

TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL

(No. 1229 – 11/7/22 – Sermon Online Zoom)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The cosmic battle between God and Satan

1. Enter the serpent, God's (and our) evil archenemy (Gen. 3)
2. Satan is real, not a cartoon character with horns & pitchfork!

B. Good News: Jesus came to give us victory over the devil!

1. **1 John 3:8:** *He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason* ["purpose" NKJV] *the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.*
 - a) John explains one of the primary purposes for Christ's coming—to destroy the devil's work
 - b) "Destroy" [Gk. *luō* = "to loosen, release, destroy, annul, dissolve, undo, unbind, untie, put an end to"]
2. **Luke 10:18-19:** *He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."*
3. **1 John 5:18-19:** ¹⁸*We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm* ["touch" NKJV] *him. ¹⁹We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.*
4. **Heb. 2:14-15:** ¹⁴*Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him* who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵*and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

C. What are the devil's works?

1. **2 Cor. 2:11:** *In order that Satan might not outwit* ["take advantage of" NKJV] *us. For we are not unaware* ["ignorant" NKJV] *of his schemes.*
 - a) "Schemes" [Gk. *noema* = "purpose, intellect, device, machination"]

- b) Satan *WILL* get an advantage over us if we are ignorant!
2. **Eph. 6:10-13:** ¹⁰*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.* ¹¹*Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's **schemes**.* ¹²*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.* ¹³*Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.*
- a) “Schemes” [Gk. *methodeia* = “wiles, travesty, trickery, to lie in wait”]
- b) We must know the “methods” that our enemy employs in his battle against us
3. Four of the seven messages to the churches in Rev. 2&3 mention Satan: Smyrna (Rev. 2:9), Pergamum (Rev. 2:13), Thyatira (Rev. 2:24), and Philadelphia (Rev. 3:9)!
4. NOTE: As we examine some of Satan’s works and strategies, let us not forget that Jesus has *already* defeated him and He never changes:

Heb. 13:8: *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

II. THE DEVIL’S WORKS AND HOW JESUS DESTROYS THEM

A. #1: Sin, temptation

1. **1 John 3:8:** *He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the **devil has been sinning from the beginning**.*
2. **Gen. 3:1-4:** ¹*Now the **serpent was more crafty** than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “**Did God really say**, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”* ²*The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”* ⁴*“You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman.*

3. **1 Thess. 3:5:** *For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. **I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you** and our efforts might have been useless.*

B. #1: Jesus overcame every temptation, took our sins on the Cross and removed our old sin nature

1. **Mat. 4:1-11:** *¹Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be **tempted by the devil**. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. ³**The tempter** came to Him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” ⁴Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵Then the devil took Him to the holy city and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” ⁷Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’” ¹¹Then the devil left Him, and angels came and attended Him.*
2. **Heb. 4:15:** *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been **tempted in every way**, just as we are—**yet was without sin**.*
3. **John 1:29:** *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who **takes away the sin of the world!**”*
4. **1 Pet. 2:24:** ***He Himself bore our sins in His body** on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.*
5. **Rev. 1:5:** *Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the*

earth. To Him who loves us and has **freed** [“washed” NKJV] **us from our sins** by His blood.

Jesus not only forgives all our sins, He removes the old sin nature, replacing it with a new self that loves righteousness

6. **2 Cor. 5:17-21:** ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was **reconciling** the world to Himself in Christ, **not counting men’s sins against them**... ²¹God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might **become the righteousness of God**.
7. **Rom. 6:4-6:** ⁴We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may **live a new life**. ⁵If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection. ⁶For we know that **our old self was crucified with Him** so that the **body of sin might be done away with**, that we should **no longer be slaves to sin**.
8. **Eph. 4:24:** Put on the **new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness**.

C. #2: Accuse, condemn

1. Once Satan has enticed us to sin, he then condemns us and accuses us before God—that is his very nature [Gk. *Satanas* = “accuser” and Gk. *diabolos* = “false accuser, slanderer”]
2. After the Fall, Adam and Eve felt naked and ashamed; they tried to hide and cover their guilt, but only God could cover them (Gen. 3)
3. **Job 1-2** – Satan accused Job before God
4. **Zech. 3:1:** *Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and **Satan standing at his right side to accuse him**.*
5. **Rev. 12:9-11:** ⁹The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. ¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For **the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our**

God day and night, has been hurled down. ¹¹*They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*”

D. #2: Jesus forgives and justifies

Justified:
“Just-as-if-I’d
never sinned!”

1. **Rom. 3:21-26:** ²¹*But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.* ²²*This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,* ²³*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,* ²⁴*and are **justified freely by His grace** through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.* ²⁵*God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice, because in His forbearance He had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—* ²⁶*He did it to demonstrate His justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.*

Jesus is our
Defense
Attorney
interceding
for us
(1 John 2:1)

2. **Rom. 8:31-34:** ³¹*What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?* ³²*He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?* ³³***Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.*** ³⁴*Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also **interceding for us.***

3. **Rev. 12:11:** ***They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb** and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*”

E. #3: Kill, destroy, devour

1. **Rom. 5:12-14:** ¹²*Therefore, just as **sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin**, and in this way **death came to all men**, because all sinned—* ¹³*for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law.* ¹⁴*Nevertheless, **death reigned from the time of Adam** to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.*

2. **Heb. 2:14-15:** ¹⁴*Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy **him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil**—¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their **fear of death**.*
3. **John 10:10:** *The thief comes only to steal and **kill and destroy**; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*
4. **John 8:44:** *You belong to your father, **the devil**, and you want to carry out your father's desire. **He was a murderer from the beginning**...*
5. **1 Pet. 5:8:** *Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

F. **#3: Jesus defeated death and offers everyone eternal life**

1. **Heb. 2:9, 14-15:** ⁹*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God **He might taste death for everyone**...* ¹⁴*Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might **destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil**—¹⁵and **free those** who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*
2. **John 11:25-26:** ²⁵*Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life**. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶and whoever lives and believes in Me will **never die**. Do you believe this?”*
3. **1 Cor. 15:50-57:** ⁵⁰*I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—⁵²in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For the **perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality**. ⁵⁴When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “**Death has been swallowed up in victory**.” ⁵⁵“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” ⁵⁶ The sting of death*

is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

4. **Rev. 1:17-18:** ¹⁷When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. Then He placed His right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold **I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.**

G. #4: Lie, deceive, blind, lead astray

Note: A deceived person doesn't know it!

1. **John 8:44:** You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for **there is no truth in him.** When he lies, he speaks his native language, for **he is a liar and the father of lies.**
2. **2 Cor. 4:3-4:** ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴**The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers,** so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
3. **2 Cor. 11:2-4, 13-14:** ²I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to Him. ³But I am afraid that just as **Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning,** your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. ⁴For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough... ¹³For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no wonder, for **Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.**
4. **Rev. 12:9:** The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who **leads the whole world astray.** He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. [See Rev. 20:1-7]

H. #4: Jesus is the Truth

1. **John 14:6:** Jesus answered, “**I am the way and the truth and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

2. **John 8:31-32:** ³¹To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, “If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and **the truth will set you free.**”
3. **John 17:17:** Sanctify them by the truth; **Your word is truth.**
4. **John 16:13:** But when He, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, **He will guide you into all truth.** He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.
5. **Heb. 6:18:** God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which **it is impossible for God to lie**, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.
6. **Acts 26:18:** To **open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God**, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.

I. #5: Oppress, torment, afflict with sickness and disease

1. **Luke 13:16:** Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom **Satan has kept bound** for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?
2. **Acts 5:16:** Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their **sick and those tormented by evil spirits**, and all of them were healed.
3. **2 Cor. 12:7:** To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a **messenger of Satan, to torment me.**
4. **Acts 10:38:** How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how He went around doing good and **healing all who were under the power of** [“oppressed by” – KJV] **the devil**, because God was with Him.

J. #5: Jesus carried every sickness and disease in His own body on the Cross, and He healed them ALL!

1. **Luke 13:11-13:** ¹¹A woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. ¹²When Jesus saw her, He called her forward and said to her, “**Woman, you are**

Sickness
is bad
news...
the Good
News of
the
Kingdom
is healing!

set free from your infirmity.” ¹³Then He put His hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

2. **Mat. 4:23-24:** ²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the **good news** of the kingdom, and **healing every disease and sickness** among the people. ²⁴News about Him spread all over Syria, and people brought to Him all who **were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed**, and He healed them.
3. **Mat. 9:35-36:** ³⁵Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the **good news** of the kingdom and **healing every disease and sickness**. ³⁶When He saw the crowds, **He had compassion** on them, because they were **harassed** and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
4. **Mat. 8:16-17:** ¹⁶When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to Him, and He drove out the spirits with a word and **healed all the sick**. ¹⁷**This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:** “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.”
5. **Isa. 53:4-5:** ⁴Surely **He took up our infirmities** and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. ⁵But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and **by His wounds we are healed**.

K. #6: Steal

1. **John 10:10:** *The **thief comes only to steal** and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*
2. **Mark 4:15:** *Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, **Satan comes and takes away the word** that was sown in them.*
3. Satan will try to steal our faith, hope, health—anything and everything!

L. **#6: Jesus freely gives and restores everything the devil stole from us**

1. **Rom. 8:31-32:** ³¹*What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?* ³²*He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—**how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?***
2. **Mark 3:5:** *He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and **his hand was completely restored.***
3. **Mark 8:25:** *Once more Jesus put His hands on the man’s eyes. Then his eyes were opened, **his sight was restored,** and he saw everything clearly.*
4. **1 Pet. 5:8-10:** ⁸*Be self-controlled and alert. **YOUR ENEMY the devil** prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to **devour.*** ⁹*Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.* ¹⁰*And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, **after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.***

M. **#7: Trap, ensnare**

1. **2 Tim. 2:25-26:** ²⁵*Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,* ²⁶*and that they will come to their senses and **escape from the trap** [Gk. pagis = “a trap (as fastened by a noose); snare”] **of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.***
2. **1 Tim. 3:6-7:** ⁶*He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.* ⁷*He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not **fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap.***

N. #7: Jesus destroys every bondage, captivity, and imprisonment

1. **Luke 4:18:** *The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me **to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed.***
2. **John 8:34-36:** ³⁴*Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, **everyone who sins is a slave to sin.*** ³⁵*Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. **So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.***
3. Prison doors were literally opened for the apostles in the Early Church [see Acts 5:17-19; 12:3-10; 16:22-26]
4. **Ps. 124:6-8:** ⁶*Praise be to the LORD, who has not let us be torn by their [our enemies’] teeth. **We have escaped like a bird out of the fowler’s snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.*** ⁸*Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

III. OUR STRATEGY FOR VICTORY

- A. Know the truth about Christ’s victory – He destroyed the devil and his works!
- B. Know the Scriptures: *It is written...*
- C. Do not give the devil any room (Eph. 4:27; John 14:30) – he is *Lord of the Flies* (he likes garbage, darkness): walk in the light and stay clean!
- D. Be vigilant at all times (1 Pet. 5:8); understand Satan’s schemes and devices (2 Cor. 2:11)
- E. Resist the devil (Jas. 4:7); take your stand against him (Eph. 6:10-18)
- F. Overcame him by the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 12:11)

IV. THE END

- A. **Rom. 16:20:** *The God of peace will **soon crush Satan under your feet.** The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.*
- B. **Rev. 20:10:** *And **the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false***

prophet had been thrown. They will be **tormented day and night for ever and ever.**

- C. **Rev. 21:1-7:** ¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. **They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.** ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be **no more death or mourning or crying or pain**, for the old order of things has passed away." ⁵He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then He said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. **He who overcomes will inherit all this**, and I will be his God and he will be My son.
- D. **Rev. 22:1-5:** ¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³**No longer will there be any curse.** The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and **His servants will serve Him.** ⁴**They will see His face**, and His name will be on their foreheads. ⁵There will be **no more night.** They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And **they will reign for ever and ever.**

WE WIN!

Now thanks be to God
who always leads us in triumph in Christ,
and through us diffuses the fragrance
of His knowledge in every place.

— 2 Corinthians 2:14—