

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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October 10, 2021

“The Reality Of Satan”

By Doy Moyer

“Satan” is a descriptive term that means “adversary.” “Devil” means “slanderer.” These terms aptly describe the being who is known as the enemy of God and His people. The first encounter with the devil is seen in Genesis 3, where the creature here slandered God’s severity by telling Eve that if she ate the forbidden fruit, they would not die as God had said. While he is not called the devil in Genesis 3, Revelation 12:9 tells us that this was indeed “*the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world.*”

Satan’s desires from the beginning are revealed by Jesus when He rebuked the Pharisees: “*You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies*” (John 8:44).

From the beginning, Satan was a murderer and liar. His desire was not to see Adam and Eve have fun and live. By slandering God and deceiving, his design was to murder them. He wanted them to die, and this has been the devil’s desire ever since.

This reveals to us that Satan is not just some force of evil. He is a personality who desires, who acts, and who seeks to hurt those who belong to God. Recall that Jesus warned Peter, “*Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat*” (Luke 22:31).

Satan had designs on Peter specifically, and Peter of all disciples knew the danger of Satan when he wrote his epistles. With his own experiences, he wrote, “*Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world*” (I Peter 5:8-9).

Satan, then, is a deceiver, a liar who seeks to murder and devour God’s people. This makes him extremely dangerous and not one with whom we should ever play around with or see how close to him we can get. Even at a time of year like now, we need to be very careful here. Pretending to be the devil is not cute. It is not mere fun. It is dangerous and deceptive, and children need to be taught to flee from him, not act like him.

While the devil is dangerous and powerful, he is not God’s equal. He does not have the knowledge or power of God, and he is, in fact, both defeated and defeatable. This defeat was affected by Jesus Christ: “*Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives*” (Hebrews 2:14-15).

Peter said that we can resist him, steadfast in the faith (I Peter 5:9). James wrote, “*Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you*” (James 4:7). Paul told Christians what they can do to fight and stand their ground against the devil:

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition



to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Scripture minces no words when it comes to the devil. We are to take him seriously so that we “do not give the devil an opportunity” (Ephesians 4:27).

At the same time, we need to remember that God has already defeated Satan through Christ and given us the tools of faith to resist his influences “so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes” (II Corinthians 2:11).

While “the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving,” God has “shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ” (II Corinthians 4:4-6). The power of the Gospel will always win out.



Speaker: **Billy Randolph**
Location: **Meeks Street Church of Christ**
Date: **October 17th -- 22nd**
Starting Time: **7:00 PM Nightly (Except Sunday)**

“The Corinthians’ Error On Baptism”

By Perry Hall

“For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.” (1 Corinthians 1:17 ESV)

When people today use this passage to discredit the place and importance of baptism, ironically they make the same mistake as the Corinthians but for a different reason.

Paul's actual defense of baptism shows that the Corinthians had placed who baptized them above their baptism. They placed what man was doing above what God was doing in their baptism (I Corinthians 12:13). That's why, ironically, Paul is thankful he had not baptized many:

“I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)”

The Corinthians mistake is downplaying the importance of baptism by emphasizing what is not important - the preacher who baptized them. Paul is thankful his lack of physically putting people under the water did not contribute to their division. Again, ironically, what should have united them, divided them (I Corinthians 12:13).

But notice what is implicit in how important baptism should have been to the Corinthians: *“What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”* (1 Corinthians 1:12-13). If they are dividing into groups based upon who baptized them ... then every one of them had been baptized!

Today, people still downplay baptism, even if they are baptized, but for a different reason. Is it because they are putting preachers above baptism? Sadly, that answer is still yes. So this downplaying is not being done in the same way as the Corinthians who were obviously all baptized.

Then how are people today diminishing baptism by emphasizing preachers? The answer is found in putting more emphasis on what uninspired preachers say than what is written by inspired preachers in the Bible.

Anytime preachers are put above baptism, in some form or fashion, the Corinthian error is committed.



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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“Impossibilities Of The Great Commission”

Lesson Text: **Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:19-20.**

I. “Go” – Impossible To Stay.

- Acts 8:26-29; 9:15; 10:20; 13:3; 16:10.
- Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 6:15.

Notes: _____.

II. “Into All The World” – Impossible To Have A National Religion.

- Romans 1:16; Why? _____ . Romans 3:23-26; Isaiah 2:2-3.
- 2 Corinthians 5:18-19.

Notes: _____.

III. “Preach” – Impossible To Be Silent.

- Why is it important to preach the word? _____.
- Romans 10:14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-21; 1 Corinthians 9:16.

Notes: _____.

IV. “Preach The Gospel” – Impossible Not To Spread Good News.

- What makes the good news? _____.
- Romans 5:8-11; Acts 4:17-20.

Notes: _____.

V. “Make Disciples of all the Nations” – Impossible To Be Saved Without Learning About Jesus.

- John 6:44-45; Acts 8:5; 8:12; 8:34-35.

Notes: _____.

VI. “To All Creation” – Impossible To Show Partiality.

- Acts 10:34-35. How will God’s will be done? _____.

Notes: _____.

VII. “He Who Has Believed” – Impossible To Be Saved Without Faith.

- Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24. Notes: _____.

VIII. “And Is Baptized” – Impossible To Be Saved Without Baptism.

- Why? _____ . Acts 2:37-38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21.

Notes: _____.

IX. “But He Who Does Not Believe Is Condemned” – Impossible To Fully Obey If One Doesn’t First Believe.

- How does faith lead us to repentance, confession, and baptism? **John 3:16-18.**

Notes: _____.

X. “Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you”

- **Impossible To Be Saved Without Obedience.**
- Hebrews 5:8-9; James 1:22. Notes: _____.

“The Spirit Of Generosity”

Lesson Text: **Acts 2:41-45** The Jerusalem Church **Acts 4:34-37** A Pattern.

Generous- : a. liberal in giving : OPENHANDED.

b. marked by abundance or ample proportions. (**Webster**)

I. The Spirit Of Generosity Is Born Of God.

- God gave His only Son; He gave His most valuable treasure- **John 3:16.**
- The greatest act of generosity- **2 Corinthians 8:9** (Context: **8:1-8**).
- **2 Corinthians 9:8-11.**
- **1 Corinthians 2:6-12 (vs. 16); James 1:5.**

Notes: _____.

II. The Spirit Of Generosity Is What God Desires.

- **2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Romans 12:8.**
- **Proverbs 11:24-25; Proverbs 22:9.**
- **Deuteronomy 15:7-14.**
- **1 Timothy 6:17-19.**

Notes: _____.

III. Examples Of Generosity In The O.T.

- Abel- **Genesis 4:4; Hebrews 11:4.**
- Abraham- **Genesis 14:18-20; Hebrews 7:1-2; Vs. 4.**
- Jacob- **Genesis 28:20-22.**
- Israelites- **Exodus 25:1-8; Exodus 36:5-6.**
- Solomon- **2 Chronicles 7:1-5.**

Notes: _____.

IV. What Are The Enemies Of Our Generosity?

- Love of Money- **1 Timothy 6:9-10; 6:17.**
- Selfishness- **Luke 12:16-21; Acts 5:1-10.**
- Partiality- **Luke 14:12-14.**
- Prejudice- **James 2:1-6.**
- Sin- **Malachi 1:13-14; John 12:4-6.**

Notes: _____.

V. Our Spirit Of Generosity Will Be Rewarded.

- **Acts 20:35.**
- **Luke 6:38.**
- **Matthew 6:20.**

Notes: _____.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois and Estell Wright, Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Mrs. Jennie Daniel (Dan and Lynlie's neighbor), Anna Hearn, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, Earl Mitchell, and Anita Harris.

Gospel Meeting With Billy Randolph— October 17th to 20th. 7:00 PM.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Paul Busby
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"Impossibilities Of The Great Commission"</i>
<u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u>	Fred Johnson
	1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page 74, Question #13</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Doug George
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Paul Johnson
	<i>Acts 4:34-37</i>
Song Leader:	Lee Busby
Lord's Supper:	Fred Johnson
Assisting:	— —
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>"The Spirit Of Generosity"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Russell Briggs

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

October 13th:

Auditorium Bible Class:	Russell Briggs
	Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page #39, Question #1</i>
Invitation:	Paul Johnson
Song Leader:	Russell Briggs
Closing Prayer:	Blake Briggs