We are tied up in ***World War NOW***. It is a spiritual struggle in the spiritual realm as well as the physical. This is serious business. We are talking life and death. We are talking about time and eternity. We are talking about heaven and hell. We are talking about victory and defeat.

This morning, we will focus on our **adversaries**. It is us and them. Who are the “them?” Who ***ARE*** we up against? Simply put, our adversaries are the devil and demons. This morning, we will start to think about the devil. In sports, teams get ‘scouting reports’ on the other team. We will start to get a handle on this old devil. We will get a sort of scouting report.

Yes, he ***is*** REAL. We have not out-grown the reality of the devil. We have not progressed beyond his existence. We have progressed beyond our own awareness. This is a dangerous condition.

There is an **ENORMOUS** amount of evidence to consider as we get acquainted with the reality of our prime adversary, the devil. ‘*Sympathy for the devil*,’ is a 60’s rock classic, penned by Mick Jagger and Keith Richards. The song begins, “[Please allow me to introduce myself. I'm a man of wealth and taste. I've been around for a long, long year; Stole many a man's soul and faith](https://genius.com/784204/The-rolling-stones-sympathy-for-the-devil/Please-allow-me-to-introduce-myself-im-a-man-of-wealth-and-taste-ive-been-around-for-a-long-long-year-stole-many-a-mans-soul-and-faith). [And I was 'round when Jesus Christ Had his moment of doubt and pain](https://genius.com/613234/The-rolling-stones-sympathy-for-the-devil/And-i-was-round-when-jesus-christ-had-his-moment-of-doubt-and-pain). [Made [dang] sure that Pilate Washed his hands and sealed his fate](https://genius.com/565092/The-rolling-stones-sympathy-for-the-devil/Made-damn-sure-that-pilate-washed-his-hands-and-sealed-his-fate).

[Chorus]
[Pleased to meet you, hope you guess my name, But what's puzzlin' you is the nature of my game](https://genius.com/784212/The-rolling-stones-sympathy-for-the-devil/Pleased-to-meet-you-hope-you-guess-my-name-but-whats-puzzlin-you-is-the-nature-of-my-game).”

Now, back in the 60’s there was QUITE a stir about this song giving so much attention to the devil. What if this song came out today? Would there even be a ripple? Probably not. That is what has happened, society has been desensitized to evil, sin and violence. A second sad fact is that we have LOST our knowledge and understanding of God’s word.

Yes, the Stones highlight some important information for **us** to have— the devil’s NAME and the NATURE of his GAME.

Some of you may remember that time that the devil went down to Georgia. That excursion didn’t turn out so well for the old devil. And the ole Charlie Daniels reminds us that the devil is not invincible.

This morning we are going to look at the IDENTITY, INTENT, INVOLVEMENT AND INABILITY of the devil.

**I. IDENTITY (6.11-2)**

 *Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil*

There are numerous names, titles and descriptions in the Bible. The most common in the NT are probably devil, satan and evil one.

“devil” is “***diabolos***.” We know that ***diabolos*** is the Spanish name for the devil. That reveals that there is a relationship between Greek and Spanish. ***Diabolos*** is Greek. Diabolos is defined as a false accuser, a slanderer, one who opposes or a devil.

“***Diabolos***” is a compound word.

 ***Dia*** is a preposition that basically means “across.”

 ***Bolos*** is from ***ballo*** which means “to throw.”

 So, a bare-bones literal meaning of diabolos is “one who throws across.”

 - could throw an obstacle across your path

 - could throw out a cross-ways story

 - could mean to throw out an accusation

 - could mean to throw across a story

This rascal shows up ALL THROUGH the pages of our Bibles. Now, he is not omni-present, so he CAN’T be everywhere at one time. He can only be in one place at a time. Remember — he is NOT God.

It is often interesting to look at the first and last mentions of a person or idea in the Bible.

He is **first** mentioned in Gen 3. and **last** mentioned in Revelation. Let’s look at Rev first. Rev says, “*He seized the* ***dragon****, that* ***ancient serpent*** *who is the* ***devil*** *and* ***satan****, and bound him for a thousand years*” (Rev 20:2).

Look at those names, “*the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan*.” So, the serpent in the garden is identified with the devil. OT scholars want us to interpret the NT in light of the Old. We should also interpret the Old in light of the New.

Turn back with me to Genesis. It comes right after the book of “Contents,” at the front of your Old Testament.

We meet him first, not in that Rolling Stones song, but in the very first book of the Bible. As we see SO OFTEN in the Bible, “*the serpent*” is just suddenly THERE. There is no background, no back story, just POOOF, there he IS. We are TOLD where Adam and Eve came from. We are NOT told where this serpent came from — Nada, zilch, NO background info.

Now, obviously, this is no ordinary snake. A guy named Todd Hampson has written several interesting and informative books. Let me share something Todd said, “Theologians differ on whether or not the serpent was literally Satan, Satan appearing as a serpent, Satan possessing a serpent, or Satan deceiving Adam and Eve into believing it was the serpent speaking. If we dig into the deeper layers of the word meaning, think we find our answer.

The noun form of the word translated “serpent” in the Genesis account is ***nachash*** (pronounced naw-khawsh). Important to our discussion is the fact that when used in adjective form, the root word can also be interpreted "brazen one' or "shiny-one." We find some validation of this type of usage in the account of Moses raising a bronze snake on a pole (Numbers 21:9). Lucifer (Satan's original name) means "light bringer. This theme is consistent in Scripture. In fact, 2 Corinthians 11:14 clearly informs us that "*Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light*”³ emphasis added), and Jesus described the fall of Satan as lightning-like (Luke 10:18).

If the noun and adjective forms of the root word ***nachash*** weren't theologically interesting enough, consider this fact: The verb form of the word can mean "deceiver." The enemy we know as Satan fits all three forms of the root word -- and this sheds a much brighter light on the "serpent" who tempted Adam and Eve” (*The Non-Prophets Guide to Spiritual Warfare*, Hampton, p37).

So, this is no ordinary snake. This shining serpent can be a deceiver.

Did you ever wonder how ***can*** a snake talk. OR … why was Eve not ***freaked out*** by this shimmery talking serpent creature?

That is probably because Adam, Eve and the Lord weren’t the ONLY ones running around in the Garden. Scholars suggest that Eden , wasn’t JUST a home for Adam and Eve, but that it was God’s HQ. Now if this is the case, and I am becoming convinced that it is, then there were also heavenly beings in the Garden. That would explain why this conversation with this shimmering serpent was not really out of the ordinary. There were supernatural spirit-beings in Eden, at God’s HQ.

This particular conversation, however, turns out to be one-of-a-kind.

In 3.1, the Bible says this serpent was “*the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made*.”

 “*wild animal*” is, literally, “*living thing*.”

Here—in flat out superlative terms — this serpent is the most cunning, wiley creature that God made. NO WONDER he was able to dupe Eve.

Soooo . . . This wiley, cunning, shimmering, deceiving serpent, who deceived Eve in the Garden, is STILL out here deceiving folks **TODAY**!!! If he is **the** MOST cunning creature that the Lord ever made, folks, we beez in ***BIIIIG*** trouble!!!

**II. INTENT**

What is his intent? What is this old devil up to?

My suggestion is that he hasn’t changed much. If he was out to mess with Adam and Eve, he is probably out to mess with their descendants. You remember about the ‘Seed War,’ right?

That is what Paul is saying. There is a “scheming devil” with whom we have to deal. He STILL wants to mess with the plans and purposes and people of God.

We have looked at identity and intent. Let’s move on to . . .

**III.  INVOLVEMENT**

What is this devil **doing**? What are his actions and activities and behaviors? Most likely, he is STILL doing what he has ***always*** done. If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. He is still doing the same things to mess with people.

Let me just go over a quick run-down of some of what the Bible says that this rascal does:

 Matt 4.1— tempts

 Matt 13.39— plants tares

 Luk 8.12— steals seed

 Jn 8.44— murderer and a liar

 Jon 13.32— put it in the heart of Judas to betray

 Ac 10.38— oppresses people

 Ac 13.10— perverts the right ways of God

 Eph 4.27— looks for a foothold

 Eph 6.11— schemes against God’s people

 2 Th 2.9— energizes evil people

 1 T 3.7— uses snares

 Heb 2.14— has he power of death

 1 P 5.8— roams about looking for someone to devour

 1 Jn 3.8— sins

 Jud 1.8— contends with God’s servants

 Rev 2.10— casts people into prison

 Rev 12.9— deceives

Maybe Flip Wilson was right. You remember his character, Geraldine Jones? She would always say, “The devil made me do it.” He didn’t ***MAKE*** her do it. But he sure could have ***GOTTEN*** her to do it. That is how he operates. He manipulates, schemes and deceives people into disobeying God to their own hurt. Yes — he is STILL at it TODAY!

We have looked at IDENTITY, INTENT and INVOLVEMENT. Let’s move on to look at . . .

**IV. INABILITY**

As cunning and as powerful as the devil is, he is **LIMITED**. There are things that the devil **CANNOT** do. He has INABILITIES.

Let us look at some of the devil’s inabilities. The devil is a CREATED being. He is NOT the Creator. He is NOT God. That means . . .

 A. He is NOT omnipotent

 He is NOT all powerful.

 He cannot MAKE us do ANYTHING.

 B. He is NOT omniscient

 He is not all-knowing.

 He cannot know what we are thinking.

 C. He is NOT omnipresent

 He cannot be everywhere at once.

 He can only be in ONE place at a time.

 But he has A LOT of helpers!

 D. He CANNOT make us NOT stand.

 He will trick us.

 He will trip us.

 He will attempt to deceive us.

 He will distract us.

 He will discourage us.

 He will depress us.

 He will oppress us.

 **BUT** . . . Aw, don’t you LOVE a good but, don’t you?!?! **BUT** —

 He is UNABLE to separate us from the love of God.

 He is unable to snatch us out of God’s hand.

 He is UNABLE to MAKE us do ANYTHING.

 “*Greater is HE Who is IN us than he who is in the world*!!” (I Jn 4.4)

Hallelujah to the Lamb of God! Praise the Lord for the Indwelling-Holy-Spirit! Thank God for VICTORY in Jesus!