

Satan, God and Man

Some aspects about Satan's System, God's Power and Human Volition

Satan's System

Satan seeks to control man through two basic systems. One is through religion; Satan seeking to impose or establish various levels of morality; also religion based in gross immoralities. These two systems ranging from Satan's best called Good in the Bible to Satan's worst being referred to as Evil (*Gen 2:17; 3:4-5*). It's important to note that the very best Satan has is no more acceptable to God than that which is considered heinous in any given culture. Satan's best being relative righteous can only be condemned just as the worst evils associated with demon influence.

God's Power

Many noble things can be done by man; yet God is satisfied only with His righteousness (*Psa 51:16, 17, 19*) even though it might be difficult for some to imagine perfection; this is the very level He seeks for us to operate on (*Gen 17:1. Mat 5:38*). With the prehistoric fall of mankind God was forced to reconcile man through the Lord Jesus Christ. Immediately upon the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden, God would institute His first judicial act on behalf of mankind; that being clemency. Clemency means to postpone judgment, providing opportunity for reconciliation with God. God was obliged and committed to provide a means of redemption for sinful man (*Rom 3:21-26*).

Seeking and Saving

Immediately after the original sin of man, God was already seeking to save that which He valued (*Gen 3:4-9*). The perfect relationship that He had with Adam and Eve was destroyed being corrupted by Satan's system of human good and evil. The first thing that Satan sought to destroy was the relationship between God and the man and woman. Nothing will ever be hidden from God's eyes; so nudity in the Garden was of no issue. Adam and Eve were hiding from God because of a lie firmly placed in their hearts. So we see that the thinking of man was under attack by Satan and will remain under attack throughout human history (*1Pet 5:8*).

Remember the corruption of man's thinking ranges all the way from Good to Evil. With Satan's plan anything goes; he seeks to deceive in any way he can (*2Cor 11:14. Rev 12:9*). Satan seeks to make a mockery out of everything God does. Any range of departure from God's plan is acceptable and pleasing to Satan. Anything ranging from strict morality to gross immorality is acceptable to Satan, or even any mixture of the two.

Once again, the only thing acceptable to God is man functioning on the level of His perfect plan and righteousness (*Micah 6:7-8*).

Volition

In the Garden of Eden God provided the opportunity to enjoy the perfection of His will or the option to depart from His will by partaking of the forbidden. The first sin in human history was that of disobedience; whereas now we have been plunged into sin by having been born with a sin nature, enslaved to sin whether we like it or not (*Rom 7:17-20*). Those rejecting God will love sin, not seeking to reject it. Those seeking a relationship with God will not love sin; those seeking God's solutions to be freed from such enslavement and shame (*Rom 7:23-24*).

Those loving sin have no shame because they seek the lie; being in agreement with Satan. So whether we are in agreement with Satan or with God all men have the right to choose. God respects our volition and the right to choose yet God's blessings and judgment remain in place. Pretending to escape the realities of God's judgments is denial of God's plan to save.

Two types of people

There are two types of people in the world: Those that hope that there is a God, seeking His truth (*Heb 11:6*); and those who do not like the idea of there being a sovereign God (*Psa 53:1*). Those wanting God's truth and justice will find it (*Prov 2:1, 9*; for the rest, the idea of God's justice is repugnant; therefore God gives them over to their own lusts (*2Thes 1:10-12*); these same seek to do systems of good, yet these systems seek for the approval of sinful man rather than perfect God (*Col 3:22*). Many for a time can be against God but later will turn to Him forsaking sin because of His power and will. Those wanting God will have a love of the truth before they die. With these there will be sufferings, and even great sufferings for some.

God providing conviction of sin is the first pain we face. It is not always easy to face our depravity; yet facing it is the first part of our rehabilitation with God. God is able to free us from the cords of sin. Wanting a relationship with Christ is the first step into God's plan for our lives. Wanting Jesus represents a small amount of faith (*John 3:16*), yet that very faith God hears and provides entrance into His plan of salvation. Once there is positive volition towards Jesus Christ, God starts a process of sanctification equipping us to have eternal life with Him. Often this life with God starts out with a weak faith or shortly after believing our faith can dwindle because of lack of spiritual food; faith can dwindle such to the extent that one can forget their former purification of sins. This can lead to a precarious condition and much misery before we get to heaven. God has a wonderful plan enabling us to enter into heaven with a minimal amount of suffering (*2Pet 1:10-11*)... Once again, this plan of God takes us from a small faith to a faith and

confidence that can not be shaken by anything that the world, the flesh and the devil can throw at it; God provides that we can have an unshakable confidence in Him. Wanting a life with God starts with positive volition towards Jesus Christ. He bore the sins and judgment of God for us; Jesus, being perfect, took our place (*1Pet 3:18*).

Sin, Human Good and Human Evil

Jesus paid the price set by God for sin; Jesus being pierced through with our sins; yet human Good and Evil are a pending issue and remains to be judged at the end of time. Human Good and Evil are a result of sin. Sinful man cannot attain to God's standards by doing any amount of good deeds; in fact, trying to seek for God through deeds is evil. Only the deeds of God's Son were good enough for the Father. Seeking salvation through any other means than in Jesus Christ is an empty evil pursuit. Many will be saying "Lord, I did this, that and the other thing" and, yet, Jesus will say, "I never knew you". They did not loose their relationship with God because they never had one to begin with, because they were seeking it by works rather than by faith in Messiah (*Mat 7:21-23. Rom 9:31-32. Gal 2:16*).

There are around 120 sins in the bible. Around thirty of these are regarding failure regarding observances of the Mosaic Law; the remaining ones are still prevalent and are destructive to our lives with God. After salvation we are still prone to sin and need God's Word to provide for spiritual strength and growth. At the moment of faith in Jesus God invisibly gives His righteousness to us. If we sin after this we will be out of fellowship with God and, if this fellowship remains indefinitely broken, the Holy Spirit within us will also be grieved and quenched for a long time. Nevertheless the certificate of debt, the decrees against us were nailed to the cross; therefore we share in the benefits of Christ's victory over sin. After we have trusted in Jesus we will be disciplined as sons when we choose to sin (*Heb 12:5-13*). Once we have been made aware of our sins, the discipline for them will become severe and will not go unnoticed. Jesus suffered and paid the price for sin, yet believers being out of fellowship with God will be punished for sin (human good and evil) (*Col 3:25*). Jesus' work counts for God's plan. When a believer is in fellowship with God the deeds that are done are done in the power of the Holy Spirit, or we can say that they are done in the power of God rather than in the power of the flesh.

Those in the flesh can not do God's will (*Rom 8:5-8*). We can only advance in God's plan through the power of the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus Christ from the dead (*Rom 8:13*). Without the fellowship of the Holy Spirit we are said to be dead, spiritually speaking. The Scripture is calling us to arise from the dead and Christ will shine on us (*Eph 5:14-17*). So we must use our volition and confess our sins to get back in fellowship with God (*1John 1:9. Rev 3:19-20*). At this point one must turn to God's word for the strength to forsake the sin we have been prone to doing; also seeking His will taking on an attitude of obedience (*Heb 12:1*); without such obedience there is only a life of misery to be had by the believer (*Heb 4:6-11; 6:8; 10:26-31*). Without submission to God the believer will be found in any type of sinning that an unbeliever can do. There will be only shame for

those setting their mind on earthy things (*Phil 3:19*). The Apostle Paul said that he was dying daily (*1Cor 15:31*), yet he was learning obedience being made alive in the spirit leaving behind the deeds of darkness that can only lead to a premature death, dying in misery, not giving any glory to God throughout your/our life.

Lust and Greed

Those not having a life with God can have much success in practicing sin; whereas those having, or soon to have, a life with God, will over and over be miserable because of lust. If we choose not for the washing water of the Word of God after we believe, we are facing a life of demon influence. Satan wants to turn us into something that blasphemes the very purpose that God has for our lives. Satan seeks to deceive us into thinking that we are something we are not. Satan wants to get us as lost as possible. As believers or the elect in Christ, Satan seeks for us to be off balance and ineffective in God's plan. Satan wants to create as many delays as possible. None of these tactics can be of any effect as long as the believer seeks to have his heart continually bathed in the word of God. Certainly, for some there can be understandable delays. When a person is in a situation where there have been delays, the solutions are just the same as for those who have set the eyes of their heart towards God. God intends to rehabilitate us regardless of the deceptions Satan has been feeding us.

Gifts

God has absolutely beautiful gifts for those choosing to serve Him. Over a period of time we can come to know what God has for us. Sometimes the gift will be put into action only after a short period of time; whereas in other cases more prolonged preparation will be necessary. Regardless of the time of preparation, God seeks that we gather together with His people. So much of what we are remains to be discovered after we start attending a church of God's choice which can be gathering with one other believer or many more.