terrible memory I can't remember that entire verse, that's ok how about just remembering where to find it? You should be able to do this at a minimum.
- Ok so what do we want to First convey to our Unsaved Person that God sent Jesus to literally Die for every man woman and child on the planet, because he loves them that much, he would offer up his son to pay the penalty of Death for all mankind.
- You must convey to the Unsaved that Believing and Confessing the name of God is what keeps him from eternal Death. Because he is a Sinner.

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- In John 3:18 we were told that He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
- That lack of belief is Sin, it is that Sin which keeps a person enslaved unto Death. Your wage, what you earn for Unrighteousness is that Death penalty.
- People who you will encounter, will call you a Racist, they will call you Evil they will call you everything that you are not but they themselves are. This is a trick of the Devil called projection, they will forcefully project on you what they think you are, because of what they have been told. And it all goes back to Satan's tactic of Questioning God's word. They will think that they have to do something heroic to be saved by Jesus or to be in the Church.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹ not of works, lest any man should boast.

- You must remind them that it's a free gift of God, nothing they can do can cause them to earn their way into the good graces of God except accept him.

SO that Brings Us to the Second Way Satan Deceives a Man.

2) Satan Subtracts from the word of God

Matthew 4:1-4

¹Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. ²And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. ³And when the tempter came to him, he said, **If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.** ⁴But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

- So you might a bit confused, Satan wanted Jesus to Sin, the temptation he wanted him to partake in was exercising his power in the need of his Flesh Outside of his Spiritual mandate. So Satan goads him by Subtracting from the word of God to give him the impression that it would be okay to exercise his authority from and for the flesh.
- But Notice, Jesus's reply ⁴ **But he answered and said, It is written,**... Now remember this, the way to combat Satan at his own game is to Quote the written word of God in its entirety..... **Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**
- So you see Jesus Response was a Complete one, not a partial answer and is was grounded in the Spiritual realm not the flesh, Sure Jesus was literally Starving the Flesh, but life is not about the Flesh but about the spiritual...So He Completed the word of God that Satan was poorly have referencing..... **Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**
- **Is this the Only place Satan Subtracted from the word of God?**

Genesis 3:3

³ Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, **Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?**

- The way Satan Framed the Question it is an out right lie, but he subtracted what God really Said didn't he, so what did God Say?

Genesis 2:16-17

¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

- Satan Subtracted the line about not eating the of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil;...He just completely leaves out that part.
- Now When speaking with an Unsaved person you need to make sure you acquainted them with the consequences of sin. Because that is what Satan always leaves out, Adultery feels great but entire families fall apart, Drugs give you a great high, but your health falls apart, Venting your Anger feels Great but divides the best of friends, subtracting from the word of God leads to the unintended consequences of Sin, and it doesn't matter if you are ignorant of them you will pay the consequences whether you were aware or not, to God Sin is Sin.

Next....Number three

3) Satan Adds to the word of God

Genesis 3:4-5

⁴ And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: ⁵ for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

- Ye shall not surely die....your eye shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods....did God promise that your eyes would be opened? No, did he promise you would be like a God? No.
- Did Satan do this anywhere else in the Bible? How about Luke 4:9-11

Luke 4:9-11

⁹ And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: ¹⁰ for it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: ¹¹ and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

- Sounds Great right, Satan didn't add anything there, Just throw yourself off the pinnacle of the Temple....God will send his Angels to catch you.....
- What did Jesus Respond?

Luke 4:12-13

¹² And Jesus answering said unto him, **It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.** ¹³ And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

- Now wait a minute, you mean by doing an impetuous act is tempting God...yes, you can't just act according to your own free will and expect that God will be there to catch you everytime now can you? Of course not.
- There are consequences to your actions, When you deal with the Unsaved you must ensure they understand when God will intervene on their behalf and when he won't. " Hey y'all watch this, or hey Hold ma Beer....." If the sentence starts with either of those two statements you can pretty much guarantee God is not going to be very inclined to assist you. Just like if Jesus decided to take a nose dive off the Temple because the Devil dared him to do it....Go ahead I dare ya.....right we have all hear that 99.9% percent of the time when some says I dare you the consequences of your action will be unrighteousness! Oh and your on your own.
- God is a busy man, he gave you free will and he put at your disposal parents, siblings and most of all the word of God. Do you think He would be pleased if you ignored your mothers advice? Is that honoring your mother and father? Mom said I eating this tide pod would be a stupid thing, I wonder what it tastes like....stop wondering, it's a dumb thing to do, just like jumping off the Temple.....I would Loved to have been a fly on the wall and see the Look on Jesus Face when the Devil said that.....you get that **yer kiddin me look of disgust**. You know the one your momma gives you when you ask her can have a third slice of pie. The raised Spock Eyebrow moment.
- So when dealing with the Secular additions to the word of God Don't fly, stick to the script don't embellish, don't add oh yeah you have to wear a dress if you're a woman....or you can't have long hair.....or you have to abstain from meat or wine....that one always gets the Baptists rockin....yeah but yeah but..... Have a little wine for your infirmities....

Ok that brings us to Number 4

4) Satan Derides or Denies the Word of God,going back to Genesis 3

Genesis 3:4-5

⁴ And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: ⁵ for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

- This certainly fits the definition of Derision right? DERISION, 1. The act of laughing at in contempt. 2. Contempt manifested by laughter; scorn.
- LOL yeah come on Ye shall surely not Die.....can you just see Satan as the serpent chuckling as he repeats this.....
- Denial: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.....that's not what God said, he said yer gonna DIE if you eat it.
- When dealing with the Unsaved you have to impress upon them that Satan wants them to Die, he wants to kill them, not just Physically he wants to keep them from ever attaining salvation, the Love of the Truth, he wants you to die the Spiritual death!.

Job 1:6-12

⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. ⁷ And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. ⁸ And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? ⁹ Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? ¹⁰ Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. ¹¹ But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. ¹² And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.....**now Notice what he did.**

Job 1:13-19

¹³ And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: ¹⁴ and there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them: ¹⁵ and the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. ¹⁶ While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. ¹⁷ While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. ¹⁸ While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: ¹⁹ and, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

Satan didn't bat an Eyelash killing these people, don't get so wrapped up in the Story of Job to miss the collateral damage that Satan wreaks along the way, he is a murdering path of destruction.

This Brings us to the Last way Satan Deceives Man

5) Satan Privately Interprets the word of God

Hey did you notice the number 5, every time you see the number 5 in the bible without fail it is associated with Death.

Genesis 3:4

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:....We already whipped this one, that's Satan's private interpretation.

Matthew 4:8-9

⁸ Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; ⁹ and saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

- Well now that's a personal interpretation of the Bible.....Satan thinks that he should be worshipped, He thinks that he can use scripture to illuminate anyone and get them to think the way he thinks.
- What was Jesus's answer

Matthew 4:10

¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

- So remember if you find yourself Interpreting the Bible, instead of using the Bible to Interpret itself through its own witnesses, then you are falling into the Trap of Satan.

1 John 2:16-17

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. ¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

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; ¹¹ lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.