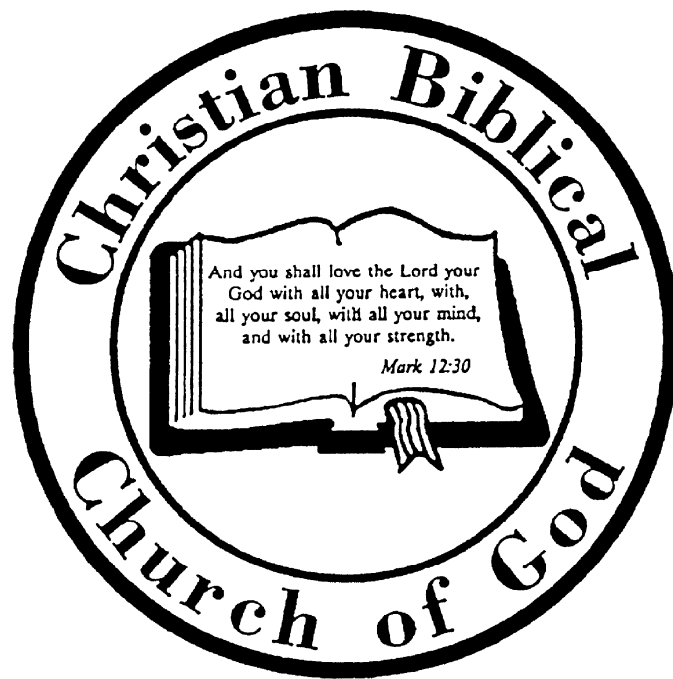


Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies



Transcript Book

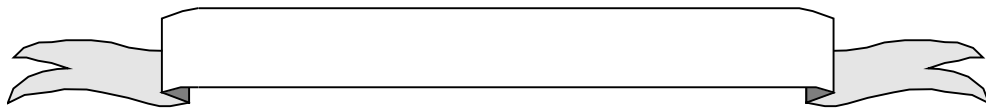
By Fred R. Coulter

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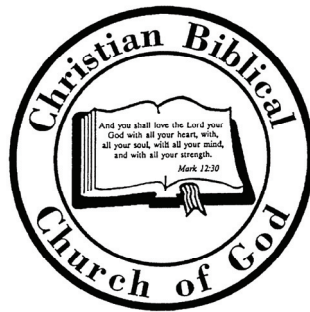
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Satan's 10 Most Believable Lies

Series of 11 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



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- Satan's 10 Most Believable Lies I Date completed _____
- Satan's 10 Most Believable Lies II Date completed _____
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- Satan's 10 Most Believable Lies VI Date completed _____
- Satan's 10 Most Believable Lies VII Date completed _____
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Compact Disc

[When included]

Tracks 1 & 2 Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies I

#1—God is a Cosmic Sadist

Tracks 3 & 4 Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies II

#2—God is a Liar

Tracks 5 & 6 Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies III

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The Solution

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies

Foreword

This series on *Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies* is a compilation of eleven sermons by Fred Coulter that will help you to gain a better understanding of the tactics that Satan uses to discredit our Creator.

Satan would like to deceive people who are made in God's very own image, into believing that God is not real and that Satan's way is better. Satan wants people to believe that this life is all there is and that there is no eternal life. Because Satan is the author of lies, he would like those who believe there is a God, to think that God lies, that He does not love us, and that He is cruel.

Our government and school systems have cast God out and are fully purchased into Satan's agenda. Even at a young age, children are being taught Satanism in the schools. At the high school and college level, teacher and professors teach students to doubt the very existence of God.

As individuals we need to come to the place of independent capability, to enjoy the blessing of God in spiritual growth to the extent that we are "combat ready" and to be one who meditates day and night on the Word of God. We need to obey God. We need to worship God in spirit and in truth and have God ever present in our lives. He will then directly intervene in our lives.

On the other hand people who would never consider worshipping Satan are participating in lies and falsely believe they are worshipping the true God. But they are worshipping God in error, by believing Satan's well-disguised lies. Since Satan, as the god of this world, has cleverly disguised himself, people only see the works of their own hand. The lies of this world put a barrier between them and the true God.

A special thanks goes to Nancy Spaller, Laila Patterson and Bonnie Orswell for transcribing the sermons.

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies I #1—God is a Cosmic Sadist

Fred R. Coulter

The opening prayer reminded me of what Jesus prayed for us. Let's go to John 17 and see Jesus' last prayer before His crucifixion, and I think we'll find this very helpful and instructive for us. It also will lead into what we're going to do in this series.

John 17:9—here's part of Jesus' prayer: "I am praying for them... [those who believed Jesus; believed that He was the Son of God] ...**I am not praying for the world...**" That's why the world can never be reformed. The world can only be reformed to a certain degree, because there is always evil present in the world.

"...but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. All Mine are Yours, and all Yours *are* Mine; and I have been glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, those whom You have given Me, so that they may be one, even as *We are one*. When I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. I protected those whom You have given Me, and not one of them has perished except the son of perdition, in order that the Scriptures might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to You; and these things I am speaking *while yet* in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in them. I have given them Your words, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You would take them out of the world... [most of us wish that we were from time-to-time; but that's why we're not] ...but **that You would keep them from the evil one**" (vs 9-15).

I got a book that really is fantastic: *Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies*. God has His Ten Commandments; Satan has his ten most believable lies! We're going to examine them. I think it would be great if you would read this book; it's really tremendous. It belies one thing that we have believed in the past: *all Truth is only in one corporate structure!* That is not so! God will not leave Himself vulnerable to Satan that way.

- Why are we here in such a small group?
- Is that really what God wants?

We can answer it by what he's written here in his understanding about the Scriptures.

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies (pp 141-142)

...To be well versed enough in Scripture to use it as a weapon in conflict against Satan is quite another [matter]. A small degree of understanding of the Bible, mixed with faith, will produce salvation. No such small understanding, however, will produce Christian capability in the great battle that we now face in our present age. The successful soldier, then, is the one who becomes knowledgeable to the point of the mastery of Scripture....

That's one thing that I'm trying to do here is so that you all know your Bibles! That you can be efficient in the knowledge of God's Word!

...He [this person] is the one who is always "ready always to give an answer to every man that asks [him] of "the hope" that is in him" (1-Pet. 3:15). He is the one who can stand against the subtle foe and give a "place of subjection, no, not for an hour; that the Truth of the Gospel might continue in you" (Gal. 2:5). He is set for the "defense and confirmation of the Gospel" (Philip. 1:7). He is skillful in the use of the Word of God.

The unfortunate problem of our present age is that these individuals are somewhat rare. Too many Christians have settled for a simple outline produced on their denominational mimeograph machine and developed little knowledge beyond this. We must assure ourselves that there is no religious syndicate, no organization, that has a corner on the knowledge of Scripture. Each individual is called upon to know the Word of God for himself.

That's why when we read the parable of the ten virgins, Matt. 25, that becomes so important.

Indeed, no ministry is doing its job unless it produces individual competence in Scripture.

In other words, it's not enough for a ministry or a church to be able to have some things to teach people unless that teaching is so that they become individually competent in the knowledge of the Bible. You can see why then we can put on here one of Satan's nice little lies: You don't need to study the Bible, that's for the ministers or the priests. If you accept that, then you are immediately subject to being shackled by Satan the devil. If we are all going

to be judged by the Word of God, why then is it only the prerogative of the priest or the minister to know the Word of God if it's going to judge you?

Too many organizations are merely producing a **limp mass of spiritual dependents...**

I like that phraseology!

...saints who are not equipped to study the Bible for themselves. They must ever be propped up by their spiritual gurus, never coming to the place of personal doctrinal expertise.

No ministry is successful unless it produces independent capability in the lives those whom it reaches. The individual who comes to the place of independent capability, who enjoys the blessing of God in spiritual growth to the extent that he is "combat ready" is the one who meditates day and night in the Scriptures.

Quite and insightful bit of writing there—isn't it?

Let's go back to the first of the book. This is out of the Introduction; he gives a little bit about the rise and fall of Satan, and so forth:

p 8—Introduction:

...There is, however, a form of satanic activity that is more deadly than witchcraft.

We read about witchcraft and the problems of satanic worship and covens and all of this sort of thing. By the way, there is a movement to come through the NEA (National Education Assoc.) to bring watered-down and borderline versions of satanism right into the class in the way of teaching the kids. Know that the public schools are the breeding grounds for Satan's philosophy into our children. You can be guaranteed that. He almost has a chokehold on it.

Serious damage has been done in naïve personalities because of overt spiritualist activity...

That is something that is overt; you can see it.

...but far greater havoc has been wrought by another kind of satanism, the covert production and propagation of false doctrine.

- Didn't we have that going through the Passover?
- Didn't we have that going through Pentecost?

That's why I want you to be, as he says, individually competent in the Scriptures yourselves. What good does it do for the minister to know something and he cannot impart that to the congregation, and they never know anything except what they're told. Someone asks you a question and you say, 'You'll have to ask my minister.' Rather than say, 'Let's open your Bible and look at it.'

When I would go out visit people who were writing in for a visit—years ago—I never took my own Bible. I always used theirs. A lot of so-called Christian churches say, 'we don't study the Old Testament.' We'll see what Paul says about that a little bit later on.

Should we study the Old Testament? *You'd better believe we should study the Old Testament, absolutely!*

...the covert production and propagation of false doctrine. The enemy has produced a significant triumph when he can spread in our society a broad set of false views about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, sin, the purpose of life...

Which he believes, too, to be in the God Family. Interesting, isn't it, that there's no corporate hold that no one else understands that.

...and other imperative points of Christian doctrine. For every one person who is subverted by Satan worship... [the overt kind] ...thousands are enmeshed in Satan's more deadly trap: doctrinal error.

What did Jesus say? *He said of God's Word, 'Your Word is Truth! The Truth shall set you free from sin, the devil.'* So it's imperative that you know it.

People who are otherwise perfectly rational, who would not dream of attending a séance, are, nevertheless, the more thoroughly undermined simply because they believe the wrong thing.

Satan's trafficking in false doctrine is more dangerous than spiritism. Few inquiries could then be more helpful than to examine the doctrines of Satan in the hope of deliverance from his mind-destroying theology.

The introduction to it is more deadly than witchcraft—that's the first chapter. Witchcraft is *external*. False doctrine is covert and it is *internal*.

We were talking about the doctrine of vegetarianism under the guise of these eco-paths—animal-paths or eco-paths. They are so concerned about the ecology, they are so concerned about

animal rights that they elevate animal rights to human rights.

A tree was made to cut down, but be smart enough to replant it. The northern spotted owl: they've stopped as much logging as they can in northern California, Washington and Oregon. I heard a telephone call from a fellow calling into one of the talk shows, and he was calling from Oregon, and he said, 'Ten years ago there were 240 spotted owl pairs, so we had a big deal up here in Oregon to save the spotted owl. Now there are 7,000 spotted owl pairs.' So, it's all a hoax, folks!

Do you know what the hoax is? Guess what lumber company on the east coast just did? What I want you to do is think on these as 'eco-commies.' They're really doing Communist work to destroy things here. Communists always support the motherland, the Soviet Union. So, guess what a lumber company on the east coast just did? *Just contracted to buy logs from the Soviet Union!*

So, there's much more than meets the eye! And it's interesting, there are more doctrines of demons that get out into the public realm, which are not necessarily in the church realm.

1-Timothy 4:1: "Now the Spirit tells us explicitly that in the latter times some shall apostatize from the faith..." What is the faith? *The faith that is in the Bible talks about*

- God the Father
- the Son Jesus Christ
- the hope of salvation
- the forgiveness of sin by grace
- living by the commandments of God

All of those things are contained in the Bible in the faith. These are called the *words of faith*. So, they will depart from the faith.

Notice what they will be doing: "...and shall follow **deceiving [seducing] spirits and doctrines of demons**" (v 1). Seducing spirits comes in subtly. Is it that there is a spirit going around and that spirit is kind of in the form of a big hook and it sort of grabs this person and pulls them away? *No!*

'There are many false prophets and many false spirits (1-John 1), because wherever the prophets go there are false spirits inspiring them so that people give heed to "...seducing spirits and doctrines [teachings] of demons.'" That's going on today.

- Can you recognize all of those arguments?
- Do you know *the ten most believable lies* of Satan the devil?
- Have they ever affected the Church of God?

Obviously, yes, they have!

Verse 2: "Speaking lies in hypocrisy... [Have we had that? Even within the Church? *Yes!*] ...their consciences having been cauterized *with a hot iron*; forbidding to marry; *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by the faithful, even *by those who know the Truth*" (vs 2-3).

Why the current rage with vegetarianism? Some people say it's more healthful! Well, it's more healthful than eating swine and hogs. It's more healthful than eating a lot of unclean foods. If you have a diseased body, vegetarianism is very good to help cleanse it. But why the current rage of vegetarianism?

There was an ad in *The Vegetarian* newspaper that I heard about, which said: 'Wanted: Live in roommate. Vegetarian, lesbian, and health conscience.' Most of the modern age theology with vegetarianism is because of a belief in re-incarnation. What happens in the doctrine of re-incarnation? *You purge the sins out of your life by being re-incarnated from one form of life to another!*

If you kill an animal, you may be killing a spirit of someone who has been re-incarnated into that animal. That's a fact. That makes me love prime-rib even more! I will enjoy it more. I don't care if it's a big baked potato with butter on it. Some people like a lot of sour cream. Or rice—it doesn't make any difference to me—I am going to enjoy it! All of those vegetarians who believe the doctrines of demons suffer! Go ahead and have your bean sprouts!

Verse 4: "For every creature of God *designated for human consumption is good*, and nothing to be refused, *if it is received...* [to be eaten] ...with thanksgiving"—of them that know the Truth. What is Truth? *Your Word is Truth!* What tells what animals we should and should not eat? *The Bible!* God made it very simple. You do not need to have a professor's degree.

All fish that don't have fins and scales, don't eat them! All animals that are warm-blooded that chew the cud and divide the hoof in two, go ahead and eat, but all those that don't—don't eat them. Next time you take a trip down your little meat counter, take a look. More and more unclean food. I suspect one of these days we will see canned jellyfish.

Now, we need to add this, because there are others that come in with another false doctrine saying that every creature of God is good, so you can eat anything.

Verse 4: "For every creature of God

designated for human consumption is good... [ones that God created to be received with thanksgiving is good] ...and nothing to be refused, *if* it is received with thanksgiving, because it is sanctified... [set aside and made Holy] ...by the Word of God and prayer” (vs 4-5). Whatever God says we can eat, we can eat.

Verse 6: “If you are teaching these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Jesus Christ, being nourished by the words of the faith and of the good doctrines that you have closely followed.”

2-Timothy 3:1—talking about the end-time: “Know this also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men will be lovers of self...” That is the key thing. People love themselves. They don't love God! They don't love their neighbors! *Just themselves!*

Verse 13: “But wicked men and imposters shall become worse and worse, deceiving *others* and being deceived *themselves*.” Do people love to be deceived? *Sure they do! Yes, they do!* Some will say, ‘No, I don't like to be deceived.’ But what if someone came up to you and said—the way that you were dressed—‘You know, you really look awful today.’ No, you want to be told how nice you look, how fine you look, how good you are. And you ought to see people just melt in their tracks when they are told how *good* they are. And if they're not told how *good* they are, they have little temper tantrums.

When Jose Canseco signed a \$25-million [baseball] contract, guess what? *Ricky Henderson was slighted!* He felt put down! So, he's going to go prove that he's better than Jose. Tell them how good they are.

- Do people like to be deceived?
- How many con-games are run because people like to be deceived?
- Do you deceive yourself? *Sure you do!*

When you get close to doing something, or are doing something that is not right and your conscience kind of bites you a little bit, what do you do? *You figure a way around it!*

This happened the other day. Rachelle was watching a TV thing and I came in and was watching it. I said, ‘Rachelle, don't watch that. Take that video and return it.’ She said, ‘I've seen worse!’ So, immediately the human thinking: ‘since I've seen worse then I can continue to watch this, even though it's bad.’ That's just the way that human nature works. I said, ‘Look, you have to decide what you're going to do. You cannot judge sin by degree. You cannot judge immorality by the fact that you've

seen worse. This is how Two Live Crew gets going. ‘I have heard worse on the third grade school grounds than what Two Live Crew says.’ So therefore, it's all right.

Do people love to be deceived? *Sure they do! Yes, they do!*

Remember when Herbert Armstrong had Stanley Rader there. Stanley Rader would come on and he would introduce him for the sermon. ‘Please Mr. Rader, would you give a few words. Stanley would come up there and say what a wonderful person Herbert was and the greatest man that ever walked and all this sort of thing. Herbert fell over himself! He nearly just tripped over in his tracks, sitting there just drinking in all of this and got suckered in by the *messenger of Satan* to do things that weren't right.

So, what was one of the things that Stanley Rader said? ‘*Look, the Plain Truth has too much of God in it. What we need to do is make it a little more palatable for other people.*’ So, because of flattery the Truth was taken out of the Plain Truth. It should be called just *The Plain* now. I just read the recent issue.

See what has happened to something that was good? Something that was right? *Because people want to be deceived!*

Verse 14: “But *as for* you, continue in the things that you did learn... [from the Old Testament] ...and were assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*; and that from a child you have known the Holy Writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith, which *is* in Christ Jesus. All Scripture *is* God-breathed and *is* profitable for doctrine [teaching]...” (vs 14-16).

Some churches have said, ‘We need a little more love around here, and a little less doctrine.’ It's the other way around. If they had the right doctrine—the right doctrine of love—they would have plenty of love. That's another little subtle thing that comes in.

“...for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; so that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work” (vs 16-17).

2-Timothy 4:1—here's a command, a charge, to the ministers: “I charge you, therefore, in the sight of God, even the Lord Jesus Christ...” Who should the minister listen to? *The words of God!* If he's not listening to the words of God then you've got trouble in the Church.

There's ‘trouble in River City’; there's a pool table in here. I say that a little facetiously,

because that's just exactly how the satanic doctrines work. They come in very subtly that way.

So, we're to preach the Word of God, "...Who is ready to judge *the* living and *the* dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the Word! Be urgent in season and out of season; convict, rebuke, encourage, with all patience and doctrine" (vs 1-2).

What does doctrine mean? *Doctrine comes from the Greek word 'didaktos'—which means to teach or a teaching.* What is going to save us, ultimately going to give us salvation? *God is!* Based upon the *Word of God, the teachings of God and the Holy Spirit!* That's why it's important.

Verse 3: "For there shall come a time when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but according to their own lusts they shall accumulate to themselves a *great number of* teachers, having ears itching to *hear what satisfies their cravings*; and they shall turn away their own ears from the Truth; and they shall be turned aside unto myths" (vs 3-4). The ten most believable lies of Satan.

2-Peter 2 talks about false prophets that are coming along—these are false preachers, not just those who are prophesying of coming events, but false teachers.

2-Peter 2:1: "But there were also false prophets among the people, as indeed there will be false teachers..."—"didaktos"—a 'didaktos' does 'didaktung'—*a teacher is teaching*; that's what it means from Greek to English. The teacher is to be the one who is doing the teaching. So, if you have false teachers, what do you have? *False doctrine!* Very simple!

"...among you, who will stealthily introduce destructive heresies, personally denying *the* Lord who bought them, and bringing swift destruction upon themselves. And many people will follow *as authoritative* their destructive ways... [here's why]: ...*and* because of them, the way of the Truth will be blasphemed" (vs 1-2).

One of the first things you do to bring in false doctrine is that you start speaking evil of the Truth. Are people willing to listen to evil against the Truth? *Yes, they are!* Are they willing to even accept it and stand up for it? *Yes, they are!*

p 11—Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies:

In the light of this Scripture, the function of witchcraft is revealed. Not quite so obvious but equally satanic is the role of the religious hucksters who promotes a magic snake-oil version of pseudo-Christianity. Seducing spirits do the overt work of

Satan....

...The production of attractive doctrinal falsehoods is the most deadly activity of the enemy of God in the world today....

We find in John 8:44 where Satan is a liar and the 'father of it,' and he was 'a liar from the beginning.'

...The father of lies will surely present assertions that sound blessedly true...

Interesting way that he put it.

...and are only proved false when analyzed in depth. The most subtle created being in all the universe is Lucifer. The cleverest set of lies that he has ever produced is the satanic system of doctrine. With his doctrines, he presses quiet arguments upon reasonable men...

People who don't think that they are evil. People who think that 'other people have human nature that's worse than mine.' We'll see that that's what happened to Job.

...appealing to high intelligence and mature sensibilities. Every person who is not a Christian believes one or another demonic doctrine as the first principle of his life. Many Christians, though saved by believing the Truth, have been rendered spiritually impotent through accepting, along with the Truth, a doctrine of Satan.

Very interesting—isn't it?

It is interesting and even titillating to consider the overt activities of Satan. It is surely of more value, however, to study the doctrines of the devil and the Biblical answer to these frightening subversions. *Subversion*, incidentally, is a good word of all of this, for it literally means "to undermine the truth," or "less than the truth." A proposition that is slightly less than the truth is a far more treacherous lie than the clenched fist of categorical denial.

Isn't it interesting that out of Communism came the greatest subversion the world has ever seen to subvert people? They operated with spies—KGB—fear.

p 12—...Few activities could be more valuable on the part of the Church of Christ than a return to the careful study of Biblical doctrine. It is the necessary prelude to prayer, more important than "experience" and any other aspect of the Christian life. Indeed, no statement about prayer, experience, witnessing, the Holy

Spirit, or the nature of Christ can even be understood without a reference to sound Bible doctrine.

The reason for this is clear: sound doctrine is that set of definitions without which nothing else can be understood....

Now let's see how surely this applies to the Church of God. This time I'm going to focus in on the problems that the Church had. I'm not going to go through a great long dissertation on each one.

Revelation 2:2—the Church at Ephesus: “I know your works, and your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot bear those who are evil; and *that* you did test those who proclaim *themselves* to be apostles, but are not, and **did find them liars.**”

Since they're found to be liars, who sent them? *Satan!* He is a 'liar from the beginning' and the 'father of it.'

(go to the next track)

So, the first things that Satan does, he gets lying authorities, because an apostle is sent bearing authority. If you have someone who is a liar, who has authority, and people follow him and accept that authority, they are following a lie.

The first church—the apostolic church right after the days of Jesus—was confronted with false apostles; confronted with those who were lying. Paul said, those who 'twisted the Scripture'; those who 'handled the Word of God deceitfully.' Very interesting—isn't it? As a result of that, they lost their first love (v 4). And if you don't 'I will come and remove your candlestick' (v 5).

Verse 6: “But this you have: that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”

Each one of the churches had their problems with Satan, false doctrine and sin. One was so worn out—the Church of Sardis—that it was dead. ‘You have a name that you live, but you're dead. So worn out! God said, ‘Strengthen what you have and you'll make it. Hold on to the few things that you have.’

I just want to summarize a lot of these key Scriptures. Here is why doctrine is important. The teachings of Christ were doctrinal:

- We are to obey from the heart the form of doctrine delivered to us (Rom. 6:17_[transcriber's correction]).
- We are to be conscious of offenses 'contrary to the doctrine of Christianity.' (Rom. 16:17).
- We are to teach 'no other doctrine' (1-Tim. 1:3).

- We are to give ourselves to “sound doctrine” (1-Tim. 1:10).
- To ‘good doctrine’ (1-Tim. 4:6).
- We are to concentrate on reading, exhortation and doctrine.
- We are to take heed of ourselves.
- We are to count those who labor in the Word worthy of ‘double honor’ (1-Tim. 5:17).

Titus 1:9 shows us how we are able to use the Word of God: “Holding steadfastly to the faithful Word, according to the teachings of *Jesus Christ*, so that he may be able both to encourage with **sound doctrine...**” That's what's so important.

Have you ever listened to these ‘Commie-crats’; ‘Liberal-crats’; ‘Libie-coms’—there's a name I have for the Democrats that are that way, too—have you ever noticed how their thinking is *off*? Listen to these people talk and their thinking becomes totally skewed! Why are you able to detect that skewed thinking? A lot of people can't. Why are you able to detect that thinking that is wrong? *Because you know the Word of God! You have the Spirit of God!*

That's why you're going to find yourself sitting there watching the news sometimes—and this happens to me quite often—you get just absolutely disgusted with these meely-mouthed, double-tongued, hypocritical, sleaze-bagged politicians that come along and do all of this nonsensical ‘good’ trying to reform the world. They themselves are in the bondage of corruption! Totally!

I think if there's any one institution that God really is angry at, that's the Congress of the United States—maybe more so than other legislatures. *The Congress of the United States!* You listen to the way some of these people think and you know that there's something wrong mentally, *because of what they believe!* So, we have to have *sound doctrine* to refute it.

pp 13-14—Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies

In the light of the clear teaching of Scripture, it is frightening to hear a Christian speaker naively declare that “What we need today is not more theology and doctrine but more experience!” Such assertions indicate a shortage of Biblical understanding. They are not only untrue—but dangerously untrue. They paved the way for satanic activity....

...An understanding of *sound* doctrine makes it possible for us to perceive *unsound* doctrine....

That's what's important!

I heard a sermon by a man who was with us when we were in *Biblical [Church of God]* who is now giving some of the most unsound, confusing doctrines and the people that he is teaching are so inexperienced. They are sitting there just lapping it up like a kitten laps up warm milk. 'That's so good! That's so exciting! All this new stuff!' ***They don't know their Bibles!*** And unfortunately, that's the way it is with too many people. That's what happens.

...This kind of understanding will mean that we never again need be ignorant of his devices, the most deadly of which is doctrinal subversion.

Paul gives a warning of that doctrinal subversion. We just read it.

It follows, of course, that a general knowledge of the Bible does little good. Who of us have not heard about people who are members or grand masters of some mystical organization, that quote an obscure verse from Ecclesiastes and thereby make the claim that their views are Bible-based?....

That's what they do, they take a verse and they say 'we're Christian.' What do you mean you're Christian? That's the first question you ought to ask someone who says 'I'm a Christian.' Listen to what they say and then ask them: What do you mean you are a Christian? Would you define it for me?

...Their knowledge is simply not sufficient...

It says that we have a high degree of people like this.

...to give them a reason for their faith or to equip them to defend the Gospel. Alexander Pope's warning that "a little learning is a dangerous thing: applies not only to philosophy but even more emphatically to Christianity. The lunatic fringe of Christianity is well populated by people who picked up some verse of Scripture many years ago and have been attempting to live on it ever since.

Interesting phraseology: "...lunatic fringe of Christianity..."

We must know the details of Scripture, the whole of Scripture, and the doctrines of Scripture. No one who does not know the Scripture in detail can claim to know the Scripture at all.

More imperatively, I will make a statement here to ministers: ***Any of you who try and substantiate doctrine and you don't know at least Greek well enough to understand what the Bible is teaching, you can never be sure that you're teaching the Truth as it ought to be taught.*** You yourself become victim to being able to produce false doctrine while you sound authoritative, but you're not!

When discussing the dangers of satanic doctrinal subversion, the Bible is clearly warning thoughtful people. Let no one say, "I don't claim to be a witch, a prophetess or a magician; therefore, I am not really vulnerable to satanic activity."....

Another way of phrasing it: 'I am basically a moral person. I have high standards in my life. Therefore, I don't need to go to church and study the Word of God.' *Oh, have you swallowed it: hook, line and sinker!* There are a lot of people that way. 'Well, I go to church and all I see are hypocritical people.' Maybe it's the church you're going to! Is that the only one in the world? You can hear all of these excuses. Granted, those may be true statements. But you're setting yourself up for a fall.

...Think again. The witches and the magicians provide Satan with some fun and games along the way, but his real activity is subverting the insiders, the reasonable, and the semi-studious with false doctrine.

To believe the wrong thing is far more serious than to do the wrong thing....

That's quite a statement—isn't it?

...Ask yourself: How many doctrines of the devil do I really understand? With how many have I already been subverted? Doctrinal subversion is more deadly than witchcraft.

Let's come to Satan's *first* most believable lie:

God is a Cosmic Sadist (p 15)

...Satan uses "almost true" intellectual propositions to appeal to reasonable people. His most effective work is done—not in saloons and brothels—but in the minds of men. He is a destroyer of Truth. He is a liar from the beginning. He is a pusher—not merely of marijuana or heroin—but of false propositions. He promotes an addiction to lies.

Let's go back and we will see the first lie given to human beings. He presents it here in just a little bit

different way. So, it's worth our while to go back to Gen. 3.

Genesis 3:1: "Now the serpent was more cunning than any creature of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Is it true that God has said, "You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?"'" Which means *God said that you shall not eat of any of the trees of the garden—didn't He? That's his first lie!*

- God doesn't want you to enjoy a thing!
- God does not want you to have anything!
- God put all of this here because He is a sadist!

But what was the original command? God said, 'Of all of the trees of the garden you may freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat of it, for the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die!'

Satan comes along and say, "... 'Is it true that God has said, "You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?"'" That is, you shall not eat of any of them. ***That isn't what God said!***

A lot of people think that God is against them, because He has rules. Where does this attitude come from? Does it come from God? What else does God say when He created man and woman?

Genesis 1:27: "And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him. He created them male and female. And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth'" (vs 27-28). God gave mankind the whole world! God had plenty of permission, plenty of good things.

Here's another way of translating it:

p 16—...So the serpent came to the woman. "Really?" he asked. "None of the fruit in the garden? God says you mustn't eat any of it?"

What a clever ploy! The enemy suggests that God is a moral tyrant, so bluenosed that He has forbidden His creatures any enjoyment whatsoever. The implication is that God filled the Garden with delightful array of delicious fruits to taunt man, forbidding him to eat of any of these fruits. God is therefore a negativist who made man merely to frustrate him. He is a cosmic sadist, inflicting an impossible set of rules and punishments upon man. God is therefore impossible to please, a total

tyrant, so the best thing to do is to chuck the whole thing as of right now.

That's the way a lot of people view God—isn't it! Isn't it true? But it's just the opposite! Because He knows our nature, He provided a way out through Jesus Christ, and forgives us *by grace!* Overlooks our sins! Quite different—isn't it?

So then, Eve adds something else when she answers back, Genesis 3:2: "And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may freely eat the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has *indeed* said, "You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die'" (vs 2-3). So, she added a little something to it. God didn't say, 'touch it.' He said, 'Don't eat of it.'

p 17—Before Adam and Eve was the possibility of many delicious involvements in eating the fruit of the Garden. The instructions that God had given were—*with but one exception*—on the positive, permissive side. God had in effect said, "Im for you! I made you with palates to enjoy the exquisite sweetness of the strawberry and the grape. The tart delight of the crab apple, the bananas, oranges, pears—they all are yours." Every physical gratification was given to the couple in the Garden. Every pleasure, every fulfillment was theirs.

Only one restriction! *The one tree! Just the one!* But men do not like to believe God. So then, what happened? *Satan has his trick!* By this he is saying—when he turns it all around—'God doesn't want you to have anything.' But it's there for you to take. 'And God is holding back so that you do not succeed. Therefore, why don't you become like God and why don't you eat of this tree, for it will open your eyes and you will be like God. You won't be able to make the choices like God, if you eat of this tree, *just trust me!*' I hate that whenever anyone says, 'Trust me.' Once that trust in Satan has taken hold:

p 19—So the author of all evil, whose own heart is filled with violence, seduces legions to follow him. With neat finesse, he is often able to introduce drugs, illicit sex, and even violent crime as "authentic moral symbols of that righteous rebellion."....

Didn't that happen when Cain killed Abel? Why did He kill Abel? *Because Cain looked upon Abel as more righteous!* So therefore, he'll get rid of him.

Isn't that the way it is today? When someone is righteous, trying to do right, don't they try and get rid of them? Didn't that happen in the Church of

God when people came along and said, 'Look, this is what the Word of God says, we ought to re-examine to see if this is right.' And for standing for the Truth, *people were kicked out of the Church of God!* Were they believing one of Satan's most believable lies? *Absolutely!*

...Only too much later does Satan's hapless victim realize, **as he stands amid the wreckage of his life**, that he has been duped by the devil. He has been consumed by the fire that he started when he began to listen to the whispered suggestions of the evil one.

What happens when sin takes place? James 1 talks about how sin takes hold in our lives. God does not tempt us with sin. He did not tempt Adam and Eve with that tree. The tree was put there, and there was one little prohibition, which was: *Don't eat of that tree!* All of the rest you can have freely, except that one.

James 1:13: "Do not let anyone who is tempted say, 'I am being tempted by God'..." Sometimes we're tried of God, that is true. But the trial comes not in the way of making us choose evil. Understand that! ***A trial from God is to see whether you will obey Him and keep His words!*** That's what the trial is. A temptation of evil is not a temptation of God.

God is not going to put you in a circumstance where some lascivious woman is going to come and try and seduce you and you say, 'Oh, God, thank You for sending her.' *Nonsense!* You happen to be in a situation where Satan sent his messenger and you wanted to be seduced by that. So therefore, you were! If you wanted to follow God, there would have been no seduction; you would have seen it coming! You would have said, 'I have an appointment right now—sayonara!' And get up and leave. That's actually true. Even though you don't have an appointment with someone else, you can still say that's true because you have an appointment with the Truth to get your little feet out of there and on the way so that you're not going to get seduced. Very simple!

That's why "...let anyone who is tempted say, 'I am being tempted by God'..." Oh, this cocaine just happened to be right there and someone just took a razor blade and cut off a little snort for me.

"...because God is not tempted by evil, and He Himself tempts no one *with evil*. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away and is enticed by his own lust" (vs 13-14). Your own desire to do evil, that's what does it.

Then you get trapped! Like some of these women who go out. Teenage girls get lured into the sex; they get trapped into it; they become pregnant. They get an abortion or they wait until it's born and they throw it away in a garbage disposal bin someplace, hopeful that no one would discover it.

God didn't do that!

Verse 15: **"And after lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is completely finished, brings forth death."**

That's the thing that does it. God is not there trying to squash us for everything that we do. NO! God has given us so many things that we can do, which are good, right, perfect, fine and lovely, which God blesses. But the things that God says 'don't do' are for our own good. That's why He says, 'Don't do it!'

So, the first lie of Satan the devil is that God is a Cosmic Sadist!

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in its Original Order, a Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) John 17:9-15
- 2) 1 Timothy 4:1-6
- 3) 2 Timothy 3:1-2, 13-17
- 4) 2 Timothy 4:1-4
- 5) 2 Peter 2:1-2
- 6) Revelation 2:2, 6
- 7) Titus 1:9
- 8) Genesis 3:1
- 9) Genesis 1:27-28
- 10) Genesis 3:2-3
- 11) James 1:13-15

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Matthew 25
- 1 John 1
- John 8:44
- Revelation 2:4, 5
- Romans 6:17; 16:17
- 1 Timothy 1:3, 10; 4:6; 5:17

Also referenced: Book:

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies by Dave Breese

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies II #2—God Is a Liar

Fred R. Coulter

In the first part of the book, *Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies* by Dave Breese, we covered most of the first lie which is *God is a Cosmic Sadist*. In other words, God is only there to punish, to hurt, to destroy; so therefore, no one can possibly have any pleasure, because everything that is good is sin.

It gets back to the lie that he first promulgated to Eve, that God said 'you can't eat of any of the trees of the garden'—isn't that what God said? Eve answered back, 'No, we can eat of all the trees of the garden.' What did she leave out? *Freely! God's great gift!* 'But of the tree that's in the midst of the garden, you shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it lest you die.'

So then, she began questioning the credibility of God. That's where you get yourself into trouble. Satan came along and he said, 'God is not telling you the truth. You shall not surely die. God is withholding all of these good things from you.'

Then we covered how that God does not tempt anyone with sin (James 1).

p 20—*Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies*

...It is true that the wages of sin is death, but God in His mercy often delays the final payoff in order to give us time to repent. This temporary period of reflection that is given to us by the grace of God, following an acts of sin, is misinterpreted by some.

Who was one of the famous Bible characters who misinterpreted God's instant punishment, because there was an instant punishment? *David was one! With Bathsheba!* He added murder to adultery, connived and plotted. Remember when Nathan the prophet came and asked him what should be done with a man that stole or took from the poor man his only little ewe. David said that he should be executed. And Nathan pointed the finger and said, '**You** are that man.'

Then David was struck to his heart. Look at all the time that took place, pretty close to nine months. God did not reach down and smash David, but gave him time to come to his senses. But what did David do instead of repenting? *He added to it! He compounded it! He plotted in it, and it all came back on him!*

They argue from the lack of apparent consequences of a given sin that nothing really happened and, therefore, the prohibitions of God were not really that serious.

We have the same thought today—don't we?

Under this foolish line of logic, many have interpreted the patience of God inefficiency, weakness, or inattention on His part....

That's not the case.

...When man... [any human being] ...starts to think negatively about God, he fins himself in the beginning of his real trouble. In his bitterness, he no longer feels God's warm sunshine or His gentle rain. The beauty and blessedness of all that is permitted to him gradually turns to the ashes of resentment. He becomes a total cynic. He feels it is a ridiculous proposition to suggest that the best things in life are free....

But they are—aren't they!

...The things freely given to us by God are infinitely greater than the necessary and protective prohibitions of life.

So, the next time someone says to you, 'God doesn't want me to enjoy anything.' What's the old saying: *this is so good it ought to be a sin*. That's what a lot of people think. It's not so!

The problem is that Satan inflames our resentment about how wrong it is for God to say, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," or "Thou shalt not steal," or "Thou shalt not kill." These simple prohibitions are obviously made for our own good.

How much enjoyment can you have in life if you're not doing those things?

Every parent has been accused... [at one time or another] ..."You never let me do *anything!*"...

Which means: 'You don't let me do the things that I know are wrong [unspoken] so therefore, you don't let me do anything. You're an ogre.' Where does that come from? *From Satan!*

...when he was imposed upon by what he considered a minor prohibition. Satan wants us to accuse God of the same thing.

In this first doctrine, then, Satan promotes a lie. He changes a specific law to a general prohibition [of anything]. Any person who believes that God is a tyrant and that He is against us has been subverted by this first satanic doctrine.

That God is a cosmic sadist! He's in heaven and He enjoys the suffering of human beings on this earth, and He made us to suffer.

That's why a lot of Protestants having swallowed part of that say, 'We don't study the Old Testament.' Let's go to the Old Testament and see something. Is God up there in heaven in the cosmos, as a cosmic sadist? Deliberately bringing evil, hurt, harm and telling people 'don't do this, don't do that, don't do the other thing'? Is He?

Ezekiel 18:1: "The Word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'What do you mean by this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, "The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge"?' (vs 1-2)—God has caused this.

Verse 3: "'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'to you there is no longer any occasion to use this proverb in Israel. Behold, all souls are Mine. As the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son, they are Mine. The soul that sins, it shall die'" (vs 3-4). Yes, God is a cosmic sadist—isn't He? Just read it; took the words right out of God's mouth. Close the Bible, throw it away, burn it up and never read it again. There would be a lot of people who would think that.

Verse 5: "'But a man who is righteous and does that which is lawful and right, and has not eaten on the mountains, nor has lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel... [from the nations around] ...nor has defiled his neighbor's wife, nor has come near a menstruating woman, and has not oppressed any man, but has given the debtor's pledge back to him, has robbed none by violence, has given his bread to the hungry and has covered the naked with a garment; he does not lend out at usury, nor has taken any increase, he has withdrawn his hand from iniquity, has executed true justice between man and man'" (vs 5-8).

There was a report that there was a 'vicious felony committed.' The police were called in and they arrested this person for stealing two flamingos that were out in the yard. It went all the way to the governor's office. Lo and behold, the perpetrator of this crime was no less than a neighbor and he was *three-and-a-half years old* and charged with malicious felony—thievery!—because of a picayune neighbor, who backtracked and said, 'Oh, I just reported that they were missing.'

What a shame! His age was listed on the report as *three*, but the chief of police—because he wanted a conviction; and the D.A., because he wanted to make himself look good—didn't even read the age, and took him to court. True justice? True judgment? *No way!*

Verse 9: "'Has walked in My statutes, and has kept My ordinances to deal truly, he is righteous, he shall surely live,' says the Lord GOD. 'And if he beget a son who is a robber, who sheds blood, and who does the like of any one of these things; and the father does not do any of these himself—but his son has even eaten on the mountains, and has defiled his neighbor's wife; has oppressed the poor and needy; has committed robbery; has not given back the pledge; and has lifted up his eyes to the idols; has committed abomination; has loaned out at usury; and has taken increase—shall the son then live? He shall not live! He has done all these abominations; he shall surely be put to death; his blood shall be upon him'" (vs 9-13).

Verse 19: "'Yet, you say, "Why? Does not the son bear the iniquity of the father?" When the son has done that which is lawful and right, and has kept all My statutes, and has done them, he shall surely live. The soul that sins, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, nor shall the father bear the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him. But if the wicked will turn... [repent] ...from all his sins which he has committed, and keep all My statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. All his transgressions that he has done, they shall not be mentioned to him; in his righteousness that he has done he shall live'" (vs 19-22).

Does that sound like God is a 'cosmic sadist'? *Totally the opposite!* I want you to mark this well: anyone who comes to you and accuses God of being a 'cosmic sadist' remember Ezek. 18:23:

"Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord GOD. 'Is it not pleasing, instead, that he should turn from his ways and live?'"

So, the person who believes that God is a 'cosmic sadist' has total negative understanding about God, and resentment and bitterness, has fallen into that trap. Therefore, then, they feel justified in doing whatever they want to do.

Even in that you may find someone who says, 'I am a moral person even though I don't go to church. Even though I don't belong to a religion, I am a moral person.' Whose righteousness is that? *Their own!*

What does He say about situations like that? In spite of the fact that they do not accept God, but they themselves say that they are moral—and in fact may be very upright people—what does God do even in His graciousness toward them? It's fantastic when you stop and think about it.

Romans 2:14: "For when *the* Gentiles, which do not have *the* law, practice by nature the things contained in the law, these who do not have *the* law are a law unto themselves." God is no respecter of persons. Even though God has not revealed Himself to them, and even though they are not willing to accept God's revelation, even in God's mercy they will still reap a certain amount of benefit because they are a moral person. They wouldn't think of committing adultery. They wouldn't think of cheating, lying and stealing.

Verse 15: "Who show the work of the law written in their own hearts, their consciences bearing witness, and their reasonings also, as they accuse or defend one another."

What we see in the Bible revealed is not that God is a sadist; that God is waiting for you to do something wrong so He can nail you just as quick as He can. That is not so!

p 21—In this first doctrine, then, Satan promotes a lie. He changes a specific law into a general prohibition. Any person who believes that God is a tyrant and that He is against us has been subverted by this first satanic doctrine.

Psalms 37:3—this may help someone who needs to know about God: "Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and cherish faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD, and He shall... [withhold every good thing from you, because God is a cosmic sadist—NO!] ...**give you the desires of your heart**.... [That's a promise!] ...Commit your way unto the LORD; trust also in Him, and He will bring it to pass." (vs 3-5).

People who take that attitude are so resentful against God that they won't even pick up the Bible to find out what is in it. Have you ever met a person like that? So resentful? So hateful to God that you couldn't even open the Scriptures and say, 'Here's what God says'? Not even pull the barrier down enough to where it is, 'try it, you may like it.'

Psalms 84:11—here's another promise: "For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; **no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly**. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You" (vs 11-12). That trust has to be absolute!

I made a note to myself in the margin of the book: *Isn't it a shame that fear and the rule in the Church has been used with this kind of thing; with this kind of attitude!* Not of God!

Here is another Scripture—1-Cor. 6—some people turn this so that they can do almost anything they want to, but that's not what it's talking about, especially when you read all the rest of what Paul has written here. He's not saying that everything that there is that man can think of to do is lawful to do.

1-Corinthians 6:12: "All things *that* are lawful *are permitted* to me... [Sin is not lawful; it's against the law. Idolatry is not lawful, because it is against the law.] ...but all things *that are lawful* are not beneficial..." Just like someone who believe like here: the problems of not eating meat; problems of not believing in any kind of alcoholic beverages—though God allows it, it is not expedient [beneficial] to do so for their sake—not your sake, but for their sake.

"...all things *that* are lawful *are permitted* to me, but I will not be mastered by anything. Foods *are* for the belly, and the belly *is* for foods; but God will destroy both it and those. Now the body *is* not for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body" (vs 12-13). He's differentiating here, making very clear.

All lawful things are lawful. As much as you might not want to try it—I don't know whether I would—but the Bible does say grasshoppers are clean food. Myself, though that is lawful, I might not want to try it. But how would it be if I invited all of you over to my house and I had chocolate covered grasshoppers and now I'm going to make you eat those? It's lawful, but you would be offended because it's not expedient.

Concerning the prohibition of eating things sacrificed to idols (1-Cor. 8). An idol is nothing. Because someone sacrifices an animal in front of an idol, that idol does not—cannot physically, has no power—to contaminate that meat that was sacrificed to it. Therefore, if you ate it, it was lawful to eat. However, someone who is weak in the faith, who sees you eating those things—though it's lawful—it's not expedient.

What we really see is that God is a God Who is a God of permission. You analyze all the things that God says not to do, and with the total realm of all possibility of things *to do*, isn't that a very small, very little, amount.

1-Timothy 6:17: "...God, Who abundantly gives us all things for *our* enjoyment."

p 22—...God says yes one hundred times for every one time that He says no....

Isn't that something?

...Even when He says no, He still allows us to disobey Him, providing of course, we are willing to pay the consequences, which is also an evidence of His grace....

...While it was possible for even to sin in only one way...

Back then. What was that? *Eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil!* One way to sin!

...it is possible for us to sin in a thousand ways. Therefore, by infecting the world with sin, his infernal majesty has almost brought to pass what he suggested to Eve as being true.

So many things are a prohibition today. A lot of them are not normal. It is not normal to have television in your home. I'm not saying to destroy it, but from this point of view: How much comes through that television tube that you disapprove of. But comes nevertheless! Compared to people in past generations, that is abnormal. They didn't have to fight that in their houses, but we are attacked on every side. That's why today it becomes absolutely important to understand about the wiles of the devil. When it gets that way:

...it is true in our present age that almost everything is indeed wrong. Even "the plowing of the wicked is sin" (Prov. 21:4). "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord" (Prov. 15:8). All of those things that are not of faith are sin (Rom 14:23). We who are the heirs of Adam and Eve are under the nearly total prohibition of God, and we do not move from prohibition to permission until we disavow the kingdom of darkness and move into the kingdom of light. We must go back to innocence before the first permissions of God can apply in our lives.

Quite an interesting thing—isn't it? How is that done? *By baptism! By the calling of God!*

p 23—When our parents sinned, they moved all of humanity into the horrible slave market of sin. In this slave market, we were born; in it, we live; and in it, we die, unless we are purchased from these sinful environs. When we receive Christ, we are set free from the bondage of sin, and we move from total prohibition to wide permission under the umbrella of the grace of God. Obviously, only the Christian can see God as He really is, a gracious and loving personal Being!

Satan is a liar when he continues to insist that God is a tyrant and all is prohibited.

There are few people who know and can prove that this satanic doctrine is a lie. These few are growing in number every day. Then are called *Christians*.

God Is a Liar:

- What is the cleverest ploy that a liar always does? *Makes it believable! Tells you enough of the truth!*
- What does he always do? *Makes it sound good; makes it partly true!*
- What does he always end up invariably doing? *Twisting!*
- How far does that twisting occur? *It's contained right in the title of the second most believable lies of Satan!*
- What does the Bible say about Satan? *He's the father of liars!*

That's why the adulterer always accuses someone else of not being faithful.

- Why? *Because the man or woman who is an adulterer or adulteress cannot be true, so therefore, they have to impugn it upon someone else!*

We are going to see how we can come back to these Scriptures and see more light through them as we go on.

- What is God?
✓ *God is a spirit!*
✓ *God is eternal!*
✓ *God is true!*
- Who inspired the Word of God?
✓ *God did!*
- From whose mind?
✓ *His mind, which is eternal!*

Therefore, there's almost an eternal amount of learning that we can get out of the Scriptures and apply them in many different ways.

John 8:39: "They answered and said to Him, 'Our father is Abraham.'.... [always got to be justified] ...Jesus said to them, 'If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham.'" Did Abraham get resentful and bitter when God said, 'Go sacrifice your only son'? *No!* What did it? *He believed God!*

Verse 40: "But now you seek to kill Me, a man who has spoken the Truth to you, which I have heard from God; Abraham did not do this. You are doing the works of your father.' Then they said to Him, 'We have not been born of fornication. We have one Father, *and that is God.*'" (vs 40-41). So, they claimed righteousness—right? 'We are the only true apostolic church, and the church fathers upon which we have founded the wonderful Catholic

religion; we are the ones.'

Notice what else was done here, when Jesus said, 'You do the deeds of your father.' Rather than admit the truth, what do they do? *They hurl back an accusation that is untrue!* "...We have not been born of fornication...." Watch how the arguments come politically in both political parties. Accusations back and forth; a clever satanic argument—right? *Right!*

Verse 42: "Therefore, Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you would love Me, because I proceeded forth and came from God. For I have not come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why don't you understand My speech? Because you cannot bear to hear My words. **You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you desire to practice. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has not stood in the Truth because there is no Truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he is speaking from his own self; for he is a liar, and the father of it**" (vs 42-44).

What is the 180 degree twist that he puts in people's mind? *God is a liar!* Do you think that Satan would admit that he was a liar? *Of course not!*

p 25-27—**God Is a Liar**—the second most believable lie of Satan the devil.

Most rebellions begin with the corrosive emotion of resentment.

'How come they got all the good things and I ain't got none!'

While talking to Eve in the garden, Satan had successfully introduced the proposition that God is a moralist so severe that He simply cannot be pleased....

But that's not true! What did God do so that you could please God? *Gave His Son!* To accept His Son's righteousness, given to you so that you can have access to God on a personal one-to-one basis.

- Can a man please God? *Yes, if he believes!*
- Does that make you perfect? *No!*
- Was Christ perfect? *Yes!*

How absolutely fantastic that is, that God would do that for each one of us!

...[This envy then, because God cannot be pleased] produced resentment in Eve, laying the groundwork of a new attitude in her life, affecting her relationship with her heavenly Father. This new attitude is mistrust. Because of Eve's response to his first doctrine, he boldly moves from a question to an assertion. Satan is now quite dogmatic... [he says, if you eat of this tree] ..."You shall not surely die."

Here is revealed the second doctrine of the devil, namely, "God is a liar; He cannot be trusted, and His Word is not true."

Isn't that something? After all that God did!

Satan is emboldened to make this evil assertion because of Eve's exaggeration of the Divine prohibition. Even indeed attempted to repel the satanic thrust that everything is evil by saying, "We may indeed eat of the fruit of the trees of the Garden." At this point, however, she shows that she has already been partly subverted by Satan's statement, in that she states a revised version of God's warning concerning the tree with the forbidden fruit. She says, "But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat of it, *neither shall you touch it*, lest you die.'"....

Then she began rationalizing in her mind. Began looking at it. Seeing how good it was.

...Eve is beginning to rationalize, setting up a false basis on which she may later blame God...

So, how did the blame come? Remember that? When God says, 'Did you eat of the tree that I told you not to eat of?' What did Adam say? *The woman!* What did the woman say? *The serpent!* Now he declares what God has said, that if you eat of it 'you shall surely die.' Satan says, 'That is a lie, you shall not surely die!'

...As to the nature of his activities, we can now discern the fact that Satan moves in the lives of people from a lesser degree to the greater.

Always to a greater degree.

He begins his assault by establishing a small beachhead and moves from this point of moral fault into a program of larger conquest. He ultimately intends to consume us, but this devouring begins with the smallest nibble. He conceals his objectives, making it appear that he is devoted to our happiness.

This will make you happy!

Behind this smoke screen of **hypocritical compassion**...

I want you to remember that phrase. That is the juice on which the homeless question revolves. That is the juice on which the AIDS thing is revolving around. **Hypocritical compassion!** That's the same kind of thing that this 'mother earth' and 'save the

redwoods' and 'save the spotted owl' thing revolves around. ***Hypocritical compassion!***

If these people up here rioting in the woods, spiking the trees, endangering the lives—yes, even shooting at the loggers and truckers today—if they were concerned about the forest, why are they not planting trees? ***Hypocritical compassion!***

...he veils his true intentions. He promises freedom from death but in fact is a murderer from the beginning. He has no compassion whatsoever!....

Satan still uses this same thing!

...The initial attractiveness of sin does not prefigure its consequences. That makes it most difficult to warn sin's novice adequately of the hideous thing he will finally make of himself.

Now, having established...the second doctrine of Satan.... ["You shall not surely die."] ...God is a liar. His word is not true. Satan again affirms that another system of truth takes precedence over the Word of God....

You must then substitute something.

...Here is the first appearance of an alternative epistemology....

A study or theory of the origin of the nature, methods and limits of knowledge. In other words, the philosophy of how these things came to be if there is no God.

(go to the next tract)

'Oh, I'm not lying!' The truth is newly defined; convenient! Isn't that convenient? *Yes!*

...Truth has been newly defined. Satan has postulated another authority more final, more "true" than the very Word of the living God. So began the first problem of the universe, the problem of truth. Ever since this first lie, the world has repeatedly asked the question, What is truth?

Isn't that what Pilate asked Jesus? What is truth? In the middle of all this nonsense going on, what is truth?

Satan's answer to this question is that truth is anything except the Word of God.

Isn't that something? *That's really something!*

I want you to think about all of the things that have replaced Truth. Let's look at religion. What did Jesus say about *traditions*? *The traditions of the elders*—which is in the Talmud and also in

Catholicism with the *traditions of the church fathers*, and any other religion—is *greater than more newly revealed knowledge of God!*

Therefore, these *traditions* replace the Word of God. Isn't that clever? *Re-arrange the seeking of the Truth! Re-arrange the definition!* How did we get here? Very, very convenient—isn't it? Very convenient!

...Consistent with this false doctrine, he continue to confuse the issue of final authority in many ways in our present world.

What is the commonly accepted thing concerning the Bible? You're just talking to ordinary people and you say, 'I live by the Bible.' *Well, that's nice, there are many good things in the Bible.* 'What about you?' *Well, I believe the Bible insofar as it is accurately translated.* That's a Mormon doctrine. Then you ask, 'How do you know it's been accurately translated?'

- What do they use?
- What do the Mormon's use? *The Book of Mormon!*
- What do the Catholics use? *The traditions! Church law!*
- What do the Jews use? *The Talmud and the Mishna!*

I want to show you from the *San Jose Mercury News*—Inside Religion and Ethics (the Living section). I want you to notice first of all where they put 'religion.' Right along with all of the movies and the funnies. Right after the funnies come the wedding announcements and then 'Religion and Ethics.'

Baptist Editors Asked to Resign

There's been a move by the Baptists back to the Bible. Instead of turning their back to the Bible, they want to turn around and face the Bible and go to the Bible. But now they have a problem. They've been so moderate and permissive for so long, and these editors have been putting out a lot of 'junk' in the name of God and the Baptist Church and religion—all the lies of Satan the devil squeezing into it—now they can't fire them because it's against the freedom of press. Now this is control. You see how Satan has confused everything?

Buddhists Near Miracle

The largest Buddhist Temple in the Bay Area is in San Jose. And here's the wonderful monk that established it in 1981. It's a Buddhist near miracle that they even have the temple there.

Group Grapples with Lessons in Values

How do you give values to children in school when you kick God out of the school? How then do you instill values into children? What does that question come down to? What is truth? *Truth is relative! Whatever you think!* Do you see how Satan has twisted that all around? *This is incredible!*

Messenger for Peace

You thought the pope was the only one traveling the world—right?

Eastern Orthodox leader to visit the area. Patriarch Demetrius who is the 269th successor to the Apostle Stephen.

He's going around preaching peace, being received by everybody. This is wonderful. He goes here and speaks, has a dinner there and speaks, and he goes and visits children with AIDS. Isn't that marvelous? Then he's going to be received by Mayor Art Agnos.

Those of the world hear their own. This is incredible! Once we go through this and study this book—*Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies*—you can go through and here it was in today's paper, there it is—I couldn't get over it.

What is the answer to the command *you shall not commit adultery*? 'Oh, we couldn't possibly stop that! Oh no! We're going to give condoms to everybody beginning even in the third grade.' That makes it okay! How does this develop?

p 27—*Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies*

Satan's answer to this question is that truth is anything except the Word of God. Consistent with this false doctrine, he continue to confuse the issue of final authority in many ways in our present world. He works to get people to believe any one of his many alternatives to truth. He would have us accept the proposition that truth is ever changing (relativism), or purely personal (subjectivism)... [what you think yourself] ...or only what we can see (empiricism)... [truth is only what we can see] ...or encounter experiences (existentialism), or purely syllogistic (rationalism)...

I heard how it slipped into the Church of God—one of them that we had to leave—what you hear to justify the new doctrines is *logical to think, logical to assume*. Now the doctrine comes in. See how that comes in, human logic?

...or completely abstract (platonic idealism), or events (phenomenalism), or synonymous with creation (pantheism), or a blend of the seen and the unseen (psycho-physical monism), or workability

(pragmatism), or a hundred similarly false alternatives. The history of thought is the account of efforts by successive generations of thinkers to re-answer the vital question, What is truth?

- God's Word is Truth!
- God's commandments are Truth!
- God's laws are true!

David said, 'I accept every one of Your precepts from the beginning as true and righteous altogether.' But no one would believe that!

Since Satan introduced it, the problem of truth and error has made impossible the solution of any other problem that confronts the human scene. Every difficulty that has ever beset men has come because of an inadequate answer to the question, What is truth?

Then he goes through many areas of the Bible showing what Truth is, and so forth. The thing that becomes most important is that the Truth of the Bible, then, must become a revelation.

- God has to call you!
- God has to send His Spirit!
- It is revealed!
- It is also preserved!

Hebrews 11:1: "Now, **faith is the substance...**" The very fact that you *believe*, that's what becomes really important. It is the *substance!*

You have that faith "...of *things* hoped for, *and the* conviction of things not seen. For by this *kind of faith* the elders obtained a good report. By faith we understand that the worlds were created by *the* Word of God, so that the things that are seen were made from *things* that are invisible" (vs 1-3). That is absolutely, literally true today, even in the greatest most finite understanding that we have to this very day—that is absolutely true!

Verse 6: "Now **without faith...** [this is the only way that you're going to get the revelation of the Word of God] **...it is impossible to please God...**" So, when God says, 'don't do this, don't do that,' and you obey that in faith because God says so, then the revelation begins. It's that simple.

"...For it is mandatory for the one who comes to God to believe that He exists, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (v 6). You can't discover it without the revealed Word of God. This world is so filled with sin, Satan is 'the prince of the power of the air.'

By the way, there was this man who talked to his girlfriend and said, 'Go to my home and I

have a surprise for you in my freezer.' So, she took a friend and went over to his home, and opened the freezer. There was a severed human head, with the skin peeled off! They put in a plastic bag and went down to the police. This was in Chicago. They didn't want to admit that this was a satanic, systematic sacrifice of this person, until they called in the expert on Satan sacrifice and Satan worship.

They now have him under arrest. He took this girl and cut off her head, cut out her spleen, cut out her heart—systematically destroyed her body and ate the parts. You talk about being in a delusion!

Now we have little cartoons that come along, the best entrance into the mind of a child into satanism of one form or another—not this violent kind that we see necessarily or that we are talking about—is cartoons! After all, that is fun! The worst cartoons are on Sabbath! If you don't believe me, before you come to church, turn it on sometime and see where they have this big thing coming along and eating little children. Who do you suppose devised that?

I want you to compare that with where it says that Satan is the 'prince of the power of the air'—the 'god of this world'—to the glorious thing that God is going to have with the bringing in of the Kingdom of God and the return of Jesus Christ; where the knowledge of God is going to 'cover the earth as the seas cover the earth.' What a glorious and marvelous thing that's going to be compared to this nonsense and stupidity that Satan has brought upon this world.

Men can't think of it. What does God say about His thoughts compared to our thoughts? *As high as heaven is above the earth, so are My thoughts greater than your thoughts!*

1-Corinthians 2: "But according as it is written, 'The eye has not seen...'" You can't do it be looking, by seeing, by measuring.

We've spent all these millions on the Hubble telescope and because a bureaucrat forgot a simple little thing like testing the angle of the mirror, they now can't get what they thought they would. Very fitting—isn't it. Now they're going to send another shuttle up there and install a pair of glasses for the Hubble space telescope so that it can focus.

They're not going to find God. They're going to look. What are they going to find? They put this up to know about the origin of the universe. This scientist proved that there was a God, and William Buckley said, 'Now what are you going to do?' *Nothing!* He proved that there was a God and he's going to do nothing! So, it's the same why with this Hubble telescope. They get it up there and they see all this fantastic thing and what are they going to do

to turn to God? *Nothing!* They won't see Him or find Him either!

They wanted to test the telescope but couldn't find a building to do it. The Air Force had the ideal building that they needed to do it, and all they needed to do was take it over there and do it. But they didn't do it because of some little bureaucratic thing.

“...nor *the* ear heard, neither have entered into *the* heart of man, *the* things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'.... [Absolutely incredible!] ...But God has revealed *them* to us by His Spirit... [it's by revelation that you understand that the Word of God is Truth] ...for the Spirit searches all things—even the deep things of God. For who among men understands the things of man except *by* the spirit of man which *is* in him? In the same way also, the things of God no one understands except *by* the Spirit of God” (vs 9-11).

It has to be revealed, and this revelation is the tremendous thing that separates us from the world, which brings us out from all of this evil, satanic stuff going around. It is everywhere!

p 32—Looking back now, we can see the catastrophic results of the denial of the Truth of Scripture in the early part of this century. The liberals' slogan "Every day in every way, I am getting better and better" has been destroyed by two major wars in which millions have been killed. Wars, depressions, crime, and every form of evil continues to grow in our society. All of this gives the lie to the liberal suggestion that social action can fundamentally improve the course of mankind. The progressive degeneration of liberal theology finally produced the most obscene announcement in the history of the world, the absurd news that **God is dead**.

I remember that happening back in 1966. I sat there at the television and watched the news where they said 'God is dead' and they had 'Requiem Mass' for the death of God. Can you believe that? It's kind of like Volteer—he said: 'We will destroy the Bible and Christianity.' One hundred years later his house is used by the French Bible Society. Guess who won?

The latest version of pseudo-Christianity is Liberation Theology. Here God is contextualized into the social structure and is seen as identifying Himself with the poor and oppressed. The result is a Christian-Marxist hybrid that some say bridges the gap between Christianity and Marxism....

That's what's going on in Nicaragua. Never work!
Won't work!

...Corrupt theology has also produced a corrupt "new morality."....

pp 33-34—The list seems endless of the false points of view taken by some factions of our present religious establishment.

To where even now *trial* marriage is okay, even in some churches.

When one rejects the final authority of the Word of God, he begins a process of corruption whereby his whole thought structure becomes a vast delusion....

That's what we read in part one of this series about the prophecy that evil men should grow worse and worse and deceivers will be deceiving the deceivers. Liars will be outlying the liars.

...Despite the obvious untrustworthiness of human reason, Satan still continues successfully to advance his argument that it is possible to place final trust in something else beside the Word of God. We must turn from the voice of Satan to the careful study of the Bible. A knowledge of the Bible is our best protection against the wiles of the devil, We do well to establish early in our lives the conviction that the Word of God, as against *any* alternative voice, will be our final authority.

That gets right back to the thing that we covered: How do you love God? *With all your heart, mind, soul and being!* The Word of God is your final authority. How absolutely deluded so many people in the Church of God had become that they heap all of these qualities upon a man. A man let's them heap it upon him. Look what has happened to the knowledge that Church. Look at the satanic arguments that have come in with so many, many things.

Brethren, I appreciate this small little group that God has blessed us with, so that we can get in and really study the Word of God. Just like this man says, the only goal of the minister is to make the people he teaches competent in the Word of God, so they know it. That's what's important.

In making the decisions of life, we will never find the correct course unless we are willing to establish that course on the basis of the final authority of Scripture.

Whoa! I'm going to use that when I write him a letter about the Sabbath question. Very interesting!

We never will be able to establish a moral bases for our lives and for our children unless that final reason for the moral course that we take is, "The Bible says so." Why is it wrong to steal? Because the Bible says, "Thou shalt not steal." Why is it wrong to commit adultery? Because the Bible says so. Why should children obey their parents? Because the Bible says so. why should we worship God only? Because the Bible says so. Since God knows what is best for us, if He tells us in His Word not to do something, we had better believe it must be wrong for us.

Our old enemy, the devil, can twist any other human argument into a new basis for his hellish corruption. We must not allow him to twist the Word of God or cause us to believe that Scripture is no longer a solid foundation on which to build our lives. Any person who follows the leading of anything apart from the clear and final truth of the Word of God is believing and committing himself to the devil's doctrine. He is rejecting the true doctrine of Jesus Christ. We will surely then sin against God unless we are protected by both a knowledge of and a commitment to the truth of the Scripture....

The Bible says, 'Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.' *and* 'The way of the transgressor is hard.'

...Satan would have us to believe that sin is fun. God's Word warns, "The wages of sin is death," but Satan is still at work pushing the opposite point of view. Modern thought would still have us believe that the path of sin will produce fun, happiness, fulfillment, and worthwhile achievement in life. We are never told about the suicides, diseases, and agonizing deaths of people who have believed Satan's philosophy. Every person who rejects the Bible and attempts to live without Christ is a fool, subverted by the second doctrine of his infernal majesty

—*that God is a liar!*

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in its Original Order, a Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) Ezekiel 18:1-13, 19-23
- 2) Romans 2:14-15
- 3) Psalm 37:3-5
- 4) Psalm 84:11-12
- 5) 1 Corinthians 6:12-13
- 6) 1 Timothy 6:17
- 7) John 8:39-44
- 8) Hebrews 11:1-3, 6
- 9) 1 Corinthians 2:9-11

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- James 1
- 1 Corinthians 8

Also referenced: Book:

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies by Dave Breese

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies III #3—There is No Destiny

Fred R. Coulter

We finished in part 2 that God is a liar, and I want to—before we get to the next one that there is no destiny—finish up a little bit on #2 that Satan claims that God is liar, and especially mention: What does a liar always do? *The liar always accuses someone else of exactly what he is doing!* We know that Satan is a liar and ‘the father of it.’ So, he says that God is a liar, and one of the way that he does it is this:

p 31-34—*Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies:*

...as he said to Eve, he now says to this world in a thousand ways, “God’s Word is not true; don’t believe Him; believe me.”

I heard someone tell me that ‘the Bible is not for our time. The Bible was for those people back there, but they’re old, they’re ancient, they’re gone. It’s not for today.’ Perfect alibi, perfect excuse.

Our generation, perhaps more than most, has seen the activity of Satan as he attempts to promote his second cardinal doctrine in many impressive ways. The person who would believe the Bible is pressed upon by many subversive voices that would beguile him into accepting some foundation for truth other than Scripture.

Dr. D. James Kennedy PhD, put out a nice booklet: *Remember the Sabbath*—which means keep Sunday. Nice Protestant.

Indeed, the Bible itself has been attacked in this century such as never before.

That’s sure true! God’s Word is not true. Bible scholars say this is wrong, that is wrong, a collection and writing of men. Doesn’t mean a thing. We don’t have any ancient manuscripts to prove it.

What happened? *They found some years ago in the Holy Land the Dead Sea Scrolls!* It’s interesting how they found it. I won’t go into all of it. But God is never without a witness. One thing that the Jews have done since taking over the Holy Land and all the archeology and all the excavations, they are proving to *the jot, to the tittle, to the letter, to the location, to the proclamation* in the Bible everything in the Old Testament is true.

Even some people have gone so far as to say, ‘Well, in Moses’ day they didn’t know how to write; so Moses’ didn’t write this.’ What did they find in the Dead Sea Scrolls in the Caves of

Cumron? *The found a scroll of the book of Isaiah that goes back to around 600_{B.C.}!* Guess what the book of Isaiah had in it? *Word for word everything that is in the book of Isaiah today!*

Since this century that has been done, to attack the Bible and discredit it, God has done everything to show that His Word is true and those men are false. It talks about German rationalism, and a lot people don’t understand that a lot of the German rationalism was Jewish rationalism in Germany. Then he says:

...One after another, the major denominations of that day... [at the turn of the century] ...were subverted by the higher critical point of view, leaving... [rejecting] ...the view that the Bible is the inspired word of God and giving the right of critical judgment to the reason of men. For them, reason superseded revelation, and the Word of God could not longer be trusted.

And that’s what people say today— isn’t it? You can’t trust the Word of God today. After they say, ‘we’re getting better and better in every way and every day...’

Last night I got up and went over to turn off the TV because it was left on. So, here is this young teenaged kid coming out of a shower—in the shower he had his hair all plastered straight up—and has his head wrapped in a towel, and a towel around his waist. He’s walking down in front of the camera and he says, ‘I believe in myself!’ After reading this book, I thought, ‘Isn’t this fantastic? He believes in himself!’ It’s gotten to the point to where—10-15 years ago—they proclaimed that God was dead. They even had the ‘Requiem Mass’ for the death of God! Back in 70-something.

[Liberal theology today results in] ...Christian-Marxist hybrid that some say bridges the gap between Christianity and Marxism.

That has hit the Catholic Church harder than anything else.

[And] the message of Christianity promises economic instead of spiritual liberation. Christ becomes a social revolutionary instead of a Savior.

Corrupt theology has also produced a corrupt “new morality.” This religious establishment has produced the most

godless concepts and anti-Christian philosophies imaginable to man. Church groups are now declaring that trial marriage is a legitimate involvement....

...The list seems endless of the false points of view taken by some factions of our present religious establishment. When one rejects the final authority of the Word of God, he begins a process of corruption whereby his whole thought structure becomes a **vast delusion**.

Virtually all of the problems of our present age have come because we have turned from the truth of revelation to the sinking sand of mere human philosophy. Every psychiatric clinic, every automobile accident, and every graveyard testify to us that human reason is neither infallible nor eternal. Despite the obvious untrustworthiness of human reason, Satan still continues successfully to advance his argument that it is possible to place final trust in something else beside the Word of God. We must turn from the voice of Satan to the careful study of the Bible. A knowledge of the Bible is our best protection against the wiles of the devil.

What does the Bible say about the human mind?

- Deceitful above all things (Jer. 17:9)!
- Desperately wicked!
- The way that seems right to a man, the ends thereof are the ways of death!
- Enmity against God!
- The carnal mind is an enemy of God!
- The human mind is an enemy of God!

Therefore, it's impossible for human logic to reason itself to a correct understanding of God.

If you had the ability, logically human, to reason your way to God, who does the calling? *We do!* Man does because *he* finds God instead of *God* finding him! Let's see what an ally this human mind is. And it seems oh so right! God let's us get ourselves into situations—doesn't He? *Yes, He does!* Here is what's inside, so when you rely just on you:

Mark 7:21: "For from within, out of the hearts of men, go forth evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickednesses, guile, licentiousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness; **all these evils go forth from within**, and *these* defile a man" (vs 21-23). That's what happens when we rely on just our own human logic. That's what we eventually are going to come up with. No way around it.

When you and I sin, we kind of know it's not right to do, we really know it's not right to do, what

do we do? *We justify it!* We figure some way around it so that we can live with ourselves. Thankfully, the Bible promises that if you're any otherwise minded, God will reveal this even to you; so He reaches down and pulls you back.

We do well to establish early in our lives the conviction that the Word of God, as against *any* alternative voice, will be our final authority....

...Our old enemy, the devil, can twist any other human argument into a new basis for his hellish corruption.

If you watch Crossfire, there's Buchanan on the right and this other fellow on the left. They were talking to representative Danameyer. He was saying that with Barney Frank—the most corrupt, perverted homosexual representative that we have sitting in the House of Representatives today; who—in his own home—ran a prostitution ring for homosexuals—'Look if this guy had committed murder he wouldn't be there.' He's wanting to get him expelled, but everyone else is saying, 'Oh, we ought not do that, so what we're going to do is censure him.'

Danameyer is saying that he should be expelled. He said that if a conservative politician was out committing adultery with a woman, the liberal media would have drummed him out long ago. So, here comes the argument:

The fellow on the left—on the Crossfire program—is saying, 'Are you saying that every man who has ever committed any kind of homosexual act should be forbidden from being elected to the House of Representatives and should be expelled?' That isn't what Danameyer said. But it shows the thinking that happens when you start following along Satan's way.

We must allow him to twist the Word of God or cause us to believe that Scripture is no longer a solid foundation on which to build our lives. Any person who follows the leading of anything apart from the clear and final truth of the Word of God is believing and committing himself to the devil's doctrine.

That happened so much in Worldwide Church of God. Don't anyone think that I'm saying that the devil took over the Church. I don't think he took over the Church, but I think that as David was moved by Satan to do something he shouldn't have done, there were things done in Worldwide Church of God where people were moved to do things that they should not have done, and thereby satanic doctrines took hold. That's exactly what happened.

He is rejecting the true doctrine of Jesus Christ. We will surely then sin against

God unless we are protected by both a knowledge of and a commitment to the Truth of the Scriptures....

...God said, "The way of the transgressor is hard" (Prov. 13:15)...Every person who rejects the Bible and attempts to live without Christ is a fool, subverted by the second doctrine of his infernal majesty.

Let's see one of the reason why God is putting all human beings through this exercise, as it is, this tribulation as Solomon said in the book of Ecclesiastes the final end result is going to be:

Revelation 21:8: "But *the* cowardly, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone; which is *the* second death."

Verse 27: "And nothing that defiles shall ever enter into it, nor shall *anyone* who practices an abomination or *devises* a lie; but *only* those who are written in the Lamb's book of Life."

There is No Destiny

That there is no purpose in human life. That becomes very destructive in so many, many ways. Here's the way that the author of *Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies*, Dave Breese personalized the conversation with Eve; Satan speaking to Eve:

p 25—"Now Eve, let's face it. You are so small and God is so big that there's no way you will ever be anything more than a pathetic little pygmy in His sight. He obviously made you in this limited fashion because He wants some little automatons who will always do His bidding. You and Adam will never be more than God's little slaves. It's time to strike out on your own, Eve, the name of the game is *autonomy*.

"Eve, God knows that if you eat of this fruit, you will be like a god. That's is why He told you not to eat it. I promise you, Eve, that God never will bring you anywhere near His level, and so you had better take matters into your own hands. Assert yourself! Take a bite of this fruit. Not only will you not die, but you will be like a god. You will know what it's all about by *your own* experiences and knowledge!"

Isn't that what people say today. How will you know unless you try it? That's what is used by young people today against their parents. Their parents try to tell something. 'Oh, well, you know that's for you old fogies. How am I going to know unless I try it?'

How many lives have been ruined because a young girl comes home and she's 'madly in love'—this puppy love—is just so fantastic. Everyone knows it: her mother tells her, her dad tells her, but 'mom, how will I know?' That happened with my own sister. 'If I can't marry him, I'll run away and marry him.'

"...Take a bite of this fruit. Not only will you not die, but you will be like a god. You will know what it's all about by *your own* experiences and knowledge! It will put you on a level with *Him*. Take some, and give some to Adam to eat, and you are on the road to destiny. We can make a plan for your life, Eve, that will make God's little diagram look like peanuts."

Very cleverly written, but oh so true! In that statement, Satan is establishing the suggestion to Eve that she take matters into her own hands.

...He convinces her that she must take a shortcut to personal realization.

Isn't that the whole key of what this New Age thing is about? *Personal self realization!*

The question of Divine destiny is an important one for Satan. He has made it a point of his doctrine to deny this.

That leads to all kinds of things. We know that there is a tremendous and fantastic destiny that God has for us. Let's see what some of those things are. This man does believe that we will be the sons of God. In the light of what we know this really takes on a tremendous meaning:

Hebrews 2:1: "For this reason, it is imperative that we give much greater attention to the things *which* we have heard, lest at any time **we** should slip away."

- God's Word is true!
- God's Word is eternal!
- God's Word is spiritual!
- God's Word is never going to go away!

It won't 'slip away,' but **we** can slip away.

Verse 2: "For if the word spoken by angels was *enforced* without fail, and every transgression and disobedience received just recompense, how shall we escape, *if we* have neglected so great a salvation; which was first received when it was spoken by the Lord, *and* was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*; God also bearing witness with *them* by both signs and wonders, and various miracles and gifts of *the* Holy Spirit, according to His own will?" (vs 2-4). That's was something!

Everyone knew that God began the Church at the temple. Why did God begin the Church at the

temple on the Day of Pentecost? *Everyone knew that the temple was the Temple of God*, undoubtedly the Temple of God—no question! What if He would have started it in, say, Jackson Hole, Wyoming—whatever it may have been called then? Here come the disciples trooping on over to Jerusalem saying that ‘we have a revelation from God.’ What would they say?

God in His Bible has shown that He has placed His name here at Jerusalem. That’s why He started the Church there and started it at the temple, because there was no other place that God could have started it, to give the authority to the Church that He needed to give. The only thing the priests and the scribes didn’t like is that He didn’t choose them! He chose fishermen and planted them up there on the Day of Pentecost in power and strength, and all the signs and wonders. This verse here is just a review of all the things in the book of Acts. That’s why He started His church there.

Verse 5: “For *it is* not to *the* angels *that* He has placed in subjection the world that is to come, of which we are speaking. But in a certain place one fully testified, saying, ‘What is man... [Think on that!] ...that You are mindful of him, or *the* son of man, that You visit him?’” (vs 5-6). God has a great purpose for us! God has not created us to be little automaton slaves. What happens every time Satan gets a hold of something? What does he do to people? *He turns them into automaton slaves!* Witness the Soviet Union, the whole Communist way. Witness those who get into the clutches of Satan with drugs. They’re automaton slaves to those drugs.

Again, he accuses God of what he [Satan] does! But God is mindful of us. He visited us! When we understand and put that together with what Jesus Christ did, that is absolutely fantastic.

I was thinking on that; when I drive to services I generally listen to sermons that I’ve done in the past. I listen to them so that I know what I’ve said. I listen to them to know what I *should have said* and didn’t say—there’s a lot of that, too. I don’t listen to them to see ‘how good I am’ because that’s neither here nor there—it’s the Word of God! That doesn’t mean a thing! All that would be is nothing but vanity and stupidity, and I’ve got enough of that without having to heap that on top of it.

What a fantastic thing that God has done that for all human kind. He says that He doesn’t even want to lose one! Even when He prayed, He said, ‘I haven’t lost one, except the son of perdition that the Scripture can be fulfilled’—indicating that He didn’t even want to lose that one, but the Scripture had to be fulfilled. That shows you how tremendous we are in God’s sight. Not because we’re anything great,

but because God is!

Verse 7: “‘You did make him a little lower than *the* angels; You did crown him with glory and honor, and You did set him over the works of Your hands; You did put all things in subjection under his feet.’ For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing *that was* not subjected to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. But we see Jesus, Who *was* made a little lower than *the* angels, crowned with glory and honor on account of suffering the death, in order that by *the* grace of God He Himself might taste death for everyone; because it was fitting for Him, for Whom all things *were created*, and by Whom all things *exist*, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings” (vs 7-10).

That is a tremendous thing that God has done for us. I mean, just in the human realm. Go back and think: Just in the human realm **God has given this entire world to all of mankind!**

And this world, as it is—remove the rottenness of human kind—it is fantastic, it is wonderful, it is absolutely marvelous beyond description. God made that, and He said, ‘Here, you’ve got the whole world, I put it all in your hands.’ Talk about a generous gift of that magnitude. Just think if He did that for Adam and Eve, gave them the world, just think when we become the sons of God what it is that God is going to do for us.

There is a tremendous and fantastic destiny for us, and if we try and figure it all out by our little ole puny miserable microscopic brain, then we’re going to miss the whole point. *God has to reveal it!*

1-Corinthians 2:9: “But according as it is written, ‘*The eye has not seen...*’” Look at all the beauty in this world and everything that God has made, whether it be micro (small), macro (great) out in the universe. We still have not seen the greatness of what God is going to give to us.

“...nor *the* ear heard, neither have entered into *the* heart of man, *the* things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” (v 9). I suppose with that one verse we could start 50 sermons. There are two verses that you could almost start a sermon with for an entire year. John 14:6, where Jesus said, ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life’ and this one here, “...‘*The eye has not seen, nor the ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*’”

You could almost give a sermon every week starting out with that one Scripture and not have the same sermon. It is absolutely fantastic what God has done.

Stephen got back from camp and he was telling his friend that the Bible says we’re going to

be like God, but he couldn't find it. So, the first thing he asked me when I picked him up was 'where is it?' and that he wanted a *New King James Version* of the Bible, and I said we would go get it. He said that one of things that bothered him growing up in the Church was that he always had a *King James Version* and when I would read a Scripture it wasn't what it said in the old *KJV*.

1-John 3: "Behold! What *glorious* love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God!..." That's why Satan does not want people to know that there is any destiny. Satan knows that to become the very sons of God is absolutely fantastic beyond anything we can think of, but he knows! That's a tremendous amount of love that God has bestowed upon us, given to us, poured out upon us—that *we should be called the sons of God!*

"...For this very reason, the world does not know us..." They don't understand us; the world doesn't understand us. Why should we do the things that we do? *They don't understand that!* Why should you never work on Saturday? *They don't understand that!* After all:

- that's when most people make money.
- that's when most homes are sold.
- that's when the greatest bargains are.
- How could you go to Church and not go and take advantage of that tremendous sale?
- I can't understand why you are against Christmas; it's such a lovely time.

One of the ten lies of Satan, changed a little bit; make it good. After all:

- everyone wants to have a good time
- everyone wants to get together
- everyone wants something new

Even if you don't want something new, you've got to because every once in a while it wears out. Let's make it fun.

- After all, these pagans over here, it wasn't too bad for that tree, and those things are pretty anyway.

Those are sex symbols on the Christmas tree!

- Who ever told you that?
- What's wrong with it?

I'm sure I don't have to convince you what's wrong with it, but it's another one of those things to lead people away from the destiny of God. Do you think that this world would follow along and do the things that they are doing if they understood that through Christ they could be the very sons of God? What did it say in 1-Cor. 2? *For had the princes of this world known the plan of God, they would not have*

crucified our Lord!

- The world doesn't know us!
- The world doesn't understand us!

"...because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are the children of God..." (vs 1-2)—because we have God's Holy Spirit we are the sons of God. Though we're not yet born into that kingdom, because Rom. 8 tells us that 'God calls the things that are not as though they are.' That's how sure that God is that we're going to be there! That's tremendous! That makes goose-bumps stand up and down on the back of my neck!

Verse 2: "Beloved, now we are the children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be; but we know that when He is manifested, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him exactly as He is." *That is a tremendous, fantastic, marvelous, absolutely glorious promise of God!* If there's anyone who comes along and says anything about the destiny that God has for us—to try and deride it—don't believe it!

Here is what Jesus Christ looks like, and *we will see Him as He is, for we shall be like Him.* I'm sure lesser in glory, but no less in power. But we're still going to be the very sons of God with a tremendous destiny.

Revelation 1:13: "And in *the* midst of the seven lampstands *one* like *the* Son of man, clothed in *a garment* reaching to the feet, and girded about the chest with a golden breastplate. And His head and hair *were* like white wool, white as snow; and His eyes *were* like a flame of fire; and His feet *were* like fine brass, as if *they* glowed in a furnace; and His voice *was* like *the* sound of many waters. And in His right hand He had seven stars, and a sharp two-edged sword... [the Word of God (Rev. 19)] ...went out of His mouth, and His countenance... [His whole visage] ...*was* as the sun shining in its *full* power" (vs 13-16).

That's a little different from being a little pip-squeak slave pawn like Satan would like people to believe. That destiny is absolutely overwhelming.

(go to the next tract)

p 37—*Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies*

The Bible teaches a most exalted purpose for which God created man. This purpose is to become like God Himself...

There are very few theologians who really know that. A lot of them say that that's the lie that Satan told Eve. If you say that your destiny is to become like God, you are believing Satan's lies. So, he's covered his base on both ends.

...to partake in His uncreated and eternal life, and to share with Him the rulership of the universe.

Inherited all things is what it says of Jesus. Then in Rom. 8 we shall also do the same thing. That's why it's so fantastic.

Romans 8:14: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, **these are the sons of God**. Now, you have not received a spirit of bondage again unto fear, but you have received the Spirit of sonship, whereby we call out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit itself bears witness conjointly with our own spirit, *testifying* that we are the children of God. Now, if *we are* children, *we are* also heirs—truly, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer together with Him, so that we may also be glorified together with Him. For I reckon that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed **in us**" (vs 14-18). There again is that destiny. Absolutely fantastic!

We think about the things that happen to us. When you compare what God has for us, we're going to look back on all these sufferings that we've all had, that we've all gone through, as nothing! As kind of a little blip on the horizon to get where God wants us to go. There isn't anything that we can compare to it.

Sin entered the world because Satan was able to cause Eve to forget temporarily the doctrine of Divine destiny. She temporarily believed the anti-truth that God had no purpose for her life....

There are millions of people out there today that walk around and have absolutely no purpose in anything. Nothing! Nothing satisfies! They're driven here and driven there and try this and that, and do this and that, and nothing ever satisfies. They're empty and hollow. That's what happens when they get all glamorized and glorified with Hollywood. It all is a fake! It all is a lie!

Having succeeded in such fine fashion with Eve, Satan—we may be sure—will continue to push his argument that Divine destiny is nonexistent abstraction, while reality is the immediate circle of fulfillments available in this present moment.

Then we have this great philosophy of 'do it now.'

p 38—..."Do it now! Live now!" is the rallying cry of this day and hour. The gospel that presents a hope for eternity sounds like a pleasant but impractical abstraction to the deaf ears of our now-oriented generation.

Christianity has been changed and he says this about it, after hearing a hymn:

...I realized then that much of our music, teaching and preaching has to do with the

relevance of Christianity to this present moment. We hear a lot about involvement in society, keeping up with our changing times, being sensitive to political, racial and social problems and a host of other contemporary themes.

So, the new gospel is *The Kingdom of God is now!* There's a whole group that believe that if we elect 'Christians' into office that we will bring the Kingdom of God now. They ought to read the history of Cromwell.

Cromwell was a tremendous general. He ousted the king for taxing what he shouldn't, and putting the authority of the king over the authority of the Word of God. So, Cromwell, with a few hundred men defeated thousands upon thousands of the king's soldiers at every turn, at every battle. He captured the king and the king said, 'Okay, I repent, we won't do that.' The king went back on his word; Cromwell again defeated the king and captured him and caused his head to be cut off. Cromwell abolished parliament and setup his own parliament—all Christian ministers.

They abolished Christmas, so that tells you what Cromwell really believed. And you know what happened? *They couldn't bring the Kingdom of God to England!* So, there isn't anything, no movement today that's going to bring the Kingdom of God here now, or the fulfillment of the Scripture right now, because this is not God's world, this is Satan's world.

So, the whole thing is *do it now*, and it is called *presentism!* What does the Bible say about this present world today? *It is called 'this present evil world!'*

p 40—But the most important application of this satanic doctrine is to our personal lives. Each person who believes more in the fulfillments of the present than in the eternal purpose of God in his life has been subverted by this third satanic doctrine [that there is no destiny].

Another implication of the devil's third doctrine that can become a valuable lesson to each of us is the suggestion that experience "knowing good and evil" refers to knowing by experience. He is saying to Eve that she will know by experience good and evil; she will become as God.

But has experience ever taught human beings anything. Look at the wars that we've had. What was WWI? *The war to end all wars!* What was WWII? *The war to save democracy!* So, we ended up with Communism taking over half the world.

Now Satan's next great thing is going come. I predict that the Germans are going to come on so good, so absolutely overwhelming in their concern for Europe. They know they have it conquered, so they don't have to conquer it. They are going to lead all of Europe into a restoration of the greatest civilization that has ever been. I predict that's exactly how they're going to do it. 'We are no more barbarous. We are no more evil. We are good. We have learned from the war. We have learned. We apologize to all of the Jews. We give them reparations.' Then they will take control of that whole 35-European nation summit. Eventually, they'll take control of that and they will have everything in their hands.

p 41—A further implication... [of the old story 'don't knock it until you've tried it'] ...that can also add to our moral understanding is that there is a valid shortcut to fulfillment, to destiny. The implied promise of eating the forbidden fruit was that Eve would become *instantly* wise, mature, Godlike and self-realized.

Isn't that exactly what we have today? This is the *instant* generation! I mean, if you can't have it now, instantly, when you want it, you demand! People do! You do and I do! Do you have enough patience to stand in line at the post office to buy three stamps and wait 45 minutes? *I don't!* Everything is instant! Especially with kids when it comes to food. 'Now!' *That's got to cook.* 'I'm hungry; I'm starving to death!' *How come it takes so long?* Same way with growing up.

There are few greater lies that Satan is able to pass into naïve hearts than the lie that there is a shortcut to maturity or destiny.

And a shortcut to riches. Take it now! Do it now! Breese says that the church is doing the same thing. 'have it now, do it now, the blessings now.' There are a lot of people taken in to that. If you have one tremendous speaking in tongues thing, you're saved forever and there's nothing else that matters.

p 42—The process of maturing that prepares us for our eternal and heavenly responsibilities involves suffering, rejection, persecution, complex moral decisions, study, prayer, tireless labor, successes, failures, and the chastening of God. No message is more cruel to preach to the new Christian than the idea that there is an instant, giant step to maturity that comes through some unique involvement or experience.

I have a very interesting situation. I have a loan officer that works for me. He's divorced, but he found 'the love of his life.' They're living together.

He still has kind of a conscience. So, here's this bifurcation, this double-minded thing that happens to human beings. He knows I'm a minister, but he knows I haven't beat on him for anything.

I told him a little bit about the AIDS thing, and that I've got that on a video. He said, 'Can I see it?' and I said, 'Sure.' He took it home and also the other one *Was Jesus God?* He watched them and called at 3-o'clock in the morning. He was so excited about it. I saw him the other day and he said, 'Boy, you really hammer on a guy's conscience. Just like you said, there are a lot of things you don't like to hear. But it was good, and you're right. Yeah, and I've got to give up this smoking, too.'

Anyway, I guess it's getting to him because he asked if I would marry them. I said, 'Sure, I'll marry you.' God always provides a way out, but I'm also going to make sure that if that's what they really want that there's no way out for them. Let's not have any of this instant gratification, instant marriage, instant happiness, instant divorce, instant this, instant that—whatever you want, do it now.

But this is a tough message to say, 'You want to be a Christian?' It's easy to say you'll be happy, it'll be wonderful, it'll be successful, you'll make a ton of money, everyone will look up to you as the most popular, wonderful thing around.' NO! Jesus said, 'If any comes to Me and hate not his father and mother, his brother and sister, his wife, and lands also—he cannot be My disciple.' and 'No one can come to Me unless he hates his own life and takes up his cross and follows after Me.'

God gives us strength as we go along. It would be very difficult for a newly baptized person if right after the laying on of hands we told the newly baptized person:

We guarantee you a life that will take time to work at for the process of maturing that prepares you for eternal and heavenly responsibility. You're going to suffer. You're going to be rejected. You will be persecuted. You will complex moral decisions to make. You will have to study. You will have to pray. There will be tireless labor. There will be successes; there will be failures. And furthermore, in addition to being chased down by the devil, you're going to be chastised by God.

Thanks for such a friendly future, friend. That's the way it is. That's why God does not deal with us that way. When did God let us go through the things we've gone through? *After we were strong enough through Christ to do it!* God doesn't lay upon us anything more than we're able to take. With that he gives a way of escape.

Paul believed no such delusion [of instant maturity]. Speaking of his own situation,

he says, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect (mature), but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus" (Philip. 3:12). Christian sanctification comes to us in a *positional* sense instantly and totally when we receive Christ. *Progressive* sanctification is a daily and laborious task and will not and cannot be fulfilled so long as we live in a sinful world.

Tremendous insight—isn't it? This in itself gives us courage to see what's going on. This in itself gives us—with the love of God—the ability to go through these things, and to see on the other side. That's why Christ suffered the way that He suffered.

That is indeed the way God has ordained it. Earth is like a university, and our course of study will never be complete so long as we live on this campus....

Very good way to put it.

...The moment a person believes that he has achieved an exalted plane in life, at that moment, the evil one has successfully cut off the educational process that alone can perfect real holiness in life.

I remember one minister foolishly saying that 'I have been in the Church so long and have had so many experiences that Satan is not even interested in me.' KABOOM! That was self-exaltation and the Bible says that 'haughtiness comes before a fall.'

How many millions of Christians have been fixed in a state of tragic immaturity because they have believe a doctrine of instant perfection that has no basis in Scripture?

I remember talking to a woman one time who was talking to another woman—who was a Baptist—and she said that she was 'saved, she accepted the Lord'—once saved, always saved—and that 'if you're born again you cannot sin.' *He who is born of God cannot sin!* 'Therefore, anything I do is not sin, and when the Lord comes, the rapture comes, I will be caught up in the air to meet Christ in the air.'

The woman looked at her and said, 'Do you mean that would happen if you were right in the middle of committing adultery?' *She said yes!* There are millions of people who believe that doctrine; that salvation is now instant and it's perfected. How then can we grow in grace and knowledge?

p 43—Finally, the doctrine that the pursuit of God is a pointless errand has been the great inhibition to Christian evangelism. Of those who neglect or refuse to receive Christ as their Savior, the largest portion

do so because they believe that the way to fulfillment is along another road. They pursue business achievements, personal pleasure, prestige, or other forms of human accomplishment as the path to success as they perceive it. Each individual who is not a Christian believes that there is a more valuable course to follow in life than the spiritual one.

Millions in their spiritual blindness believe the satanic doctrine that there is another path to destiny beside receiving Christ as Savior and growing in the Christian life. Satan makes the world appear to present great promise, but once again, this is a promise that cannot be fulfilled. He promises, but he does not perform.

Despite this lack of performance, people continue to believe that the path to destiny... [or to riches, fame or whatever] ...is in some other direction beside God. Deciding against the will of God for their lives, they move into wasted years and a lost eternity.

They discover too late that the only purpose worth pursuing was the exciting plan that God has for their life. To believe any other point of view is to be subverted by a satanic doctrine [*that there is no destiny*].

Of course, there are many different ones who have a shortened version of that destiny.

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in its Original Order, a Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) Mark 7:21-23
- 2) Revelation 21:8, 27
- 3) Hebrews 2:1-10
- 4) 1 Corinthians 2:9
- 5) 1 John 3:1-2
- 6) Revelation 1:13-16
- 7) Romans 8:14-18

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Jeremiah 17:9
- John 14:6
- Revelation 19

Also referenced: Book:

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies by Dave Breese

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies IV #4—God is Not Worthy

Fred R. Coulter

(Transcript begins at 11:50 minutes into audio track.) You all have your books—*Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies*—and even though I've read this and marked it up, just going over it and re-reading it for the sermon I get so much out of it the second time, it's incredible!

Satan's most believable lie #4, 'God is not worthy' *of my worship and my loyalty*, and when you say the statement that *God is not worthy* what are you saying by that statement? What is the opposite that you are believing if you say that? *You're saying something else; I have other things more worthy than God!* This is really one of the central things at the heart and core of human nature.

I won't worship a God Who will kill children! I have heard that before, but what if He can resurrect them?

pg. 45—*Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies*:

Revolution is always built on ideology....

You can spend hours just going over that statement. Ideology is an idea, a belief.

...Give people something to believe, and they will join your cause.

Very profound statement! That's what Hitler did. That's what Sadam Hussein is trying to do right now.

The roar of cannons is the final outgrowth of a doctrine that produces new convictions, motivating the participants to revolution. Revolutions would never come to pass if there were not revolutionary ideas first. Each revolution in history began with propagandists promoting a concept with which they motivated others.

The point is that **ideas have consequences**....

Therefore, when you're looking at things like the pornographic music that we have today, it has consequences—right? *Yes, it does!* Therefore, you see the fallacy in the freedom of speech when it's given free reign to evil. But in the hands of men, you've got to have freedom of speech. But the evil will sooner or later predominate.

...External activities come to pass because of concepts or convictions, held in the heart, which motivate the will and produce actions....

That's why people in poverty *think* they have a right to steal, because they have been *told* that 'since you

live in poverty and are deprived you have no control over yourself—which is the propaganda, which leads them to believe that they have a right to take.

Isn't that what Saddam Hussein is saying. 'Look at all these other rich Arabs, and they aren't sharing with me. Therefore, I'm going to take it.' This is our ideology.'

...When the Hitlers, Mussolinis, and Jim Joneses of the world want to activate people, they must first ideologize them....

That's why the whole school system is so corrupt today. How do you think that Satan is going to get in to be worshiped by the whole world? *First they're going to be deluded into it!* Yes, indeed, the ideology is coming!

...They first tell them not what to do, but what to believe....

That becomes absolutely profound! This is why anything to do with the religion, Bible or God becomes very profoundly important for those who do the teaching and preaching.

...If they can cause a false view of life to take root within a heart...

Of course, we need to emphasize the heart, because that's where it goes.

...dangerous and destructive actions can be carried out by otherwise normal people. False ideas, when acted upon, produce ruinous results.

Very well written!

p 46—Satan has the same intention; he would like to turn the whole world into a cemetery. If the fourth point in Satan's doctrinal structure were believed and practiced by all nations, we would see exactly that result....

What's going to happen when Christ returns? *Nearly the whole world is going to be a cemetery! Why? Because the whole world is going to worship Satan and they're going to fight Christ!*

Through the news, movies, television productions, newspapers, schools, and people, I want you to watch out for the ideas and ideology that is going to lead to a one-world government, a global leader and the producing of some kind of styles or different forms of Satan-worship. It's already taking place!

...Indeed, the Bible teaches that there is coming a time when all the world will rebel against God. Satan's doctrine? God is not worthy to rule the universe. Revolution then is appropriate for Satan....

Job is a very interesting book, and he gives quite a bit of really terrific insight in several of these things about Job.

Job 1:1: "There was a man in the land of Uz... [We have today the movie *The Wizard of Oz*] ...whose name *was* Job. And that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and turned aside from evil. And there were born to him seven sons and three daughters. And his possessions also were seven thousand sheep and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred female donkeys, and a very great household, so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east. And his sons went and feasted in their houses, each one on his day. And they sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. And when the days of feasting were concluded, Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning and offered burnt offerings *according to* the number of them all. For Job said, 'It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.' Thus Job continually did so" (vs 1-5).

1. Job cannot impute righteousness to his sons, because he may do that.
2. Job himself was perfect in the letter of the law.

Now comes the point, v 6, "Now, there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD. And Satan also came among them. And the LORD said to Satan, 'From where do you come?' Then Satan answered the LORD and said, 'From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.' And the LORD said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him in the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and turns away from evil?' And Satan answered the LORD and said, 'Does Job fear God for nothing?'" (vs 6-9).

A very interesting statement— isn't it? And one that people are hooked on continuously! What I want to do is also ask:

- Why do you worship God?
- Why do I worship God?
- Why should anyone worship God?

Satan says, "... 'Does Job fear God for nothing?'" In

other words, Job has a lot of good reasons to fear You, God!

Verse 10: "Have You not made a hedge around him, and around his house, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But put forth Your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse You to Your face." (vs 10-11). *Because, God, You are not worthy to be worshiped unless you always give something to them.* Many people feel that same way. Unless they have all the goodness of God—the good things that God gives—why should they worship Him?

p 47—"Does Job fear God for nothing?" states the devil's fourth doctrine. This satanic question implies the inner core of the infernal ideology that motivated the rebellion of Satan against God. Stan in effect is saying, "No one who is free to do otherwise will ever serve God except for what he gets out of it. Therefore, God is not worthy to rule the universe and is not intrinsically deserving of love and loyalty from anyone...."

Because God is God and God is what He is and Who He is—is what he's saying.

"...Only mercenaries will do His bidding...."

Interesting! Think about that! Only if you are bribed to worship God, hired to worship God, will you worship God.

"...Men will appear to serve God but only because of the temporal rewards, not because He invites their loyalty."

What is one of the things—and we discussed this time and time again, so this rang a bell in my mind:

- Why have a lot of people come into the Church of God? *To see what they can get out of it!*

Tell me some of the things they *think* they can get out of it:

- ✓ *they can get money in relief*
- ✓ *healing is another one*
- ✓ *to escape*

- What is the most base thing that appeals to people? *There is a way of escape!*

You scare the living tar out of them about the things at the end-time that are going to take place, which is true. So, they come into the Church *to save their skins rather than worship God!* This really gets down into the heart and core as to why we believe what we believe!

One mercenaries will serve Him! Here Satan delivers the most obscene insult possible before the throne of God. He attacks the very quality of the Godhead and implies that no person will do what is right just because it is right and Godly, but only because it is materially profitable. He asserts that only the temporal is significant; the Divine and eternal have no significance. God is not worthy to rule the universe, and He retains control only because He was there first!...

How many times have you heard that? How much has modern society based upon that rather than Truth?

Do you know what they're doing to the history books now? *We are going to de-emphasize the European source of the beginning of America!* We don't like those white people who were here first! But if you say anything—you white people—against any other race or people, you're racist! But we will say it to your face time and again, and yea, we will force you to change, because you were here first.

Once you understand this, you can just strip away all of the vanity and all of the lies and all the stupidity that comes along. White people, on the other hand, said, 'We have a Divine right to destroy all other people. Of course, that's not what God said. So, everybody is a sinner—right? What does Rom. 3 say? *All have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and there is not one who is righteous—no, not one!*

Of all the years I've been in the ministry I think this book has really given more insight into not only understanding the Bible from a broader perspective, but it's given insight in how to handle all of these foolish arguments that people have. Why do you worship and serve God?

...He, by accident of chronological priority, has the material resources to pay off unwilling and untrusting subjects. No one will serve God who is free to do otherwise.

We can learn a valuable lesson from this satanic statement, for from this question, we receive a clue as to the purpose for which man was created in the first place....

It think this is a profound insight right here!

...When Lucifer declared himself against God, he set up a polarity of truth in the universe. He accused God of being unjust. God could, of course, have insisted on His

justice. However, under His own rules, He must have a witness to that justice. The purpose, then, for the creation of man is to witness to the justice of God, to prove by his life and loyalty, that God is just and *intrinsically* worthy.

It makes it far more profound in preaching the Truth of God—doesn't it?

We are here to prove that God is true....

Whether we're in the Church or not, we're still proving that God is true—isn't that right? You can do nothing against the Truth of God, which means, you can do nothing against God.

- God *is* God!
- God *is* Truth!
- God is love!

So, even if you lie, what do you do? *You testify to the Truth of God!* On what is lie based upon? *First of all, it's got to be compared with what is true*, otherwise, you don't know it's a lie. Even if someone does something contrary to the Scriptures, they are still saying by what they are doing it's a testimony that God is right! That's really quite a powerful concept when you understand it.

p 48—Who is this God whose Truth and justice is being assaulted by this fourth satanic doctrine?

It talks about the High, Holy, Eternal God! When you really understand it, this makes the Word of God far more powerful than we have really given credit; though we have not said it's not powerful, and though we have not said that it is not true. We know it's true, but this makes it even far more binding in that sense:

Isaiah 57:15: "For thus says the **high and lofty One Who inhabits eternity; Whose name is Holy...**" That's why God cannot lie. How could you ever had the support of the universe by something that is a lie? *It's impossible!* That's why it's impossible for God to lie, because He's Holy. Not that there's something there making Him so He won't. If you view God that way then you're viewing Him strictly from a human perspective.

"...I dwell in the high and Holy place, even with the one who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble..." (v 15).

Now I'm going to read the list (from the book) of some of things that the Bible says about God—which are absolutely true—and no one can go against this. They may try; they may vilify God. They may rebel against God. And one of the things that's we've been proved for—not only is God is just, true, and right, but also to show how absolutely

wrong Satan is. It says about God:

Glorious (Exo. 15:11)
Merciful (Exo. 34:6-7)
Compassionate (2-Kings 13:23)
Righteous (Ezra 9:15)
Invisible (Job 23:8-9; Col. 1:15)
Upright (Psa. 25:8)
Eternal (Psa. 90:2)
Holy (Psa. 99:9)
Immutable (Psa. 102:27)
Gracious (Psa. 116:5)
Good (Psa. 119:68)
Omniscient (Psa. 139:1-6)
Omnipresent (Psa. 139:7)
Unsearchable (Psa. 145:3)
Omnipotent (Jer. 32:17)
Perfect (Mat. 5:48)
Incorruptible (Rom. 1:23)
Wise (Rom. 16:27)
Faithful (1-Cor. 10:3)
Immortal (1-Tim. 1:17)
Love (1-John 4:8, 16)

That's why we need to worship God!

That is why the Jews have it totally, completely and absolutely wrong when they say that 'if you keep the commandments you are going to be blessed and therefore, that why you need to keep the commandments, which is only part of the story. Part of the story then is not the truth! Why do you worship God? ***Because He is God!***

John 14:15: "If you love Me... [That's what it all has to be based upon. You love God because God *is* God! And Christ *is* Christ!] ...keep the commandments—namely, My commandments." Too many times the Church of God gets the cart before the horse. You keep the commandments, and therefore, your keeping the commandments shows that you love God. It's the other way around. If you love God—because God is God—and regardless of the circumstances you continue to love God, *that's why you keep His commandments.*

God, sure enough, has said to remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it Holy. Absolutely true! We should! We do! That's why we're here, and today is Saturday, not Sunday.

When, regardless of the circumstances, you worship God and you love God—because God is God—***then*** you're doing what is right.

Let's look and see what happened when this exercise took place with Satan against Job. I can tell you all one thing, none of us have ever gone through anything close to this. So, when you read and study the book of Job, just put yourself, mentally, in his shoes and see how you would have

held up. There are a lot of people who would have *given up*—had all these things happened just in the first chapter—on God.

Job 1:11: "'But put forth Your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse You to Your face.' And the LORD said to Satan, 'Behold, all that he has *is* in your power. Only do not lay your hand upon him.' And Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD. Now there was a day when his sons and his daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house. And there came a messenger to Job and said, 'The oxen were plowing, and the donkeys feeding beside them. And the Sabeans fell *upon them*, and took them away. Yea, they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword. And I only have escaped alone to tell you.' While he *was* still speaking..." (vs 11-16). Before this servant had gotten the words out of his mouth.

"...there also came *another* and said, 'The fire of God has fallen from the heavens... [Interesting statement—*isn't it?* Where did that fire come from? *Not from God, but Satan!*] ...and has burned up the sheep and the servants, and destroyed them. And I only have escaped alone to tell you.' While he *was* still speaking, there also came *another* and said, 'The Chaldeans formed three bands and swooped down upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and have killed the servants with the edge of the sword. And I only have escaped alone to tell you.' While he *was* still speaking, there also came another and said, 'Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house. And, behold, a great wind came from the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead. And I only have escaped alone to tell you'" (vs 16-19).

Verse 20: "And Job arose, and tore his robe, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground and worshiped. And he said, 'Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away. Blessed *be* the name of the LORD.' In all this Job did not sin, nor charge God foolishly" (vs 20-22).

You can think of how many instances that people have given up on God because of circumstances, or because of a man, or because of a minister. *Nothing compared to this!* He was wiped out! So, if Job was doing it just for the material things, he would have given up.

Why do you keep the commandments of God? ***Because you love Him!*** and ***You believe Him!*** That's why when the people came to Jesus and said, 'Lord, show us the work of God that we may work the work of God.' And Jesus said, 'This is the work

of God that you believe on Him on whom He has sent!' *Belief!* That's where it all resides!

Since this has to do with the heart, let's look at some Scriptures concerning that.

(go to the next tract)

Psalm 10:3: "For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire, and blesses the covetous but despises the LORD. Through the pride of his countenance the wicked will not seek God... [he only wants the physical, material things] ...in all his thoughts there is no place for God. His ways prosper at all times. He is haughty, and Your judgments are far from him. As for all his enemies, he sneers at them. He has said in his heart, 'I shall not be moved; from generation to generation, *I shall never be* in adversity.' His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud; under his tongue are mischief and iniquity. He sits in the hiding places of the villages; in the secret places he murders the innocent. His eyes are on the watch for the helpless. He lies in wait secretly like a lion in his den. He lies in wait to catch the helpless; he catches the helpless and drags him off in his net" (vs 3-9). Bringing him into these things; sucking him into this terrible, evil and monstrous way.

Verse 10: "He crouches and bows down, and the hapless fall into his mighty grasp." Isn't it interesting? What did some of the people on the street in Ammon, Jordan, say today about Saddam Hussein? *He's speaking the truth and he speaks like the simple Arab on the street!* Fully taken in with all of his propaganda. Just fits right in there. Satan also had that propaganda.

Satan also did this with the angels. Let's see the ideology; let's see the cause. In order to have a rebellion, you must have a cause—right? Satan had a cause!

Isaiah 14:12: "How you are fallen from the heavens, O shining star, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart..." (vs 12-13)—by what he believed. And we know from Rev. 12 that he got a third of the angels to follow him. He said in his heart:

"... 'I will ascend *into* the heavens, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High [God]'" (vs 13-14). *They believed it!* Those that followed him believed it! That he would be like God!

Then the ideology and revolt and everything that took place, because he said "...**in his heart**..." That's why it's so very important what we *really* believe! That's why Christ went through what he

went through. This is going to open up another whole avenue of thought toward why Christ did what He did. Why He said the things that He said to different people.

Luke 6:45: "The good man out of the good treasure **of his heart**..." Let's stop and think about what God wants to do with our hearts. He wants to *put His laws and commandments in our mind and write them on the tablets of our heart!*

As a man thinks in his heart, so he is. That's the reason why we need the Spirit of Truth, the Word of God and to continually worship God, because of what God is, because of Who He is. Not just what we get out of it alone.

Verse 45: "The **good man** out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth that which *is* good; and the **wicked man** out of the wicked treasure of his heart brings forth that which *is* wicked; for **out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks**. And why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord'... [which is coming out of the mouth] ...but *you* do not practice what I say?" (vs 45-46). To me that becomes far more profound. It makes us ask:

- Why do I pray?
- Just for me?
- Why do I study?
- Just for me?
- Why do I come to church?
- Why do I want to be a Christian?
- Because God is God and by His intrinsic love and by his intrinsic being you worship God?
- Is that it?

If that's where you're headed, then that's right. That's why when you read Matt. 13 about the parable of the sower, there are other people who are exposed to the Truth who did not respond because they have *other things* or *ideas* get in the way—correct?

That's why God wants us to love Him with *all our heart, mind, soul, being and strength!* That is really the only solution. You've heard this saying, and it was even joked about in the church we went to, 'they're accusing us of brainwashing you.' We all need our brains washed—don't we? In effect they were in many different instances—right? *Right!* Unless you point people to God *as God*—in all power, might, mercy and goodness—resides in him and not an organization and men, then you are brainwashing them.

Here is what happens to so many 'religious' people who don't worship God, because God is Who He is and what He is, so therefore, problems arise.

James 1:8: "*He is* a double-minded man,

unstable in all his ways.” I submit that there are a lot of people who fit into that category that they are double-minded. Not just fighting their human nature, but they are coming to God, not because God is God, but what they’re going to get out of it, rather than what God has called them to do.

Here is another basic Scripture, Matthew 7. It’s amazing how some of these basic Scripture just really open up. Matthew 7:21: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but the one who is doing the will of My Father Who *is* in heaven.” What is the will of God? *That you worship, serve and love Him*, because God *is* God, and *there is none other!* That’s why!

Verse 2.: “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy through Your name?...’” Did a lot of preaching; did a lot of things; predicted the future. ‘I wrote 50 years ago that Europe would rise again.’ *So what!* God said it thousands of years ago!

“...And *did we not* cast out demons through Your name? And *did we not* perform many works of power through Your name?’ And then I will confess to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who work lawlessness’” (vs 22-23). Why do they “...work lawlessness...”? *Because they’re not loving God!* They’re taking part of God and using it to their own advantage.

p 49-50—This satanic doctrine has important implications for us. The basic fact of the universe is that God is love and truth. Therefore, every person who does what is right—no matter what the consequence—commits the witness of his life...

Interesting phrase—isn’t it?

...in favor of God and against the devil. Every person who tells the truth despite the absence or impossibility of material reward is functioning as an individual made in the image of God.

This book is loaded with fantastic statements like that—absolutely filled with it.

Satan has asserted that God, in His essential being, is not worthy to be the absolutely prior Person in the universe. Satan espouses the false doctrine that ultimate truth and the final value of the universe is resident in some other place or person beside the Godhead. He suggests that God is able to create only an artificial magnetism or loyalty toward Himself

because of His gifts and not because of the finality of His Person.

Those are some really weighty words!

Ultimate truth, according to the devil, is not in God Himself. Because of this, he advances the argument that a person’s final motivation will be within himself, not within the Person of his God. He advocates the notion that we will not commit ourselves to truth in the objective sense, but only to an alternate object which is our final truth, or profit.

‘God, I will serve you with...’
‘Lord, why do you do this to me; I don’t deserve this.’

He suggests that the objective Truth of God is a sham and that no person will in any way commit himself to it except for personal profit. Final Truth, therefore, is not resident in God, but it is resident in personal advantage.

Let’s look at the church that is persecuted. When viewed from what we’re covering right now, Revelation 2:8: “And to the angel of the church of *the* Smyrneans write: These things says the First and the Last... [because God *is*; because of Who He is; because of Who Christ is. It’s talking about Christ.] ...Who was dead but is alive. I know your works and tribulation and poverty (but you are rich)...” (vs 8-9). They did not come into the Church of God because of what could gain vs the Laodiceans. They are a testimony that God *is* God and they are rich in spite of their physical circumstances.

How many of us would say if we were called to this—and I asked myself as well—to these circumstances: poverty, tribulation “...and the blasphemy of those who declare themselves to be Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan” (v 9). Now they’re going to be persecuted, chased and killed by the very function of the synagogue of Satan, because Satan thinks that if he does that to them, they will renounce God. After all, no one serves God unless there is profit in it.

So, God says, v 10: “Do not fear any of the things that you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast *some* of you into prison, that you may be tried; and you shall have tribulation ten days. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life.” That’s the ultimate value and worth that God is going to give. The physical things here don’t count! That doesn’t mean that we go out and get rid of them all right now. But that means that we don’t set our hearts on them.

pp 50-51—Once again, the proper conduct of our lives, if we are to live to the honor of our God, has to do with our relationship to this word *truth*. Our lives are Godly or satanic, depending on whether we do or do not commit ourselves to the existence of an objective value outside of ourselves....

Who is God! Then he gives an awful lot here concerning truth: telling the truth, doing the truth.

Truth is so greatly emphasized in the Bible because it is so representative of God Himself. He is called “the true God” (2-Chron. 15:3). He gives us “true laws” (Neh. 9:13). His Word is “true from the beginning” (Ps. 119:160). “A true witness delivers souls” (Prov. 14:25). Jesus Christ is the Truth (John 14:6; Matt. 22:16). He is the “true Light” (John 1:9). He is the “true bread” (John 6:32). He is the “true vine” (John 15:1), and He is the only true way to the God of Truth (1-John 5:20). God solidly identifies Himself with truth. Therefore, he who is on the side of truth is on the side of God.

How shall we respond to this truth, which is the basis of the universe?....

By contrast, we are reminded that Satan is a liar from the beginning, that there is no Truth in him. Because he rejected the pillar and ground of Truth, namely the Person of God Himself, Satan became a murderer and a deceiver, the embodiment of all that is untrue.

When Satan asserts that God is not worthy in Himself to rule the universe, and therefore, the standard of our lives must be some [thing] other than God's Truth, he is describing the tragic situation in our present world. How many millions live a lie; that is, they live for some reason other than loyalty to Truth, to the Person of God Himself? Every person who lives primarily for material gain, pleasure, applause, even altruism, is committing himself to a principle that is essentially satanic.

Satan asserts that no will serve God for Himself alone...

because He will bribe them or give them different things.

The life of every person is built on a first principle. If that first principle is something other than the intrinsic worth of God Himself, that life is oriented in a

satanic direction. Before the throne of God, Satan attacks the first principle and declares that no one will serve God for Who He is, only for what he can get out of it.

God will only be served by those who profit from it. How broadly is the satanic doctrine being practiced?

1-Timothy 6:3: “If anyone teaches any different doctrine, and does not adhere to sound words, *even those* of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the doctrine *that is* according to Godliness, he is proud and knows nothing. Rather, he has a morbid attraction to questions and disputes over words, from which come envy, arguments, blasphemy, wicked suspicions, vain reasonings of men who have been corrupted in *their* minds and *are* destitute of the Truth—*men* who believe that gain is Godliness. From such withdraw *yourself*” (vs 3-5).

Verse 10: “For the love of money is a root of all evils...” Evil has to have a root some place—doesn't it? Who are we to be rooted in? *Rooted and grounded in the Truth!* Who is the true vine? *Jesus Christ is the true vine of whom we then are a part!* The evil comes with the *love of money!*

This next paragraph on p 52 is most profound. It applies to circumstances that we knew in the Church in the past, but I want you to think of Raj Nei; I want you think of the Catholics; I want you to think of every religion or movement that does this:

We who live in this confused religious scene do well to be warned from the Word of God concerning the religious mercenaries, those who presumably serve God, but are actually dedicated to material gain. In the name of God, some have separated trusting souls from their money, and in the process, promoted personal wealth through religious exploitation. Their clever promises and adroit manipulations have led distressed and needy souls to press money into their hands that should have gone to buy food for their families. These religious promoters promise blessing, healing, even prosperity, but not without a stated or strongly implied price. The ministry of some is well described by Paul...

—which I just read, 1-Tim. 6:5. Isn't that true? People taken advantage of.

I've heard ministers tell people—when they told people that they had to tithe 30% and their taxes were 40%—that they should trust God and they went broke trusting God, because it was merely to get money. That money was not used where it should have gone. When co-worker letters were going out pleading and begging

because they're millions behind, mansions were being built. That has happened with every one of them. How did they build St. Peter's? We will give you indulgences so you will go to heaven. Put your money in the coffer. That's what St. Peter's is built on.

What were the pyramids built on? *Slave and work and put these pyramids for the tomb of your king, and you will go to heaven!* Now we have a 'holy jihad' in the Middle East. Fight, die to the glory of Allah! I mean, all these things just become so clear, it's incredible! We will see how Satan used this temptation against Jesus:

Luke 4:5: "Then the devil led Him up into a high mountain *and* showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, 'I will give You all this authority, and the glory of them *all*; for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I desire. Therefore, if You will worship me in *my* presence, all things shall be Yours'" (vs 5-7). That's the philosophy of the devil—isn't it? *Worship me and I will give you the world!* Material gain in exchange for worship.

Verse 8: "But Jesus answered *and* said to him, 'Get behind Me, Satan; for it is written, "You shall worship *the* Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.'" You don't serve Him because of what you may receive. You worship and serve Him—and Him only—because of Who He is! I don't know about you, but that helps make my faith a lot stronger! It helps give me a whole lot more conviction in these things, because now I can clearly see some of these things that have been brought upon people.

pp 53-54—The church in the Western world should well heed the instances in Scripture where material things grew up to turn the people of God away from the purpose of God.

Solomon! The greatest example of how material things then became the goal rather than serving God.

This was the story in the history of the nation of Israel and was the reason for the recurring judgment from God upon this nation. The history of the church also brings us the tragic, recurring story of repeated spiritual treason by the religious establishment. Virtually every church or religious movement begins with dedicated people who give the total of their spiritual and material powers, even unto death, to advance the kingdom of Christ. Then the classic story unfolds. Dedication produces success, and success, prosperity. Prosperity then inevitably diminishes spiritual fervor, and the hand of the

blessing of God is lifted from a once fruitful spiritual effort.

Then he quotes Rev. 3:14-19 about the Laodiceans. Because rather than worshipping God, the people served God for what they can *get*, because they have lost the spiritual drive and power and energy that comes from God just to serve Him because of what He is. Which is why, when you analyze all the things we are here to do, it functions primarily on several key things.

Matthew 6:33: "But *as for* you, seek first the Kingdom of God and **His righteousness**, and all these things shall be added to you." But beware when they're added to you, that they don't become the object of your worship or the total center of the focus in your life.

Verse 34: "Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow; for tomorrow shall take care of the *things* of itself. Sufficient for the day *is* the evil of that *day*."

That's why we seek the Kingdom of God first. I will leave you with this one thought and I will ask the question to myself as well as you:

- Why do I serve God?
 - Because God is Who He is?
- or
- Because I can get what I think God should give me?

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in its Original Order, a Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) Job 1:1-11
- 2) Isaiah 57:15
- 3) John 14:15
- 4) Job 1:11-22
- 5) Psalm 10:3-10
- 6) Isaiah 14:12-14
- 7) Luke 6:45-46
- 8) James 1:8
- 9) Matthew 7:21-23
- 10) Revelation 2:8-10
- 11) 1 Timothy 6:3-5, 10
- 12) Luke 4:5-8
- 13) Matthew 6:33-34

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Romans 3
- Matthew 13
- Revelation 3:14-19

Also referenced: Book:

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies by Dave Breese

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies V #5—Adversity Must Produce Apostasy

Fred R. Coulter

When I'm done with this series, I'm going to give a series on Israel and Judah, and Judah after the coming of Christ. I think we will see embodied in Judaism is at least six of these most believable lies is a basic heart and core teaching of Judaism—which really came as a surprise to me in just analyzing it.

pp 57-58—Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies:

Satan's fifth doctrine is stated in the devil's continuing speech before God as he contemptuously discusses the situation of Job, that righteous servant of God....

We went through that in part four and how that God has blessed them; 'put forth Your hand and touch all that he has and he will curse You to Your face.'

...In other words, no man will face human adversity without crumbling into bitterness and cursing his God.

A lot of people have accepted that lie. A lot of people believe it. If you listen to some of these talk shows, you will see how absolutely bitter people are because of things that have taken place.

What an insult to humanity! Here, our enemy goes a step beyond his fourth doctrine, that no one will serve God except for human rewards. He is now insisting that no one will stay true to his presumed allegiance to a heavenly Father if he must face adverse and distressing circumstances as he lives his life. The absence of gain is one thing; real loss is quite another.

For example: You could lose—as it was with Job—everything that you have. We're going to see here in #6 how God let Satan touch Job, and afflict him with all this sickness and it goes from bad to worse. What does Job's wife say? *Curse God and die!* [transcriber's correction-Job 2:9] Unfortunately, it was his wife; it could have been someone else. That's not to denigrate women and say that women are of that posture more than men, because that is not true. Who were the women who saw the adversity of the crucifixion: Mary Magdalene, Salome and Mary the mother of Jesus—right? They stayed there until the end. All of the apostles left except John; everyone else was gone. So, they fled when there was adversity!

This implies that a man show is overtaken by intolerable reverses and divested of his human resources will forsake the Lord.

You hear people argue this when they find out you don't eat pork. 'Ha! Ha! I've got you now.' What if you were on an island and there was nothing to eat but a pig or a turtle, and if you didn't eat it you would starve to death. What would you do? Would you eat it? and say that God will understand?

If you had faith in God and trusted, you have faith for what you don't have. You don't need any faith to sit in this building. You are here; you have it. But ***you need faith for what you do not have!*** The faithful answer would be: 'I would pray and ask God to send me the things to eat that He would want me to eat, because He has commanded me to eat clean foods.' That blows their minds!

He will blame God for his problems. The satanic assertion is that no one will believe in the goodness and love of God no matter what happens to him. God must always prove His love with sunshine and flowers.

Ah-la, Robert Shuller and the Crystal Cathedral!

He must embody it in material substance for it to be real. He must never allow a person to suffer who serves Him, for suffering will produce infidelity.

We're going to see what the Bible has to say about that, and some of the lives of some of the people in the Bible.

The subtle suggestion is, therefore, that the love of God, His grace, and mercy are not real attributes of His being but are only God's patronizing activities.

'There, there, little one....'

They are real only when visible and when producing pleasing and benign circumstances. There is no person, Satan insists, who will remain confident in the love of God because it is an intrinsic part of the nature of God. Rather, he will believe only when that love produces profitable things for him.

That's why to stand up to evil and to get away from evil—as we have had to do a couple of times—doesn't make sense to some people. I had one person write me and tell me, 'Look at all that you're giving up in the Worldwide Church of God.' I said, 'What I'm giving up is not the question. That is NOT the question!' Those who serve Satan are well blessed for serving him; their day is coming!

The evil [devil] insists that the evidence of the love of God is sight, not faith.

Romans 1:16—this is how we are to live, this is what Paul said: “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ because it is *the* power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes—both to *the* Jew first, and to *the* Greek. For therein *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith unto faith, according as it is written: ‘The just shall live by faith’” (vs 16-17).

In other words, unless you believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ you are never going to understand faith, because you have to live by that faith. Faith then becomes a *way of life!* We are striving for that which is not seen. You’re striving for that which you do not have. You don’t have to pray for something you have.

Faith has to be exercised now and faith is something you always have to exercise if you’re going to be a Christian, regardless of your circumstances, because the blessings that God is going to give you are not necessarily in this world.

Romans 8:23: “And not only *that*, but even we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, also groan within ourselves, awaiting the sonship—the redemption of our bodies. For by hope we were saved; but **hope that is seen is not hope...**” (vs 23-24). You can’t see that! You can’t see what you’re going to be like in the resurrection. You can’t contemplate the resurrection and living in eternity and why God has to appear to us the way He does, rather than appearing as He is.

“...for why would anyone still be hoping for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we ourselves wait for it with patience” (vs 24-25).

- that is endurance
- that is faith
- that is living by faith

p 58—...The Bible declares that Faith is itself the substance of things hoped for...

It is the *substance!* It’s something you have—totally! You can believe it regardless of the circumstances. That’s why it’s so important that with a relationship with God we are not in the Church to save ourselves from the Tribulation. That may be a byproduct. We are not in the Church so that we can be blessed because of tithing. We are not in the Church because it’s a convenient religion.

- We are in the Church because *we love God! regardless of anything else*—period!
- We worship and serve God because He is Holy, righteous, merciful, gracious, just—***because He is God!***

That’s what the whole life of Job had to prove. That you take away all these other things that God can give—and He can give them, and He does bless and intervene—take it all away, and Job had to learn that he had to *love God!* He did it by mouth but didn’t do it from the heart until the end. That’s why he said, ‘I repent in sackcloth and ashes. I abhor myself!’

...Indeed, the Scripture teaches that faith is faith only when it is operating in contrast to our circumstances....

Romans 14:8—here’s what we have to do with our lives. This why this whole thing with going out and trying to prove to someone else how righteous you are is so much dribble! And a lot of ‘religionists’ do that. Here’s what it needs to be:

Romans 14:7: “For no one among us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we should live unto the Lord; and if we die, we should die unto the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s” (vs 7-8).

That’s why everything else does not matter; it just doesn’t matter! The physical things—when you’re deprived of them—do cause a little consternation and it’s real nice for us to all sit here and shake our heads and agree with it while we’re sitting here in the lap of luxury and comfort.

Verse 9: “*It is* for this very purpose *that* Christ both died and rose and is living again, so that He might be Lord over both *the* dead and *the* living.”

Verse 23: “...**for everything that is not of faith is sin.**” That’s very powerful! We could almost give four or five sermons starting right there. That’s why I continually emphasize why we do the things that we do!

Some people are in the Church to follow a man. If they’re not following Christ, following that man won’t get you anywhere. Per chance if that man is really following God, he’s going to tell you to follow Christ! So therefore, with that proviso then you will be safe.

Hebrews 11—the faith chapter—talks a little bit about some of the saints, and we will see what this faith caused them to do. Hebrews 11:1: “Now, faith is *the* substance... [the reality] ...of *things* hoped for, *and the* conviction of things not seen.” That’s exactly what faith is. That faith, because it’s based on the Spirit of God, is more real than the things that you see. That’s what we need to have in the way of faith.

When someone truly says, ‘Don’t worry, God is going to work it out.’ That doesn’t mean that it’s going to be worked out the way that that person may even think it’s going to be worked out. I’ll refer

back to Esther Grisinger; she would ask, 'Why am I this way? My husband came to church for so long and then he quit.' But she would always say, 'I don't know why, but God is going to work it out.' And God did work it out! Not in the way she thought, or I thought, or any of us thought, but God worked it out!

How was that worked out? *Through adversity!* Her husband had a stroke and nearly died and was incapacitated. So, here you have a faithful woman with diabetes, blind, in a wheelchair, can't take care of herself; now her husband has a stroke and he nearly dies and is in the hospital. Then they can't afford to pay the hospital so he's got to come home.

Now, what are you going to do with a terrible and horrible situation like that? If you look at the things, which were seen, how can there be a God? So, we all did the best we could. I know that different ones would go every day and help her, and guess what? Lo and behold, her husband was baptized. Finally repented! Then she died! Poor Robert said, 'Oh, why, God?' It was a very simple answer that he finally accepted, which was, 'Robert, she was ready, you weren't.' Then he kept the Passover, came to the Night to be Much Remembered and in 30 days he was gone!

Did God work His purpose in their lives to what He wanted? *Yes!* Was it all sunshine and flowers? *No!* It was misery and agony, but all of that is going to be forgotten at the resurrection! God does things in a way that is different than we think. So, the faith that she had, that we had in praying for her, and that God demonstrated to her and to Robert, worked what God wanted! Because God says, ***'Blessed are those who die in Christ!'***

How long do you think anyone is really going to remember that suffering? How long do you think Esther is going to remember that when she's resurrected with a spirit body and Robert is resurrected with a spirit body?

That's why faith is the substance; it is what you have!

- You can't see it!
- You can't feel it!
- You can't touch it!

But it is faith because you believe in God; because the first thing that you do is believe in God regardless of what the circumstances are.

Verse 2: "For by this *kind of faith* the elders obtained a good report. By faith we understand that the worlds were created by *the Word of God...*" (vs 2-3). That is true! Even though they get down to atoms and molecules and parts of atoms and

electrons and protons and neutrons, they still don't know what makes things go, but it upholds the entire universe!

"...so that the things that are seen were made from *things* that are invisible" (v 3). Take that as *hope!* Take that as *faith!* By realizing that you see the things that you can see, and that the Word of God made and created that out of the things that do not appear!

Therefore, you can have faith even though you don't see it, even though you don't understand that faith is the substance of the things not seen, just as the things that are seen are the substance of the things that you can hold onto. Exactly the same way.

But notice what faith causes someone to do, v 4: "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain... [Faith made him do the right thing!] (v 5): ...By faith Enoch was transported so that he would not look upon death... [v 6]: ...Now, without faith *it is* impossible to please *God*. For it is mandatory *for* the one who comes to God to believe that He exists, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Very profound verse. Not what he can get from God, but is seeking God Himself, and then:

Verse 7: "By faith Noah..." built an ark. I wonder what it was like the day that the animals started coming? I wonder what it was like when they were sealed in the ark by God? They were in there how long before it started raining? *One week! Seven days!* It doesn't record anything of what maybe the sons said. There's even an indication of what is rain at that point. Where's the water? It came! It came and God wiped that old world out! Totally destroyed it!

Verse 8: "By faith Abraham..."—you know the whole story of Abraham.

Now let's see what that faith will motivate us to do in loving God—1-Cor. 13. We know that faith, hope and love abide—the greatest is love. Why? *Because you are loving God—Who is God—and that is greater than anything else!* That's why!

If you can have all of these blessings that are listed here, gifts or whatever in 1-Corinthians 13:1: "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a sounding brass or a clanging cymbal." Obviously then, excluded from the Kingdom of God!

Verse 2: "If I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith..." You have to have something goes beyond faith. You have to have that love of God. When you *put that together with* what Jesus did, what Jesus went through, with everything that God

has done through Jesus Christ, that is absolutely fantastic! That's why we're to love and serve God.

"...so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing" (v 2). You could have a following today. If you had someone going around praying and move this mountain, what would be the next thing that would happen? *Everyone would join in and say, 'We're going to follow him around when he moves the next mountain; we're going to have him move one where there's gold and we're going to get it.'* I could even think of making a fantastic movie out of that.

Verse 3: "And if I give away all my goods... [helping the homeless] ...and if I deliver up my body that I may be burned... [commit suicide] ...but do not have love, I have gained nothing."

Covenant House in New York—for teenage runaways—there's a very sanctimonious, pious Catholic priest who runs it and he turned out to be a child molester and homosexual. If you don't have love, it doesn't matter what you do. You could feed all the jillions of poor.... There's a woman in Oakland—"Mother Wright"—started out fine and she would feed the poor. On Thanksgiving she started out feeding a lot of people and it grew and grew, and I think she now in trouble because there's the Mary Wright Foundation. Someone else is going to take it over and use that for some sort of ideological mask to accomplish what they want. That's how good intentions of people can be taken on.

But of all the people I've ever seen feed the poor, she has got to be one of the most sincere that I have ever seen in my life. So, I do not fault her. I would hate to see that whole thing turned in to some sort of political forum like the 'eagle freaks' have now, and things like.

Who else does charity work in San Francisco? *The 'Rev.' Cecile Williams*—and runs St. Anthony's Kitchen. He does not believe in the divinity of Christ. He got stuck on a radio program once and someone called in and said, 'I understand that you're a Methodist minister.' *Yes, that is correct.* 'Could you tell me if you believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ?' If he really did, he would have simply said 'Why certainly, I do.' But he said, 'That is not a question to be answered on radio.' Then sleazed all around it and gave his answer that the hope he's trying to bring people is the 'physical goods that he can give to them now.'

He's going to be one of those that is going to be a Matt. 7:21—"Lord, Lord, have we not fed the poor in Your name? Done many wonderful works in Your name? Clapped hands and sung every Sunday? Brought hope to the destitute on the streets?"

Because you give all your goods to the poor, give your body to be burned and have not love—the love of God; that you really love God because God is God—*it profits nothing!*

Verse 4: "Love is patient *and* is kind; love envies not, does not brag about itself, is not puffed up. *Love* does not behave disgracefully, does not seek its own things, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil, does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the Truth. *Love* bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.... [regardless of the circumstances] ...**Love never fails....**" (vs 4-8)—*God is love! God cannot fail! God is Truth!* That's where it's going to be.

Go back and study some of the lives of the prophets. Jeremiah was called as a young man and God said, 'I'm going to send you into people who have foreheads like iron. You're going to suffer, but I will make your forehead like flint. What you do is you do what I tell you to do and speak.' And Jeremiah did!

Jeremiah 25:1: "The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah. It *was* the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; The word which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all the people of Judah and to all the people of Jerusalem, saying, 'From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, even to this day, that *is* the twenty-third year, the Word of the LORD has come to me, and I have spoken to you, speaking again and again. But you have not hearkened'" (vs 1-3). So, he didn't have a very rewarding ministry—did he?

How about Isaiah when he was called? It was in a vision and it was like he was caught up in the seraphim and he saw the altar of God and said, 'I am undone!' Just literally came unglued! God says, 'Speak.' And Isaiah said, 'How can I with uncircumcised lips.' The angel took a coal from the altar and touched his lips and said, 'Speak what I tell you to speak.'

Then how about Ezekiel? Oh man! I don't even want to go through and rehearse what Ezekiel went through. How about Hosea? God says: 'Marry a whore and have children of harlots.' That's what God said! Hosea didn't say, 'Oh, God, I'm righteous, how dare you ask me to do that?' He says, 'I'm going to teach you and those children a lesson, because I've brought up children and they're just like children of whores.'

Sunshine and flowers? *Whoa!*

p 58—So important was it that this satanic doctrine be refuted that the Lord gave Satan every opportunity to oppress Job to

the breaking point, if he could....

p 59—Here is the story of string of personal tragedies that fell upon the life of a servant of God, the equal of which will rarely befall any man. If ever there was a person who would be able to prove from the evidence of his external circumstances that he was the object of Divine hatred...

That's exactly what Job's three friends really said! 'Job, you're getting this because you deserve it.' He said, 'No, I don't deserve it.' And he really didn't deserve it, but he got it anyway.

"...it was the patriarch Job. His world had fallen apart, and he had nothing left but a heap of ashes, a nagging wife and three philosopher "friends" to complicate matters.

What was Job's response? *Blessed be the name of the Lord!* God has given; God will take away, and the end of the story is that he received twice as much.

p 60—Few of us will be able to resist the temptation to believe Satan's non-faith theology unless we understand the real nature of faith in a Christian sense. The faith of the Christian, his belief in the existence and goodness of God, is not a temporary attitude that he musters from time to time in this life. One's view is childish if he believes that faith is something that he exercises all weekend, knowing he will see the glad fulfillment of his faith of Monday morning. Our faith is not like that. Faith, to the Christian, is a much higher thing, far above the level of ordinary human understanding.

Let's take a look at Paul's life, and even the calling of Paul was a contrary thing. Here was an enemy of God! Persecuting, killing church members, running off trying to get them and drag them before the high priest to be stoned. So, God calls him. I've often wondered how those who had their loved ones die at the hand of Paul felt when they came and heard Paul preach? What a testimony to God! What a testimony to Satan the devil! 'I'm going to take one of your best workmen, Satan, and I'm going to convert him and he's going to knock the socks off of you!'

The Bible doesn't record the argument that went on between Satan and God about Paul. But Jesus tells us that there was an argument between God and Satan over Peter. Jesus said, 'Satan has desired to have you, to sift you as chaff, but I prayed for you that your faith be strengthened.' So, there was a contest there.

Paul was called, and let's see what he was called to do. This totally refutes Satan's doctrine that *adversity must produce apostasy*. It doesn't have to. Of course, Ananias was a little stunned when the message came from God, 'Ananias, I want you to go to My servant, Saul.' *Lord, isn't this the one that is persecuting the Church?* 'I have called him, he's a chosen vessel to Me.'

Acts 9:15: "But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for this *man* is a chosen vessel to Me, to bear My name before *the* Gentiles, and kings, and *the* children of Israel; for I will show him what great things he must suffer for My name.' Then Ananias went away and came into the house; and after laying *his* hands on him, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord has sent me, *even* Jesus, Who appeared to you on the road in which you came, so that you might receive sight and be filled with *the* Holy Spirit'" (vs 15-17). What a total, absolute undoing of Satan's instrument! Completely!

Let's see a little bit about the life of Paul. Let's go to 2-Cor. 11. Paul separated the 'good time' Christians. 'Lord, what's in it for me.' God said, 'You're going to suffer!' Did Paul suffer? *Yes, he did!*

2-Corinthians 11:17: "What I am *now* saying, I do not speak according to *the* Lord, but as in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting." He's saying, 'Look, everyone is running around here boasting. I really don't want to do this, but I'm going to.' That's what he's saying.

(go to the next track)

Verse 18: "Since many boast according to *the* flesh, I also will boast.... [He's trying to just over abound to make them look foolish.] ...For since you are *so* intelligent, you gladly bear with fools.... [what a scathing rebuke of them] ...For you bear *it* if anyone brings you into bondage, if anyone devours *you*, if anyone takes *from* you, if anyone exalts himself, if anyone beats you on the face. I speak as though we were under reproach for being weak; but in whatever *way* anyone else is bold (I speak in foolishness), I also am bold. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they *the* seed of Abraham? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? (I am speaking as if I were out of my mind.) So am I, above *and beyond* measure—in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in imprisonments more frequent, in deaths often. Five times from *the* Jews I received forty *stripes* less one" (vs 18-24). That's pretty tough! Have you ever had your back beaten? I'm sure they didn't go 'ticky-tacky-toe' on his back. He was beaten!

Verse 25: "Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was

shipwrecked; a night and a day I spent in the deep. *I have been* in journeyings often, in perils of rivers, in perils of robbers, in perils from *my own* race, in perils from *the* Gentiles, in perils in *the* city, in perils in *the* desert, in perils on *the* sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness” (vs 25-27).

This totally disproves Satan's fifth believable lie that *adversity must produce apostasy!*

Verse 28: “Besides *all* these things from the *world* outside, pressing on me daily is the care of all the Churches.” He had it tough. The hardest thing we have to do is drive the freeway to get here; in perils of trucks, motorcycles, cars and speedsters.

2-Corinthians 12:7—not only that, he had a physical adversity: “But in order that I might not be exalted by the abundance of the revelations, *there* was given to me a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to buffet me...”

Not only that, he was ridiculed by his own people. They said, ‘Paul’s letters are weighty, but his appearance is contemptible!’ Paul said that when he wrote Galatians, ‘I want you observe how large I have written this with my own hand.’ If he had the disease that they suspected he had, he was kind of awful to look at, because it was when the lower eyelid kind of turns down and exposes the eye and it leaves a rather terrible view. I’m sure that some people would have said, ‘Surely, God could have called someone better than him! If God is God why didn’t He choose someone handsome that we could follow. This sick little ole pip squeak and his letters and he won’t let us do anything.’ You can almost hear it!

“...so that I might not be exalted. I besought the Lord three times for this, that it might depart from me; but He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you...’” (vs 7-9). There’s the key, brethren! In these circumstances, the grace of God is still there. That’s what’s important, that the grace of God was still with Job:

- though Paul went through everything that he went through
- though all the prophets went through everything that they went through

the grace of God was with them! God is going to prove by the very creation of human beings that He is right, that He is true, and that Satan is absolutely wrong! That’s what God is going to prove.

““...for My power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore, most gladly will I boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ may dwell in me” (v 9). Just the opposite of what we think. Isn’t

that something?

2-Corinthians 4:3: “But if our Gospel is hidden, it is hidden to those who are perishing; **in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, lest the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is *the* image of God, should shine unto them. For we do not preach our own selves, but Christ Jesus *the* Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake”** (vs 3-5). How you test whether someone is a minister of God; there it is right there.

Verse 6: “Because *it is* God Who commanded *the* light to shine out of darkness, Who shined into our hearts *the* light of the knowledge of the glory of God in *the* face of Jesus Christ. Now we have this treasure in earthen vessels in order that the supremacy of the power may be of God, and not from us. On every *side we are* hard pressed, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted...” (vs 6-9). Persecution came against Paul who was the ‘rod of persecution’ against Christians.

“...but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in *our* bodies the dying of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For those of us who are living are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then, on the one hand, death is working in us... [he’s being sarcastic to the Corinthians again] ...and on the other hand, life *is working* in you. And having the same Spirit of faith, according as it is written, ‘I believed, therefore I have spoken,’ we also believe; therefore we also speak, knowing that He Who raised the Lord Jesus *from the dead* shall also raise us through Jesus, and shall present *us* with you. For all things *are* for your sakes, so that the abounding grace may cause the thanksgiving of many to overflow unto the glory of God. For this reason, we do not lose heart...” (vs 9-16). ***We don’t give up!***

“...but if our outward man is being brought to decay, yet, the inward *man* is being renewed day by day” (v 16). That’s what faith is to do for us. Not let affliction carry us down and lead to apostasy.

Verse 17: “For the momentary lightness of our tribulation is working out for us an immeasurably greater *and* everlasting fullness of glory.... [here is the thing that Satan cannot understand]: ...while we consider not the things *that are* seen, but the things *that are* not seen. For the things *that are* seen *are* temporary; **but the things *that are* not seen *are* eternal”** (vs 17-18).

Quite a life that Paul had to go through! You read that and some of the things we go through, we think are tough, but it’s not tough at all! By saying

that, I'm not asking God to put any of us through anything like Paul went through. I don't want to have to go through that. We don't want to get exalted in our own way here and bring something upon us.

p 60—It is higher...

—this belief in God, this faith in God, this going through adversity—

...because it believes totally in the existence and goodness of God who is above and beyond nature and therefore, "by the very nature of things," must not reveal Himself in nature anymore than He does.

That is a profound statement there. God can only reveal Himself as much as He has because of our limitations.

Exodus 33—after the Israelites sinned and Moses pleaded for them that God wouldn't destroy them. God said he wouldn't destroy them. Exodus 33:18: "And he [Moses] said, 'I beseech You, show me Your glory.' And He said, 'I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will have mercy on whom I will have mercy.' And He said, 'You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live.'" (vs 18-20). God cannot reveal Himself in nature any more than He has without destroying it. God is spiritual!

To manifest Himself through nature more, God would have to destroy it. So long, then, as we are in a natural work it is not possible for us to prove empirically...

By handling, holding, touching, looking, measuring.

...that our faith is true. Only beyond this life, when we step from nature into super-nature...

From the natural into supernatural

...will we move beyond the need for faith. Until then, faith must be the basis for our very life. In saying, "The just shall live by faith," God means faith will be the very basis of our existence and that will be the case for all of our natural lives.

Quite a profound thing! That's something to think on and meditate on, and maybe even study about. That's why if someone says, 'I would believe there's a God if I could see Him.' Listen, if you could see Him, you would be a grease spot! Do you want that? *No!*

p 61—Within the order of creation, there are no eyes that can truly behold God's face; there is no heart that can truly appreciate God's love; there is no mind that can comprehend the breadth of God's wisdom. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thought" (Isa. 55:9). Paul declares, "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" (Rom. 11:34).

Tremendous and deep lessons for us to learn—right? *Absolutely!*

Not while we are in this life will we move beyond the necessity of living by faith. Therefore, so long as we live, we will be vulnerable to the satanic argument that our only course is to despair, that faith in an unseen God is foolish.

That's why people make idols! They do not have the faith to worship God *as God*, so they must have an idol. I didn't realize it, but Muslims have rosary-type beads, too. Although, I'm sure they're not saying, 'Hail, Mary, mother of God.' But they have their own little rosary beads and whatever they do with them. *You have to have those things because you don't have faith in God.* That's something! This really opens up a lot to the understanding—doesn't it? *It really does!*

There is no way that it can ever be different, for there is no way that the supernatural can fully reveal itself within the natural.

That's why there's got to be a new heaven and a new earth. If we're all the sons of God composed of spirit, there must be a new heaven and a new earth, because the physical heaven and earth that we have around us now cannot exist in the presence of that power of spirit. This gets exciting!

God has so constituted nature that it is almost impossible to see the supernatural in it at all, except through the eyes of faith....

...How do we know that God loves us? Is it because of health and strength and wealth and plentiful supply? What is the real evidence of the love of God? On what basis can we still believe in the love of our heavenly Father when we live in the midst of war, poverty, privation, and a multitude of human reverses? What minister of the Gospel has not been asked the question, "If God is love, why is there so much suffering in the world?"

None of them can answer that question, because they don't have faith in God! That narrows things down quite a bit—doesn't it?

pp 61-62—Really now, how do we know that God loves us? The answer is that He reached into nature and made Himself and His love an observable thing in the lives of men. We know that God loves us because Christ came into the world. He lived and died on the cross to save us from our sins. “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1-John 4:10).

Now you know *why* it is such a difficult thing for people to believe in Jesus. If you're not willing to accept Jesus Christ, you're not willing to accept God! That's why Jesus said: John 14:6: “...‘I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.’” There is no other way!

Again, “God commends His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8)....

The proof of the love of God in our lives is not sunshine and flowers. It is the historical fact of the death of Jesus Christ and the present indwelling of His Spirit in our lives. The reality of Jesus Christ is what makes it possible to trust God when we are facing the storms of life. Circumstances, to the Christian, having nothing to do with the question of the reality of the love of God. Prosperity, of itself, does not prove that God is for us, and adversity is no final indication that God has forsaken us.

The whole example of Job; quite fantastic—isn't it?

Let's look at some other things concerning this. Not only will we face circumstances, not only will we suffer, and Paul said that he rejoiced to have this suffering. It's interesting in the Greek, the letters 'syn'—which we have for *synagogue*—it's pronounced *soon*, which means *a coming together*. If we 'suffer with Christ' (Rom. 8) it is the 'syn'—*the equal, same* suffering of Christ. Paul said that he would rather 'glory in that.'

Not only will we have that. No only will we have the things we need to look to, but here is where we need to look when we're coming to understand about the circumstances and the difficulties and, yes, the trials and difficulties that will come upon us. And Jesus was put into such circumstances that what was the last thing that He said before He said, 'Father, into Your hands I commend My Spirit'? *He said, 'Eli, Eli Lama Sabachthani.'* That is 'My God,

My God, Why have You forsaken Me?' *To prove to Satan and the world and humanity and everything in God's plan that the adversity and the death of God—though forsaken by the Father—will not stop the plan of God!* And will not cause apostasy! That's something!

Hebrews 12:2: “Having *our minds* fixed on Jesus, the Beginner and Finisher of *our* faith; Who for the joy that lay ahead of Him endured *the* cross, *although* He despised *the* shame...” Didn't look at the physical circumstances. He said, 'I could call down 12 legions of angels' just like that—no problem! But He didn't do it.

“...and has sat down at *the* right hand of the throne of God. Now meditate deeply on Him Who endured such great hostility of sinners against Himself...” (vs 2-3)—*when you and I are going through difficulties*. That's when to look to Christ.

“...so that you do not become weary and faint in your minds. You have not yet resisted to the point of *losing* blood in your struggle against sin. And you have already forgotten the admonition that He addresses to you as to sons: 'My son, do not despise *the* chastening of *the* Lord...'” (vs 3-5).

Not only are we going to have circumstances befall us, but we're also going to have the correction of God! Many times it can be taken the wrong way. But God does this because He loves us. That is a manifest declaration of His love to us, by the correction that we receive.

“...nor grow weary of being reproved by Him; **for whom *the* Lord loves He chastens**, and He severely disciplines every son whom He receives.'.... [Powerful words!] ...If you endure chastening, God is dealing with you as *a Father* with *His* sons. For who is the son whom *the* Father does not chasten? But if you are without chastisement, of which all are partakers, then you are bastards and not sons” (vs 5-8)—and therefore, would be fit for the Lake of Fire.

He deals with us as sons. 'Now are we the children of God' (1-John 3). The Greek there is 'tekna'—*the very offspring*. Not the Greek word 'huios'—meaning *in general*, like the sons of Israel. That could mean any descendant of Israel. We are the 'tekna'—*the specific* children of God. He 'deals with us as with sons'; that is absolutely tremendous!

Let's see Paul's attitude toward this. As far as physical circumstances, Paul had everything in the world to look forward to—right? Power! The whole thing! He was on Satan's side; he was doing the right thing by cleaning Judaism of this wretched new sect called 'Christians' who follow this 'deceiver and magician' Jesus of Nazareth.

Philippians 3:4: “Though I might also have *reason to trust in the flesh*. If any other thinks he has *cause to trust in the flesh*, I *have* much more: Circumcised on *the eighth day*; of *the race of Israel*, from *the tribe of Benjamin*, a Hebrew of Hebrews; with respect to law, a Pharisee; with respect to zeal, persecuting the Church; with respect to righteousness that *is* in law, blameless. Yet, the things that were gain to me, these things I have counted *as loss* for the sake of Christ. But then truly, I count all things to be loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord; for Whom I have suffered the loss of all things, **and count them as dung**; that I may gain Christ” (vs 4-8). That’s exactly what it is!

Verse 9: “And may be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is derived* from law, but that *righteousness* which *is by the faith* of Christ—the righteousness of God *that is based on faith*; that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings... [the fellowship, the same] ...being conformed to His death” (vs 9-10). He looked forward to the resurrection.

Back to the book—talking about problems, etc:

pp 63-64—...A wrinkled fender may be a “problem” to the person who is driving the automobile, but for the person who operates the body shop, it is an opportunity. Many of our words are really descriptions of our own personal attitudes, rather than objective definitions of our environment.

That’s why Paul could rejoice in suffering.

What may be a storm to one person is simply a refreshing rain to another. It, therefore, follows that a hateful and bitter reaction to one’s circumstances is quite stupid. A second, considered, analytical look at a pile of rubble may suggest many golden possibilities to the creative mind...

That’s why we have recycling. We’re trying to look at in a way of the difficulties and problems we have as human beings in trying to attain to the Kingdom of God. God does not promise that it’s ‘sunshine and roses’ all the way.

...if that mind will take a moment for reflection rather than reacting in despair. Contemplation or reaction, what a difference there is between the two! Indeed, one may be Divine and the other satanic. Satan, in his fifth doctrine, implies that man, as a mere human animal, will only react to his circumstances. He suggests that man’s response to difficulty

will be a instantaneous and negative rather than rational, considerate, and reflective. Satan hopes that all of us will live our lives on the basis of action and reaction rather than reflective thinking....

Then he talks about what we need to do if we have difficulties: Sit back and think about it first. Pray about it first! What’s the old story? *Count to ten before you open your mouth!*

p 65—[talks a little bit about Job and his friends] ...He did not curse God to His face, as Satan said he would. He was saved from this by taking time to think about it....

To help develop the right attitude, let sink deeply into your firmest convictions the beautiful definition of God found in Scripture, “God is love” (1-John 4:8).

That’s where it needs to be in spite of any of the circumstances you may have, in spite of how discouraged you may think that you are, do not let despair of the circumstances overtake you. Remember that “God is love!” If you know about the circumstances, and if you know about the problems and difficulties, God also knows, because if you have the Spirit of God He is living in you and experiencing that with you.

- Look beyond the circumstances!
- Look beyond that and realize that “God is love!”

p 66—A proper understanding of the love of God will assure us that He is for us no matter what may be our momentary circumstances. Our faith that God is for us is based on a proper estimate of His goodness and the consequent confidence that His promises do not fail. Out with circumstances; up with Scripture!

The devil would bend all of his powers to destroy this faith. He knows that every person who loves God no matter what is confirming the basic fact of the universe, namely that God is just and He is also love. It is utterly important that we remain true to the Lord despite any degree of pain and problems that we may face. Life will, for most of us, be characterized by temporary periods of prosperity and adversity. In good times, we probably can impress an on-looking world with our prosperity as being an evidence of the blessing of God. But our faith will impress people even more if we are strong in the Lord when we are passing through a time

of want or even the valley of the shadow of death.

That's the exact kind of faith that the Apostle Paul had.

Romans 8:31: **“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”** We need to think of that! We need to realize that!

- if God is God—*which He is*
- if God is true—*which He is*
- if God is love—*which He is*
- if God is for us, can there be anything against us?

I mean, truly, really? We may have circumstances coming against us; we may have people coming against us, *but God is for us!* So, how can anything, then, be against us? If we truly would have had that faith—way back when—maybe we could have survived a little better through some of the circumstances.

It's just like when a person is lying, he is testifying to the Truth of God, because the Truth of God states what the Truth is. Can't do anything against the Truth.

Verse 32: “He Who did not spare even His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how shall He not also grant us all things together with Him? Who shall bring an accusation against *the* elect of God? God *is the one* Who justifies. Who *is* the one that condemns? *It is* Christ Who died, but rather, Who is raised again, Who is even *now* at *the* right hand of God, *and* Who is also making intercession for us. What shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?” (vs 32-35). Paul went through all those—didn't he?

Verse 36: “Accordingly, it is written, ‘For Your sake we are killed all the day long; we are reckoned as sheep for *the* slaughter.’ But in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. For I am persuaded...” (vs 36-38). This is the kind of persuasion that only comes through the love of God and the Spirit of God *in us*.

“...that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which *is* in Christ Jesus our Lord” (vs 38-39)—which proves beyond any shadow of doubt that Satan's fifth doctrine—*adversity must produce apostasy*—is a lie!

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in its Original Order, a Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) Romans 1:16-17
- 2) Romans 8:23-25
- 3) Romans 14:7-9, 23
- 4) Hebrews 11:1-8
- 5) 1 Corinthians 13:1-8
- 6) Jeremiah 25:1-3
- 7) Acts 9:15-17
- 8) 2 Corinthians 11:17-28
- 9) 2 Corinthians 12:7-9
- 10) 2 Corinthians 4:3-18
- 11) Exodus 33:18-20
- 12) John 14:6
- 13) Hebrews 12:2-8
- 14) Philippians 3:4-10
- 15) Romans 8:31-39

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Matthew 7:21
- 1 John 3

Also referenced: Book:

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies by Dave Breese

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies VI #6—This Life is Everything

Fred R. Coulter

We'll just review where we are:

- Chapter One: “More Deadly than Witchcraft”—that is the lies of Satan the devil.
- First most believable lie: “God is a Cosmic Sadist”—in other words, God just put us here to torture us and torment us and cause us all kinds of problems and Satan comes along and says, ‘You see, this is the way God is. How can you love Him?’
- Second most believable lie: “God is a Liar”—what liars always do; they accuse the other person of being the liar. He gives a very good account in the book showing exactly how this situation works and what can be started with it.
- Third most believable lie: “There is No Destiny”—there is no reason for being on the earth, which follows very closely with #6, which we will cover today.
- Fourth most believable lie: “God is not Worthy”—there are a lot of people who have this attitude, that God is not worthy; God then is deprecated to a very small secondary, tertiary situation.
- Fifth most believable lie: “Adversity Must Produce Apostasy”

This whole series is designed that you have the book *Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies* by Dave Breese. Let's continue with #6 now: “This Life is Everything”—which means *there is no eternal life! This Life is Everything!*

You will see this portrayed on television, on the news, in magazines, in books—everything is geared toward that. Everything is geared also to impugning and ridiculing God, religion, belief in life hereafter. There's one where they have two men that are supposed to be angels—Highway to Heaven—and what that does is—although they have all of these little episodes—everything they go through impugns God! I've watched it very little, but what I've seen comes down to that.

This Life is Everything! Therefore, you have to do everything in the world to preserve this life.

p 69—What is life all about? One of the most elaborate discussions in all of literature centered around this most relevant question is found in the book of Job. Like each of us today, Job, his wife

and their philosopher friends were people looking for answers.

If this life were everything and that's all there was to it, then you have a situation where that maybe what was done to Job was not fair, because after all, look how ‘good’ he was.

Job 1—he lost everything! Job lost everything that he had; all of the physical goods. He lost his sons, his daughters, cattle, sheep, homes—everything! Of course, when he told his wife about that, she wasn't too pleased, I am sure. His final conclusion after all that was done there:

Job 1:21: “And he said, ‘Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away. Blessed *be* the name of the LORD.’ **In all this Job did not sin, nor charge God foolishly**” (vs 21-22). That takes an awful lot of character!

You think about that for a minute. If you would have suffered through everything that Job had suffered through. What if you had been in the Church of God as long as Job supposedly knew God and then you lost everything? Of course, none of us are as wealthy as he was.

Job 2:1: “And again it came to pass on a day that the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD. And Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. And the LORD said to Satan, ‘From where do you come?’ And Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it’” (vs 1-2). What is Satan doing while he's doing that? *Seeking whom he may devour!*

Verse 3: “And the LORD said unto Satan, ‘Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him in the earth, a blameless and an upright man, one who fears God and turns away from evil? And still he is holding fast to his integrity, although you moved Me against him to destroy him without cause.’” In this case ‘destroy’ means *to destroy him financially and materially*.

So, Satan has another answer, v 4: “And Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘Skin for skin, yea, all that a man has he will give for his life.’” This sounds like the model of the AMA (American Medical Assoc.) But in this he's implying that a man will do anything for this life, to keep it going, to perpetuate it.

Verse 5: “‘But indeed put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse You to Your face.’ And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Behold, he *is* in your hand, but spare his life.’” (vs 5-6). That’s a terrible thing to allow to happen. Really! Think about it!

Verse 7: “And Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the top of his head.” That must have been absolutely just so painful that it’s unbelievable!

I don’t know of anyone that I have known in my entire lifetime that could ever come close to this kind of situation of being sick. And to make it worse, he was sick but he couldn’t die! He had to suffer all of that pain! I don’t know how it was; he was sitting there one day and all of a sudden came all of these boils all over his body! If it were in modern day, they would run out and take blood samples, flesh samples and puss samples and all of this sort of stuff, and run down to the local whatever and hatch up some kind of batch of something that’s going to cure it.

God has something for that. Every time man comes to the point of thinking that he had cured something incurable, what happens? *A new disease!* Here’s Job, such a miserable thing:

Verse 8: “And he took a broken piece of pottery to scrape himself with. And he sat down among the ashes.” The only thing that would bring him any relief would be to just take the ashes and scrape and put the ashes on, kind of relieve the throbbing and let them bleed and the puss runs down.

Verse 9: “And his wife said to him...” Great encouragement (sarcastically)! This is not to pick on women or wives. Sometimes husbands are dastardly in what they say, very similar to this. So, it just shows human nature; in this case in the body of his wife.

“...‘Do you still hold to your integrity? Curse God and die!’” (v 9). He had every cause to curse God and die! But he didn’t do it.

p 70—Job’s friends, when they heard of the great evil that had come upon Job, gathered to try and find a reason, an interpretation of the events of his life.

Now, you would think that if a minister knew something that he would have learned something from the book of Job. How many times have ministers come into brethren’s homes—who have been sick—and have said, ‘You are suffering from this because you have sinned somewhere.’

I’ve actually seen disfellowshipped sick

people. So, we can’t tell by the physical things whether there is sin or not—isn’t that correct? Remember the case of the blind man. When there is sickness we know there is some kind of sin from the point of view that a law has been broken. Are we God that we can say what caused it?

Maybe in the small things of sickness we can understand that. If I shampoo my hair and go stand in a cold breeze and the next day I come down with a sore throat and a cold, I can say that I got this because I shampooed my hair and stood in the cold breeze when I shouldn’t have, and I was stupid. That’s the penalty for stupidity. Sometimes we do things and we get stuck with our own stupidity.

- We’re not to blame God!
- We’re not to blame some mysterious thing!
- It’s just plain stupidity!

Lot’s of times accidents will happen, just because they happen; because human beings are incomplete and different things will happen. You can’t stop it!

John 9:1: “Now *as Jesus was passing by*, He saw a man who was blind from birth.... [In other words, born blind] ...And His disciples asked Him, saying, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘**Neither did this man sin, nor his parents; rather, *this blindness came so that the works of God might be manifested in him.***’” (vs 1-3). That’s quite a statement! Let’s think on that statement for a little bit. *God deliberately caused him to be born blind for this healing by Jesus Christ!*

Verse 4: “‘I must work the works of Him Who sent Me while it is still day. When *the* night comes, no one is able to work. As long as I am in the world, I am *the* Light of the world.’ After saying these things, He spat on *the* ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to the eyes of the blind man. And He said to him, ‘Go *and* wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which is, by interpretation, ‘Sent’). Then he went and washed, and came *from there* seeing” (vs 4-7).

You can read the rest of the story as to what happened, which is one of the funniest stories in the New Testament. But nevertheless, he was healed! He wasn’t healed by Jesus just saying, ‘Your sight return to you.’ It wasn’t like it was another time that Jesus rubbed His hands over the eyes of a blind man and he saw. This time He did a very crude thing.

When you’re sick and ask to be anointed, I come anoint you, and it’s a very simple drop of olive oil and that’s it, or an anointed cloth, a very small one. We don’t sell them, like Oral Roberts. He sells them so they can put them under their pillows. That’s not what God wants with an anointed cloth.

That's why we say that when you're done with it, burn it. It's not to be kept around as an idol. That's what it becomes. If you put it under your pillow, it's an idol.

Jesus did, what some people would say is, a very crude and vulgar thing. He got some dirt, put it in His hands and spit in it and mixed up some clay, and then put it over the man's eyes and said, go wash in the pool of Siloam. He was healed!

You couldn't tell by the circumstances who sinned. Did God sin because He did that just for the purpose of this miracle? *Of course not!* Shall the thing say to him that makes it, "Master, what are you doing?" *Of course not! The very reason he was blind was to show the glory of God!*

This would have saved a lot of trouble in the Church *if* we would have been more kind and understanding with people who are sick and down and just try and help them; not come and condemn them.

There are some here who have received phone calls to say that they had been sinning and even the minister visited them and put them out of the Church because they didn't have the faith to be healed. Tell me, is that going to add to your faith by kicking you out of the Church because you don't have enough faith to be healed? Why not have you come to church more so you gain more faith? Whose fault is it that there's a lack of faith? The individual's fault? The minister's fault? *Or maybe God has decided that it's a trial!* Now what are you going to do? Maybe it wasn't a sin.

Another one asked to be anointed for some affliction that she was born with, and the minister asked her if she had repented of those sins. That doesn't make sense to me! But you see what happens when you get into a situation where then you start saying, 'Ah ha, you did something and that's why you're this way; tell us what you did.' So, this is what Job's friends did!

Job 2:9 "And his wife said to him, 'Do you still hold to your integrity? Curse God and die!'" I don't suppose she ever thought about what would happen to her if he died.

Verse 10: "But he said to her, 'You speak as one of the foolish women speak. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?'..." There are times when God brings upon you things that are evil for the purpose of teaching you a lesson. I think we've all gone through that—right? It's really a trying situation.

"...In all this Job did not sin with his lips... [It doesn't say what he did in his mind, but at least with his lips he didn't sin.] ...Now when Job's three

friends heard *of* all this evil that had come upon him, and they each one came from his own place: Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. For they had met together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him. And when they lifted up their eyes afar off... [when they were coming to see Job, they took a look at him from a distance] ...and did not recognize him, they lifted up their voice and wept. And each one tore his robe, and *they* threw dust upon their heads toward heaven" (vs 10-12).

He was so bad, he was so ugly, it was so tragic, with him sitting there with these boils, potsherds, scraping, scabs and flies. Who knows, he probably had maggots in a few days crawling around in there. Ghastly! It was so bad that they ripped their clothes; tore them in two!

Verse 13: "And they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights. And no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that *his* grief was very great." They were all sitting there; what a fantastic thing that must have been. Painful! And, I imagine, every couple of hours he would get up and scrape and throw the ashes and just cry, moan, groan and not say a word to them.

When Job finally opened his mouth, Job 3:1: "After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his *birth*. And Job spoke and said, 'Let the day perish in which I was born, and the night in which it was said, "A man child is brought forth." Let that day be darkness. Let not God look upon it from above, neither let the light shine upon it'" (vs 1-4). He's got to say something! This is nothing compared to what he said later.

p 70—One of the primary messages of this Old Testament masterpiece is the lesson that **experiences by themselves teach us nothing.**

That is a profound statement!

We can never be sure, merely from the knowledge that comes to us by experience, that at any given moment we are being blessed or cursed of God. There is no event in our lives and no related joy or sorrow that can tell us by itself whether there is any meaning to life or any reason for the concerns of this moment.

As we were walking in, there was a comment about the lottery, jokingly, and I joked back and said, 'Yes, when you lose it's the devil's playfield and when you win it's God's will. That's the way most people look at it. A couple months ago a minister back east stood up in the pulpit and condemned the lottery, and then his wife went out and won it and now it was God's will.

Can you tell just by experience alone what is the value in war? Has anything been learned? When you take it down to four people, and Cain killed Abel. There's no value in war. At any given moment we cannot tell whether we are being blessed or cursed of God, because a trial of your faith...

This becomes important because one of the things that we have learned concerning the faith of God or faith toward God is that *we have faith in God regardless of the circumstances*—period! **God is love under every circumstance:**

- whether we're happy
- whether we're sad
- whether we're suffering
- whether we have sinned
- whether we need forgiveness

God still is love because God cannot deny Himself—*God is!*

When you have the kind of faith that you need as a Christian this is how our attitude needs to be; and this is what we have to go through. I mean, look at the life of Jesus Christ. Just as an outside observer—as many of the Jews were—a lot of them didn't know that He was the Messiah because they were looking for the one to save them physically. This life is everything syndrome. They were looking to be saved physically from the Romans.

1-Peter 1—it talks about the salvation that God has given us by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1-Peter 1:4: “Unto an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, reserved in heaven for us, who *are* being safeguarded by the power of God through faith, for salvation... [regardless of your circumstances]...*that is* ready to be revealed in *the* last time. In this you yourselves greatly rejoice; though for the present, if it is necessary, you are in distress for a little while by various trials” (vs 4-6).

I submit to you that ‘good old’ Job was in heaviness, and so was his wife. I imagine that it wasn't just ‘curse God and die’—get it over with. I imagine she paced back and forth and said, ‘You told me all these years that the reason that you have all of these things is because God blessed you.’ You can almost write the script. ‘Now they're all gone and you still say that you love God; you have nothing. Now you're smitten with this boils. Curse God and die! What's the use of living?’

So, he was in heaviness with manifold temptations, v 7: “In order that the **proving of your faith...**” That's the key right there. That is why in any given moment just based on experiences alone you cannot tell whether it is a blessing or a curse from God, because if it is a trial it is a blessing. Then

you're going to learn something after the trial is over.

“...the **proving of your faith**, which is much more precious than gold that perishes... [How short-sighted are we as human beings?] ...though it is being tested by fire, may be found unto praise and honor and glory at *the* revelation of Jesus Christ” (v 7). That's what Job was going through. It's a very profound thing for us to learn.

When someone is sick, don't go say, ‘Repent of your sins.’ Don't you think that in their misery, in lying in bed or just moping around the house, that they aren't searching their own soul to repent of whatever they may have done? I know I do! So, encourage them. Tell them that in spite of all this ‘God still loves you.’ They need that! I need that! You need that! **In spite of everything, God still loves you!** Remember that!

pp 70-71—...There is no event in our lives and no related joy or sorrow that can tell us by itself whether there is any meaning to life or any reason for the concerns of this moment. Knowing this, Job and his friends talk together about that more important question. What is the meaning of life? Life is something deeper than experiences themselves. The physical event can only be understood when the spiritual event related to it becomes apparent.

This is also true in prophecy. This is why so many people fail in prophecy. Why? They go just by sight and not by faith.

This fact of life often escapes us. Too many people point to physical events in their lives and the experiences that they produce as proving something about God and spiritual reality. This is most dangerous thinking. All physical events, all emotions, all experiences are strictly limited to the human level. None of these events have meaning in themselves. They can become meaningful to us only if we have some kind of insight from God. they can be understood only when we are able to view the heavenly scene.

That is, as Job did in this particular case.

We could not have understood the reason for the experience of Job, were we not given the opportunity of looking into heaven and viewing the scene before the throne of his Father. We probably would have agreed that surely God had forsaken Job. Even the conversations of the book of Job itself answer few of the questions that

are posted in this philosophic discussion....

Read the book of Job and just sort of blot out of your mind what the first two chapters tell us in the discussion between God and Satan, and read the rest of it and see if you can come up with any sense out of anything that they say. The only thing you can come up with is that human nature, by experiences alone, will devolve into self-justification of everything. And that's what happened to Job!

...The primary question in the book of Job really centers on the basic concern of all philosophy, namely: Do the events of life have a meaning that is larger than life itself?

How do the Buddhists answer this? *Karma!* You've probably heard that on television. Karma means *it was decreed by fate*. Not necessarily so! If you would have been just another foot over maybe the truck wouldn't have hit you.

Is there something more basic than what seems apparent and understandable to our finite minds? Does reality have a deeper nature than what we can see with our eyes? Is there a *life* that is more important than this physical existence?

The true answer is *yes!* This life is *not* everything. Of course not! Then he quotes again:

p 72—"...touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to Your face" (Job. 2:4-5).

What a statement! Here Satan is delivering his lowest, most demeaning insult to humanity, which was made in the image of God. he says that man has no Divine likeness and insists that he will esteem his physical life as the treasure most worth preserving. He suggests that man will give up his money...

Which they do!

...betray his friends...

Which they do! All those who believe this lie!

...sell his soul...

Which they do!

...and throw away his integrity if, in the process, he can preserve his life....

- How many movies are based upon this?
- How many television programs are based upon this?

- Is this not the whole thing concerning spying and counter spies?
- Isn't this the very thing it's made up for?

...*Integrity* is an important word. Job's wife understood some of the issues in speaking with him, saying, "Do you still retain your integrity? Curse God and die" (Job 2:9).

Let us consider this satanic doctrine that physical life is the highest good and that every moral and spiritual value is to be sacrificed for the preservation of human, animal existence.

This is happening in the 'Earth First' movement. No animal can be killed whatsoever. Do you know what they're trying to do with all of this ecology thing, and all the 'save the animals' things? I'm not against treating animals humanely; they need to be treated properly; but where every animal's life must be protected. Do you know what they found?

What did we say when the Valdez oil spill took place? What did we hear? We saw pictures of tarred sea otters, eagles, fish, birds, and it was a terrible scene! But do you know how many millions and millions of fish are in the sea? And did you know that that salmon harvest that they thought would be non-existent this year was the greatest one that they have had in recent years?

They are amazed at how the earth replenishes itself. They are amazed how clean it is up there. Granted there are a few places that need to be cleaned up. This earth has seen an awful lot of things, and God in His wisdom made sure that it can recuperate itself. God made trees for us to cut them down and build houses. Not run around and pick up dead branches and make teepees.

People have the assumption that this physical life is all important and they've got to save everything. Did you hear of one of the animal rights activists back in one of the Midwestern cities—there are coyotes that live in the area in-between the runways, and the airport officials would periodically hire hunters to shoot them to protect people, of course. The animal right's activists got all up in arms saying, 'You shouldn't do that.' Well, what should we do? 'Fence off all the area where the grass is to keep them alive.' So, they succeeded in getting them to quit shooting them for the time being and the next day a 747 came and landed and squished one of them.

If would have been a smaller plane and hit it, the plane could have turned over and killed the

people inside. But when the physical life becomes *everything*, that's the kind of philosophy you get.

A moment's reflection will remind us of how much a modern world is built upon this satanic assumption of the all-importance of physical life and the things pertaining to it.

What is the focus of that? *You don't have time to think about the spiritual things!* Very important! Go here! God there! Myself, I cannot comprehend these tourists that go everywhere. You go to one city and you buy trinkets, you buy pictures, you see this, you see that, you see the other thing. I have yet to see a tourist situation that is not a place to rip you off and take your money that is overrun with a bunch of people. That's why I stay home!

Life must be preserved, indulged, made comfortable, exalted, and even worshiped!

That's what we do today—right?

This is the basic proposition that prevails as the under-girding of modern thought and action. Here is materialism at its fullest flower. Man is merely atoms and molecules; he has no continuing existence. The preservation of this life, therefore, even though it demands the sacrifice of all other values, is the only wise course for the individual to follow.

That's what we find. This is what people do. This is why there is so much emphasis in society concerning drugs. Enjoy the moment *now!* There are millions of people who have bought this.

Isaiah 22:12: "And on that day the LORD of hosts called for weeping and mourning, and for baldness, and for girding with sackcloth. Then, lo, joy and gladness..." (vs 12-13). In other words, God called them to repent; to weep and repent; to mourn, to shave your head and girding with sackcloth. This is a time where that ought to be. There ought to be that kind of thing in the land now. But no, what are they doing?

Joel 2:15: "Blow a ram's horn in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly.... [this is what people need to be doing] ...Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and those who suck the breasts. Let the bridegroom go forth out of his chamber, and the bride out of her room. Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, 'Spare Your people, O LORD, and give not Your inheritance to shame, that the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the people, "Where is their God?"'" (vs 15-17). This is what it's talking about in Isa. 22:12

Isaiah 22:12: "And on that day the LORD of hosts called for weeping and mourning, and for baldness, and for girding with sackcloth. Then, lo, joy and gladness... [live it up] ...slaying oxen and killing sheep, eating flesh and drinking wine, saying, 'Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!'" (vs 12-13)—because *this life is everything*; live it up and have a ball!

That's the philosophy of so much of this world today. Unfortunately, that's just the way it is in the world today, and we are just inundated with so much of it.

My wife doesn't like to watch television with me, because I have a nasty habit of switching channels. But one thing that does—besides keeping up with two ball games at one time—it gives you a preview of all the shows. And they are becoming so much alike with this philosophy. Everything is for this life now!

(go to the next track)

Psalm 36: "The wicked utters transgression in his heart. There is no fear of God before his eyes." Because God doesn't come down and instantly stop someone from doing something, ***does not mean that God agrees.***

There are a lot of people who sin, knowing that they are sinning, and say, 'If God doesn't want me to do this He will stop me.'

- Did God want Cain to murder Abel? *No!*
- Does God want any of the sins to go on? *No!*
- Does God reach down and stop it? *No!*

One time He did, with the Flood, because everything was so bad. Now He's shortened men's lives—and we can be thankful that He has—so the wicked won't be living so long. Aren't we glad that Hitler didn't live to be a hundred-years-old? Can you imagine a hundred years of Hitler? That would be unspeakable!

Speaking of unspeakable: Why did we go war against Hitler in Nazi Germany? *We went against Hitler because he was such an evil man!* Granted, he was; I'm not taking away from it, but I want to make a point. He experimented on the genes of human beings. He sterilized the incompetent. What else did he do? *Oh, yes, abortions!* To get rid of all those nasty people he didn't want. But pray tel, what are we doing today? *The same thing!* And the people who stood up and condemned those people for that sin, destroy that nation because they are so evil, are the very ones who are perpetuating the same sins on the American people today. Think about that! ***We have slaughtered, in the name of progress, 40-million unborn people!*** Because:

Verse 2: "...**There is no fear of God before his eyes**, for he flatters himself in his own eyes... [that sure is true] ...until his iniquity is found to be hateful. The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit; he has stopped acting wise and doing good. He plots iniquity upon his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not hate evil" (vs 1-4). This is the world in which we have to live and protect our Christian values.

I'm reading a book that you cannot read all at once. It is overwhelming. It's called *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*. It was first published in the *Dearborn Michigan Independent* by Henry Ford. The protocols lay out what the synagogue of Satan is doing to destroy the world, and it is absolutely unbelievable! If you have not read this, you need to read it. You have to take it a bit at a time, and there may be some things in here that you may not agree with when you're first reading it. However, you have to ask yourself: Are these things taking place today?

If they are and this was planned—nearly a hundred years ago—then you know that it's taking place. Does Satan have a kingdom? *Yes, Satan has a kingdom!* Jesus said, 'How shall his kingdom stand if Satan be casting out Satan?' He has shown in the book of Revelation to have seven heads and ten horns, as far as the people that he works through. If the whole world is deceived—which Rev. 12:9 says it is—and there's a Satan the devil who is doing it, and it is organized, then—as Christians—we ought to be able to see that it is happening.

But the thing that we don't understand, and we won't understand until you read this book, is that there are those who have given themselves over to Satan the devil to do his bidding, and to do his will, to bring the whole world into the deception that Satan is going to bring in at the end-time.

Some of these sayings here I could almost say are the direct words of Satan the devil, in this book. You've read the direct words of Satan the devil in the Bible. But it is so gruesome, it is so planned, it is so pre-meditated, and the things are on course. It is unbelievable!

It's like it says here: *He desires mischief upon his bed!*

pp 72-73—Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies:

Is this philosophy practiced in our day?

Not only is it practiced, it is repeated over and over again! You have to buy this to look younger, to live longer, be healthier—everything—*everything is for this life!*

Indeed it is! Many seemingly sincere people announce the first principle of their thinking that life must be preserved at all costs. By this, they mean that the physical existence is all there is, and therefore, obviously, the thing most worth saving. They become ecologists, politicians, demonstrators, naturalists, yogas, gurus, or simply preoccupied with this life as if there were no other. They lend their time and talent to this world's legitimate and illegitimate professions. Together, they have built this vast edifice called society, a remarkable organism that is beautiful to behold, externally attractive but internally corrupt. Its corruption is implicitly in its basic assumption, namely that final value is found in this human existence.

What is the greatest 'religion' in the world today? *Humanism!* And it's in all of the schools.

Almost all magazines, books, professions, institutions, and activities are dedicated to the principle that this life is the only life we know or can know. *Materialism* is the name for all of this, and materialism is the religion of this world. Another of its names is *humanism*. Satan is the founder of that faith.

Let's see what Jesus says about that. Very true! I think it's very interesting where this is placed:

Matthew 6:24: "No one is able to serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to *the* one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." We know that verse, but it's very interesting where this is placed. Let's read the verses that lead up to it.

Verse 21: "**For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**" Whether it be in this world where *life is everything* or is on the Kingdom of God, that you're looking forward to eternal life and the return of Jesus Christ.

Verse 22: "The light of the body is the eye. Therefore, if your eye be sound, your whole body shall be *full of* light. But if your eye be evil, your whole body shall be *full of* darkness. Therefore, if the light that *is* in you be darkness, how great *is* that darkness!" (vs 22-23).

That's a tremendous Scripture! A tremendous statement! How many people are in darkness because of these philosophies: *Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies?*

The book talks about abortion, Communism, all of those things, let's come over to:

p 74—Millions of untutored followers of Jesus Christ have come to believe the philosophy, rejected by Job and all of his faithful heirs, that blessing always takes the form of good and pleasurable things and never things that are inconvenient or painful. Surely Job would have been sickened at the emphasis of some today who would have us believe that only good things happen to us because we are followers of God.

How many times did people say in the Church that we came from: 'I have faithfully tithed, and I haven't been blessed.' Because not necessarily are all good things going to happen in this life.

But then, on the other hand—because of not knowing that, the Church said, 'If you tithe you will receive the abundance of everything. 'Oh, by the way, when you die, will it to the Church.'

Let's see what happens to an entire society devoted to this; absolutely devoted! It is a 'religion' to destroy. Here we have six different things from different organizations going around trying to fight this total attack and assault on Christianity. The Scriptures don't say in vain that they are going to haul you up and you're going to be killed for what you believe (Matt. 10 & 24). No one has hauled us up yet, but that day is coming! Because we would dare to stand there and say 'How dare you sin against God.' But they're in such a situation that what they want to do—when they should be repenting, changing—'eat and drink and make merry,' for who knows, 'we may have an overdose and be dead in the morning.'

Hosea 4:1: "Hear the Word of the LORD, children of Israel, for the LORD *has* a controversy with the inhabitants of the land..." We might say *the whole world*. God says in another place that He has 'a controversy with the inhabitants of the world.'

"...There is no Truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land." (v 1). I know that we've read these Scriptures before, but I want us to think of the magnitude to which this has grown:

Verse 2: "By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and the committing of adultery they break out; and blood touches blood." Here's a nice Mormon family going back to New York and they go down in the subway and a gang comes up them and it's their job to be imitated in this gang to rob someone in the subway. So, the Mormons resist and stab the young boy and he dies. It's a big horrible mess in New York, and the mayor of New York, when asked about this, says: 'We need to confiscate all guns.' One of the reporters raised his hand and said, 'Mayor, he was stabbed!'

Verse 3: "Therefore, shall the land mourn, and everyone who dwells in it shall languish, with the beasts of the field and with the birds of the heavens. Yes, the fish of the sea shall also be taken away."

Verse 6: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you..." When people come to the point that this life is everything and reject God then God rejects them. So, people try and solve their problems themselves.

Verse 12: "My people seek advice from their wooden *idols*..." The wooden things that they have made. Or you might put in there: psychologists today.

"...and their rod declares to them, for the spirit of whoredoms has caused them to go astray..." (v 12). You can remove all of the pornography off of every the newsstand in the entire nation and they will go to the local video and buy it, watch it, and play it. *It's in the mind!* Granted, those things should be removed, but what I'm talking about it what God is talking about here, "...the spirit of whoredoms..." has so encompassed this nation that there is hardly anything that can be done without some kind of innuendo to sex. If you watch any of these 'humor' programs on TV, they are filthy-mouthed rotten sexually oriented things that ought to be absolutely exorcised from the face of the earth! But which won't until Christ returns. That's what the world is like.

"...and they have gone a whoring away from under their God. They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills..." (vs 12-13). That's what they're doing over in the University of California at Santa Cruse. They have so much witchcraft there, brethren, that there are little sanctuaries where they have rocks and little crystals with a little sign: "Don't Trespass Here." In the dormitories are books opened, occult books where they have all of the stuff there.

The Bible is absolutely, literally, totally true; *every word!* It seems like an extreme. I look back when I first became a minister and I would have never envisioned the world this bad, as it is today, though I preached against it even back then. Hang on! It's going to get worse! That's terrible!

God says, "...under oaks and poplars and elms because its shade is good. So your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your brides shall commit adultery" (v 13). I would say over half the people have been divorced and re-married. I am amazed at the people I hear of that get divorced and remarried. I mean, absolutely flabbergasted, just

people I know in the world. There's one man that all of a sudden one day decided 'I don't want to be married anymore' and just walked out on his wife. She was literally broken-hearted! She was one of the nicest, sweetest persons that I had ever met, including all in the Church—not saying anything against church people. But there are nice, sweet people in the world.

She was so despaired that three weeks ago she committed suicide, because he was so unloving and so unkind that he had absolutely no feelings for her at all. Even just as a human being! There may be other reason as to why he did what he did, which I won't get into, but it may fit right in here.

Verse 14: "Will I not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, or your wives when they commit adultery?" But the doctors are there to take away the disease and the unwanted child] ...*Even* the men themselves go aside with whores, and they sacrifice with temple prostitutes. The people *who* do not understand shall fall." That's exactly what's going to happen

p 75—We may expect that this activity will increase. Since we have moved from the age of faith and the age of reason into the age of sight...

What is the famous saying? *If you see it, believe it!*

...we can expect that there will now break upon us the age of fantasy.

Which is total deception.

When we begin believing in the final truth of that which we can see with our eyes, we are preparing ourselves for the deceivers who are planning to enrich themselves by exploiting us. Since we have redefined faith as now meaning "that state of mind that always produces good things," we have laid ourselves open to the exploits of the religious magicians and charlatans.

Paving the way for *the beast* and *the false prophet!* Why do you think that the world is going to run to them?

p 76—...Saints down through history have proved by their faithfulness unto death that Satan is a liar.

Now I understand why, at the end-time, there are going to be more martyrs. Have you ever wondered why God is going to have martyrdom? *So He can prove beyond a shadow of a doubt, as a witness to this generation, that people will die for faith in Christ! and not follow the deception of Satan the devil!*

- They will not give up their faith!
- They will not give up their love!
- They will not give up the Word of God!

That's something, and it's going to come down to that!

Ezekiel 11:2: "And He said to me, 'Son of man, these *are* the men who plot evil and give wicked advice in this city; who say, "The time is not near to build houses; this *city is* the caldron, and we *are* the flesh." Therefore, prophesy against them. Prophesy, O son of man!' And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said to me, 'Speak, "Thus says the LORD, 'Thus you have said, O house of Israel, for I Myself know the things that come into your mind, every one of them. You have multiplied your slain in this city, and you have filled its streets with the slain.' Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, 'Your slain whom you have laid in her midst, they *are* the flesh, and this *city is* the caldron. But I will bring you out of her midst. You have feared the sword, and I will bring a sword upon you,' says the Lord GOD. 'And I will bring you out of her midst, and deliver you into the hands of strangers, and will execute judgments among you'"' (vs 2-9). Because they have gone after the way, or after the manner of the heathen.

Here is what a Christian will do in the midst of troubles like this, Psalm 77:1: "I cried to God with my voice, to God with my voice; and He gave ear to me. **In the day of my trouble I sought the LORD...**" (vs 1-2). That's what it needs to be! Whatever the trouble is:

- in your own personal life
- where you may live
- with your relatives
- with your children
- with your job

Cry unto the Lord in the day of your troubles!

"...my hand was lifted up, and my tears ceased not in the night; my soul refused to be comforted. I remembered God and was troubled; I moaned, and my spirit fainted. Selah" (vs 2-3). Of course, that's what Job went through. His spirit was overwhelmed! He got so angry, so hostile, and so self-righteous. But he turned to God.

Verse 4: "You keep my eyes awake; I am too troubled and I cannot speak. I have pondered the days of old, the years of ages past. I remember my song in the night; I commune with my own heart, and my spirit made diligent search. Will the LORD cast off forever? And will He be favorable no more? Is His mercy gone forever? Has His promise failed for all generations?" (vs 4-8).

This is what Job was thinking. These is some of the thoughts of Job, though it's phrased a little differently here.

Verse 9: "Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has He in anger shut up His tender mercies? Selah. And I said, 'This is my grief, that the right hand of the Most High could change.' I will remember the works of the LORD; surely 'I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, and talk of Your doings. Your way, O God, is in Holiness; who is so great a God as our God?'" (vs 9-13). Regardless of what the troubles may be, always keep your eyes and mind on God.

1-Corinthians 15—here they had some in the Corinthian Church. I tell you, what pain Paul had with this Church at Corinth. I imagine if they would have Alka-Seltzer back then, he would have bought it by the caseload. This church was something else! Poor Apostle Paul! Just think of what the Apostle Paul had to put up with, just physically. Think of all the mental problems that he had to bear with these people. It was something else! I would not want to be the minister of Corinth.

We have a situation where there were some saying that the resurrection was already past. The thing that becomes important here, as Breese points out in the book, is that 'if Christ is not raise, then there's no hope.' But Christ is raised! That's why Satan does not want people to believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, because it is a integral part of his doctrine that *this life is everything*.

1-Corinthians 15:30: "Why are we also in danger every hour? I die daily by our boasting which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord. If I fought as a man with beasts in Ephesus, what *did it* profit me, if *the* dead are not raised? Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." (vs 30-32).

That's exactly what Satan wants people to believe, so this life—in their life—will in fact be everything, and ultimately to have them cast into the Lake of Fire. That's Satan's ultimate goal in this life, so they won't turn to God, but rather they will turn to him, and then this life is everything, because there is nothing beyond for them. ***We can have hope and faith that God is faithful, that His Word is true, that God is always love under all circumstances!*** Then we won't believe this sixth lie of Satan the devil that this life is everything.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Job 1:21-22
- 2) Job 2:1-9
- 3) John 9:1-7
- 4) Job 2:9-13
- 5) Job 3:1-4
- 6) 1 Peter 1:4-7
- 7) Isaiah 22:12-13
- 8) Joel 2:15-17
- 9) Isaiah 22:12-13
- 10) Psalm 36:1-4
- 11) Matthew 6:24, 21-23
- 12) Hosea 4:1-3, 6, 12-14
- 13) Ezekiel 11:2-9
- 14) Psalm 77:1-13
- 15) 1 Corinthians 15:30-32

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 12:9
- Matthew 10; 24

Also referenced: Books:

- *Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies* by Dave Breese
- *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* by Victor Marsden

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies VII #7—God Should Work Miracles on Demand

Fred R. Coulter

God should obey the will and command of men! That's the reverse of *God should work miracles on demand*, because then He's obeying the will and command of men.

In touching on this, let's go back to the book of Jude. Satan's ten most believable lies has infiltrated so many churches, and there is—and I feel it's more especially after the Feast of Tabernacles as never before—a tremendous assault by Satan and all of those that he uses to work with him to destroy Christianity much more than ever before. To the point that even a teacher in a public school cannot even read Bible stories from the Old Testament without someone getting so upset.

If I were that teacher, I would sit there and read them everyday; I would defy them; I would defy the court; I would defy the school and say that every time you come into arrest me, know that you are going against the Constitution, which says that there shall not be any inhibiting on the free exercise thereof concerning religion.

But once you allow Satan the opportunity—and it comes very subtle, very smooth, very naturally, because you don't realize your vulnerabilities when he strikes—once he has his foot in the door, then you know the whole body is coming through unless you turn to God and have God get him out. God has let this happen to *His Church* because the Church is not the thing that saves, it is God Who saves, and we're the ones who are being tested.

Jude 1: "Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to the called *saints*, sanctified... [set aside, made Holy] ...by God *the Father* and kept in Jesus Christ: Mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you. Beloved..." (vs 1-3). Apparently Jude was not much of a one for writing, but when he wrote it was pretty powerful. After all, there are only 25 verses for the whole book of Jude, and that's jammed-packed with an awful lot.

"...when personally exerting all *my* diligence to write to you concerning the common salvation, **I was compelled**... [obligatory] ...**to write to you, exhorting you**... [to stir you up; to get you going] ...to fervently fight for the faith, which once for all *time* has been delivered to the saints." (v 3). That's what we need to contend for, especially in this world that is so assaulted by Satan the devil.

Verse 4: "**For certain men have stealthily crept in**..." You don't know that they are creeping

in. Haven't we experienced that in our church situation, where men crept in unawares? In other words, they look fine. Just because they can smile, just because they can talk good, just because they can appear good, does not mean that they're really doing the Word of God.

That's why everything has to be based on the Word of God—absolutely! We've seen how people fall by the wayside when they think that they have 'new truth' and 'new understanding,' which leads them away from Christ. That's exactly what he's saying here. Certain ones crept in unawares:

"...those who long ago have been written about, condemning *them* to this judgment. *They are* ungodly men, who are perverting the grace of our God, *turning it* into licentiousness, and are personally denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ" (v 4).

Then he goes on very strongly pointing out the whole basic things that will happen as you come into the rest of the book of Jude. That ties in with #7 of Satan's 10 most believable lies, that God should work miracles upon demand.

From the book: *Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies*:

p 81—One of the interesting developments on the current religious scene is the surge of interest in visible phenomena.

Turn on Oral Roberts—that is *miracle on demand*, a miracle is going to happen. Isn't that his thing?

As people become increasingly disillusioned with the age of materialism...

That's why Satan does a twofold thing. First of all, he comes in and he gets rid of the consciousness of God saying that you can still be 'good' people, but you don't have to be all that 'religious.' You can be moral people, but you don't have to follow all those commandments. Then in comes the materialism. What happens with materialism? Satan knows it and pretty soon it's a dead end street. Pretty soon you feel hollow, empty and unfulfilled because materialism won't take care of the spiritual needs that you have.

So, then what happens? *He brings in his spiritism!* A phenomena is going to happened: False miracles! Miracles that take place, but false miracles. This happened during the days of Gideon

where when God came and told Gideon, 'I want you do something for Me.' Gideon says, 'How am I going to know this is the Lord?' So, he says, 'If this is the Lord I'm going to put this wool fleece down here and if in the morning the ground is all dry around it and the water is in the fleece, then I'll believe it's the Lord.' So, sure enough it was all dry around there and picked up the fleece and wrung out the water.

Then he said, 'Well, I'm not too sure about that, let's reverse it, God; tomorrow let's have the fleece dry and the moisture all around it.' So, sure enough that happened. Then he finally got up and did what God wanted him to do. A lot of people are that way and a lot of people think: Where are all of His miracles? I've heard this said, too: Why doesn't God perform miracles today, like He performed miracles back then?

I even remember when we were in Worldwide that we got these great, stinging letters that the reason there weren't more miracles was because we weren't keeping the commandments the way we should, so if we all keep the commandments better, then we will have more miracles. What's wrong with that reasoning? *It's still demanding from God!* But what's wrong with that reasoning in addition to that? *God is God and we can't tell God what to do! God does what He wants to do!* It would be miracles by works of law, so if you kept the commandments and God was forced to do miracles, then God would do miracles upon your demand by your works of law and there would be no faith required!

On page 81 of the book, he talks about the different religious leaders and the miracles and so forth.

pp 81-82—We sing songs about miracles, and many Christians claim to have seen God work in miraculous ways.

The Catholics are really hung up on these—aren't they? They can look up and if a light shines a certain way you see the vision of Mary, or a cross. Other people are hung up on other things and different religions for the different things that they have.

But, in addition to this, we have miracle magazines, miracle handkerchiefs, miracle publishing houses...

Oral Roberts says, 'Send away for this miracle handkerchief and put it under your pillow.' So, now you have an idol. That's why when you get an anointed cloth from a minister of God it should be a very small one, have a little oil on it and it should be destroyed right after you use it because it is not the cloth that does it, it is God Who does the healing. That's just symbolic of our faith because we can't be

together face-to-face and person-to-person.

...miracle valleys, miracle messages, miracle meetings, and many who claim openly or by implication to have the gift of working one or another kind of miracles.

There are people, when God doesn't heal them right away, 'Boy, I'm going to go to someplace where I can find a miracle.' You need to be careful with that! You need to understand about the life of the Apostle Paul, because not every place where you find a miracle are you going to find God, though you may hear God's name.

This involvement has long been the case with the religious lunatic fringe...

Just because there are those who are obsessed with miracles on the lunatic fringe of society does not mean that God today does not perform miracles. But there's a definite *need* and *reason* for miracles, which we will see. I disagree with him in one part where he says that we don't need miracles today, because miracles were only to confirm the word of the apostles. I disagree with that.

...but extensive and loose talk about miracles has now entered into legitimate Christian circles.

This is therefore, an appropriate time to note the seventh doctrine of the devil, namely that God is a magician, working miracles on demand. We note this satanic doctrine from the account of Christ's temptation in the Gospel of Matthew [in the account of Christ's temptation].

We're going to go to the book of Exodus and see the reasons why God has miracles to show and to prove that when God does something that is extraordinary beyond what is already set. Then you need miracles. Do yourself a favor and look in your concordance and you won't find more than about 20 references to miracles. Miracles are for a definite and specific purpose, *to witness to the very power of God*. A miracle then is something that is beyond the regular phenomena, which we would see with our own eyes.

Exodus 7:8: "And the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, 'When Pharaoh shall speak to you saying, "Give a miracle for yourselves"...'" (vs 8-9). This is the very agent of Satan the devil—right? What does he want to see? *A miracle!* Did all the miracles convert Pharaoh? *No!* We're going to see that that is a very interesting principle all the way through the Bible.

"...you shall say to Aaron, "Take your rod, and throw *it* in front of Pharaoh.... [that's exactly

what they did] ...It shall become a snake.” And Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh. And they did so as the LORD had commanded. And Aaron threw down his rod in front of Pharaoh and in front of his servants, and it became a snake. Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers. And they, the priests of Egypt, did the same with their secret arts” (vs 9-11).

There are going to be these close counterfeits, which will come along. And even if you do see a miracle, you have to ask what is the message that follows that miracle, or should the message precede the miracle, and the miracle should then confirm the Word. Those are questions that we need to ask.

Verse 12: “For each man threw down his rod, and they became snakes, but Aaron’s rod swallowed up their rods.” Then you know the same thing happened, turning the water to blood, the magicians did the same thing; same way with the frogs. I love this account of the frogs, especially if you understand the size of those monsters in the Nile River.

Remember they had a big flap about that here in California where they have the frog-jumping contest every year? Because the rules don’t say so, on specifying the size of the frog, a man in Washington had these huge African frogs and their bodies are huge! When they leap—if you can get them to leap—they can leap 40 feet. If you’re working in genetics, that’s what you need for your basketball and football players. Just change the genes a little bit and sneak that in.

Anyway, all the frogs came up and contaminated all the land of Egypt: crawled in the houses, the beds, the cupboards; and the magicians did the same thing. They could call up the frogs. Then you come to the next one, the one with the lice, and all the dust then became lice.

Exodus 8:17: “And they did so, for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth and it became lice in man and in beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt. And the priests did so with their secret arts to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice upon man and upon beast” (vs 17-18)—they were eaten up of them, I will add. So, you have all of those false things that come along. You need to be careful.

Isaiah 8 really fits in today as never before. I see this so much with the Scriptures. You go back years ago and you’re really thrilled when you first learn it. Then when you see the ongoing application down through time, it even becomes greater.

Isaiah 8:19: “And when they shall say to you, ‘Seek unto them that have familiar spirits and to wizards who peep and mutter’—*but* should not a people seek unto their God? *Should* the dead *be sought* on behalf of the living?” I’m amazed how many movies are based on this today. Absolutely just pulling everyone’s mind into all of this miraculous, demonic phenomena that’s going on in the world. They’re being setup for the ultimate deception!

Here’s where you get your bearings, v 20: “To the Law... [It doesn’t take a miracle to understand the Law; all you have to do is read it.] ...and to the testimony! **If they do not speak according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them.**”

We’re going to have to use this Scripture more than ever before. {note: Deut. 18, about magicians, wizards, necromancers, observers of times, etc.} There is going to come a time, brethren, I can see it more and more, that as far as our watching movies and television and things like this, we’re just going to have to draw the line more and more because the line of evil is being drawn into the level of acceptance with more and greater evil.

Deuteronomy 18:9: “...you shall not learn to do according to the abominations of those nations.... [Who is the god of those nations? *Satan the devil!*] ...There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that uses divination, or an observer of times, or a fortuneteller, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or one who seeks oracles from the dead. For all that do these things *are* an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations, the LORD your God drives them out from before you” (vs 9-12).

Same thing today, only it’s going to be on such a grand and incredible scale it’s going to be almost impossible.

Satan asks Jesus to perform a miracle on demand, which was *turning stones into food*. Jesus didn’t do it.

pp 82-83—...This suggests the satanic doctrine that working a miracle on demand is valid for the solution of personal problems and the satisfaction of physical needs.

What is one of the miracles on demand that women want today? *Abortion!* It’s going to get down to where the whole abortion issue is not going to be a political problem. It will take about three years. They will introduce a pill—developed in France—which causes automatic abortion of any

impregnation, and you take it the next morning. They also have things now where there is going to be birth control for men. Then it's going to get down into the conscience and the individual personal character of the people involved. No longer then, can they say:

- he made me do it
- the clinic talked me into it
- I was force to it because of circumstances

It's going to be your own individual choice. Are you going to be *moral* or *immoral*—period! No more miracles on demand. This becomes important. If God would fulfill the normal physical things for us:

This implies that God is a magician, that a miracle is a capricious event, its purpose being temporary human satisfaction.

In other words, to burn on your own lusts so that you can make God do something for you to cover up all your mistakes. The miracle that God did was the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Christ's response to this satanic assertion is more instructive. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."....

We just read that, Isa. 8.

...Reality, then, is not finally made out of atoms and molecules—out of bread alone.... [or the physical things] ... Reality is the Word of God...

The Word of God is *God Spirited!* That is the true reality of the Word of God.

...His Word is ultimate truth. Event's more miraculous ones, are not of themselves significant; significance lies in a knowledge and understanding of Divine Truth....

That's what becomes the important thing. What is a miracle? What is it for?

First Question:

...First of all, let us consider the word that is the center of the discussion, *miracle*. A *miracle is a supernatural phenomenon in the experience of men, presumably occurring in the contradiction to the laws of nature.*

Why did God have miracles? I'll just circumvent a couple of those:

- Whom did Jesus call to be His apostles? *You know the 12 were basically fishermen!*

- Where were they from? *From Galilee!*
- What as the current religious attitude about people from Galilee, during the days of Jesus? *Nothing good can come out of Galilee, and surely no prophet!*
- Where did they say the authority of God was during those days? Which it was, but corrupted? *At the temple!*

If God is going to do something different than at the temple—which God says 'here is where I'm going to place My name'—and have the temple built according to the specifications that He did, then God has got to do something different—doesn't He?

Hebrews 2:1—they heard the salvation: "For this reason, it is imperative that we give much greater attention to the things *which* we have heard..." That's where salvation and faith comes from, the hearing.

One thing that's very important for us to do with the Word of God is to *think with the Word of God*. That's what it means to 'let this mind be in you, which was in Christ.' We *think* with the Word of God. We *think* with the logic of God. That way, when we're studying the Bible, then we're going to follow the things that are right.

"...lest at any time we should slip away. For if the word spoken by angels was *enforced* without fail, and every transgression and disobedience received just recompense, how shall we escape, *if we* have neglected so great a salvation; which was first received when it was spoken by the Lord, *and* was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*; God also bearing witness..." (vs 1-4).

God had to bear witness that He was with those fishermen. Now He was starting something outside of the authority that He had established, namely the temple. He had to give His stamp of authority and approval to them.

"...with *them* by both signs and wonders, and various miracles and gifts of *the* Holy Spirit... [notice how these came]: ...**according to His own will?**" (v 4)—not miracles on demand.

Let's go back and examine one of these most profound witnesses that God gave. I'll guarantee you one thing—and I can give just a little, teeny-weeny bit of experience in this: When we were in the Church in Salt Lake City we had a woman who had breast cancer and her breast was like a tarred piece of coal. My wife was an eyewitness to that. She asked to be anointed. The whole church fasted and prayed and I went to anoint her. I guarantee you one thing, when something miraculous needs to be done, it's not because you have faith, or because I have faith—which we're supposed to have, I'm not saying

a lack of faith, but it's *not because* of that faith—we set ourselves aside as being important in anything.

God is the One Who is important, and it is the will of God that He's going to do. It doesn't have to be a long prayer, I can guarantee you that. Look at the shortest prayer that Jesus gave: *God, I thank You that you hear Me always*. Lazarus came out of the tomb.

I know that when I went to anoint her and pray for her it was a pitiful sight and I felt absolutely totally miserable and helpless, and the whole thing. I said, 'God, You know! If it is Your will to heal her, please do. If not, please end it; It's totally in Your hands.' She was completely healed in the process of about ten days.

I don't relate that to say that I'm taking credit for anything. I'm just thankful to have been a part of it. That's over and done; that has nothing to do with today. But I can guarantee you that Peter didn't walk into the temple and say, 'Oh, John, what can we do to show these stinking Pharisees that we're from God?' He didn't!

Acts 3:1: "Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, *which was* the ninth *hour*; and a certain man who was lame from his mother's womb was being carried, whom they placed daily at the temple door which is called Beautiful, to beg alms from those who were going into the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. But Peter and John, intently observing him, said, 'Look on us.' And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, 'Silver and gold I do not have; but what I do have, this I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarean, rise up and walk.'" (vs 1-6).

He'd been there for years. You know the account and how that was used to witness to those right at the temple. How Peter and John were then arrested and told not preach in the name of Jesus Christ.

Acts 7—here's another miracle that God did, where they witnessed what Stephen gave. The reason I'm dwelling on this is because many of those who are totally unfaithful demand a miracle—don't they? *Yes, they do!* We'll come to one of those later where the Pharisees said, 'Why don't You save yourself and come down off the cross; You saved others, but You can't save Yourself.'

The greater miracle was the resurrection, not the magician-type thing on demand. Here we have the tremendous witness of Stephen.

Acts 7:51: "'Stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You do always resist the Holy

Spirit; as your fathers *did*, so also *do* you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One [Christ] of Whom you have become the betrayers and murderers; who received the law by *the* disposition of angels, but have not kept *it*.' And when they heard these things, they were cut to their hearts, and they gnashed their teeth at him" (vs 51-54). You talk about a riot! You talk about a rage!

Verse 60: "And he [Stephen] fell to his knees *and* cried with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not lay this sin to their charge.' And after he had said this, he died." That is the hardest thing to do, right when they're biting you and stoning you, and you're saying, 'Don't lay this to their charge.' Most of us are, 'Yeah, get him, they deserve it; I wish them more.' That isn't the way that God deals.

Then you come to Acts 8 and you have Simon the Magician [Simon Magus]—caused a lot of problems in the Church.

Let's talk about another miracle about the man born blind (John 9). Why was he born blind? For a witness and sign that when he received his sight he would confirm the message of Jesus Christ! Not everything unusual is a miracle.

Second Question:

p 84—This, of course, poses the second question: What is the proof of a miracle? We are warned in Scripture to "prove all things, hold fast that which is good" (1-Thess. 5:21). For want of proof, many naïve and impressionable believers have been exploited by clever manipulators.

Every once in a while on a talk show he will have this fellow come in who goes to all of the charlatan things and magician things and proves that they're all fake. How many have heard of the evangelist called 'Pop-off'? *He was exposed by this guy*; 'Pop-off' would around and 'perform miracles.' He proved that 'Pop-ff' would hire people who would fake diseases. He also proved that 'Pop-off' had in his ear a receptor and his wife would carry a microphone and she'd be out there shaking hands and talking to people. Then she would prompt him from the back of the room and he would say, 'Someone out there has gout; someone out there has a kidney disease; someone out there has cancer; we want a miracle!' He was exposed as a total fake!

Somehow the idea that every claim of the unusual that comes to us with religious overtones must be believe has entered into the Christian thinking....

Yes! That's how Satan is going to deceive the whole world! *Miracles!* There are false teachers; there are

false miracles; there are false prophets. After all the events coming on the earth leading up to Rev. 16, how is it that Satan is going to go out and still deceive the world?

Revelation 16:13: "Then I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet; for they are spirits of demons working miracles..." (vs 13-14).

The message comes out, 'Send all your troops over here because we have to fight this invasion from outer space.' *How am I going to know that I should do this.* He performs a miracle.

"...going forth to the kings of the earth, even of the whole world, to gather them together to *the* battle of that great day of the Almighty God" (v 14). Not everything that takes place is of God!

pp 84-85—...With this in mind, we may ask a third question: What is the purpose of a miracle? Obviously, the purpose of a miracle is not simply to do something interesting, nor merely to produce a result, such as healing, in the life of a person. It would be cruel for Christ to work a miracle for the sole object of producing healing in one and let others go without receiving this miracle....

God has something different for each one of us. God has to work *His way* in us.

...The main purpose of Christ's miracles was to bear witness... [prove the Word of God] ...to the Truth of revelation....

I got a book one time called *The Beautiful Side of Evil*—how that certain people travel to different places in the world, to these different healers, and somehow they're healed. Breese makes a little comment on that here:

p 86—How unfortunate it is that so many reports are being published today of miracles from obscure corners of the world.

I might put here: *Inquirer Magazine, Star Magazine, Globe, Examiner*, etc. I look at the church ads in the paper; look at them and it's a comedy. It's just what it is here. Every stupid thing that comes along, it is something! Of course, all of these are promoted. Everyone wants to have a miracle.

Another thing that works in the psychology of it is all of this betting that goes on today. The psychology of the miracle of winning the lotto and winning all of this sort of stuff.

Even if these remarkable events were true, it is unwise for them to be reported through books and pamphlets across the

Christian world, because we cannot possibly prove their truth. There is no way you or I could assemble two or three competent witnesses to the miraculous occurrence. I must remember, therefore, that I am not required to believe these accounts; in fact, I am virtually required not to believe them. In that it is impossible for me to fulfill the admonition of Scripture to "prove all things," I must be careful not to let my mind be influenced by these phenomenistic accounts of events that are contrary to nature....

...The Scriptural function of miracles has ceased...

I don't believe that.

...in that the written Word of God has already been certified with signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

There's a time and place for miracles!

(go to the next track)

...The Word, therefore, that we are to spread across the world is not the unsupportable verbal accounts of "miraculous events" but the Scriptural account of the great event that produced the Gospel. This event, of course, is the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

Absolutely true!

Now, there are some other events that transpire. When we were going through the book of John, remember if you can: What was it we said about *believing on Jesus*? What kind of belief was this to be? Based upon a very interesting three letter Greek word? It's based on the Greek word 'eis'—that means *into*. Wherever it says to 'believe on' the Son of Man or Jesus Christ, that belief is to believe *into*. In other words, as Jesus said—that we may all may be one: 'I in them and you in Me, that we all may be one.'

When you believe on Jesus, you don't just believe that He existed, you believe *into Him* as a person and being. The word 'eis' in the majority of cases means *into*.

It's very interesting here, Romans 1:17: "For therein *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith unto faith..." Here the word *unto* is the Greek 'eis,' which really adds a lot of strength and power to the faith. It's God's faith into you and your faith back into God, where you have this interaction spiritually. That makes it even stronger.

"...according as it is written: 'The just shall live by faith.'" (v 17). Since a lot of people claim that if you have faith all miracles are possible. But

does faith *always* produce a miracle? I want you to just get this concept that with God's Spirit it is *into*—faith *into* faith. I don't know about you, but at least to me that has a whole lot more power to it than from faith-to-faith. This way it's interconnected with the Spirit of God.

Hebrews 11:1: "Now, faith is *the* substance... [This comes by belief and conviction. If you have that faith *into* then you have this kind of belief.] ...of *things* hoped for... [You don't have it, yet! It is hoped for. The evidence, the certificate, the power, the actual credence] ...and *the* conviction of things not seen. For by this *kind of faith* the elders obtained a good report. By faith we understand that the worlds were created by *the* Word of God..." (vs 3).

It can't be anything else. The structure of the Scripture, 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.' Physicists discovered that there is something smaller than atoms, electrons and protons called quorums. But I think it's going to go one step even smaller. That is like gyroscopic magnetic particles. You can't see those things, but even below that is the power of God's Spirit that sustains it.

That does not produce a miracle, because *by faith* you know that God made these things. It just helps you understand.

...so that the things that are seen were made from *things* that are invisible. By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain... [nothing miraculous] (v 5): ...By faith Enoch was transported... [We know that he died later.] (v 6): ...Now without faith *it is* impossible to please *God*. For it is mandatory *for* the one who comes to God to believe that He exists, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Whenever we say 'reward, we always look to physical things. That is not necessarily the case:

- it may be God's Spirit
- it may be knowledge
- it may be extra blessings you don't even know about

God will reward you for that. But it is absolutely incumbent that you believe that God *is*. That's why a lot of these miracles 'on demand' are of *you show me, you prove to me*, but has nothing to do with believing in God.

- What did *faith* cause Noah to do? *Build an ark!*
- What did *faith* cause Abraham to do? *Believe God and offer his son!*
- What did faith cause Isaac and Jacob to do? *Dwell in tabernacles with Abraham!*

Verse 13: "All these died in faith..." Their faith didn't produce a miracle that they would live in the flesh forever. 'There's a time to be born; there's a time to die.'

Verse 24: "By faith Moses, after becoming a great *leader*, refused to be called *the* son of Pharaoh's daughter."

Verse 28: "By faith he [Moses] kept the Passover..." If you're going to keep the Passover, you have to do it by *faith*. But it is not a very complicated thing. It does not necessarily produce a great and miraculous occurrence in our lives.

Verse 29: "By faith they passed through the Red Sea... [v 30]: By faith the walls of Jericho fell... [v 31]: By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish..."

Then it goes through all the things that people have done because of faith, and there are just a few miracles listed. So, it is not true that *if* you had more faith there would be more miracles; just isn't so! If you had more faith, you might be a martyr like they were. It lists all of the things that they went through. It says of them:

Verse 34: "Quenched *the* fury of fire, escaped *the* edge of *the* sword... [probably running like crazy to get out of the way] ...were strengthened from weakness, became mighty in war, *and* turned back the armies of foreigners. Women received their dead restored to life... [that's a miracle] ...and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance... [no miracle] ...that they might obtain a superior resurrection; and others endured *the* trial of *cruel* mocking and scourging; yes, and moreover, of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawed in two, they were *brutally* interrogated, *and* slaughtered by *the* sword. They went about in sheepskins *and* in goatskins, being destitute, oppressed, *and* ill-treated" (vs 34-37). No miracle to produce the physical things they needed.

Verse 38: "Of whom the world was not worthy; they wandered in deserts and in mountains, *living* in caves and in holes in the earth. But these all, *though* they had received a good report through faith, did not obtain the promise *because* God had determined in advance to provide something superior for us so that without us they would not be made perfect" (vs 38-40).

You're not going to have all of these things all of a sudden come because you have faith. It takes faith to keep the Sabbath every week. It takes faith to believe God and do the things that He says to do.

p 89—A related question is: Do miracles produce faith? The Gospel's answer is no, not always. Thousands of individuals saw

firsthand the miracles of Jesus Christ, beholding His Divine and therefore remarkable ability to produce supernatural phenomena before their astonished eyes. We find, however, at the end of His earthly ministry, the multitudes rejected Him as their Messiah and hated Him for those very Divine qualities.

Even those who ate of the fish and the bread. Who wants to see a miracle? Did it change anything? Who desired to have the miracles? *The scribes and Pharisees!*

Matthew 12:38: “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, ‘Master, we desire to see a sign from You.’” Now you know why Jesus answered the way that He did. He could have produced that miracle. Nothing to it!

How many have heard about the book: *The Lost Years of Jesus*. Don't believe a word in it! It talks about how He used miracles to trick the kids, fool His mom, things like this. Obviously, a bunch of dodo writing by someone who wanted to be famous. Jesus didn't have those lost years. God chose not to reveal them to us. It's just that simple. Right here it tells you that He would never have done it. That is contrary to the purpose of God. Do you think that God the Father would give those powers to Jesus so that He could run around and be a nasty, stupid little brat and pull tricks on everybody? *A bunch of satanic nonsense!* Of course not!

Verse 39: “And He answered *and* said to them, ‘A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet.’” And they didn't understand a word about it.

Matthew 16:1—again they wanted a miracle: “Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came to Him, tempting Him and asking Him to show them a sign from heaven.” Can you think of a sign that's going to come from heaven that's going to deceive the whole world? *Rev. 13—the beast that performs these miracles!*

Again, did He do what they wanted. Notice that Jesus never obeyed any man or used the power of God in an unseemly way at all whatsoever.

Verse 2: “But He answered *and* said to them, ‘When evening has come... [looking to heaven you blind fools] ...you say, “*It will be* fair weather, for the sky is red.” And in the morning, *you say*, “Today *it will* storm, for the sky is red and lowering.” Hypocrites! You know *how* to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot *discern* the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign shall be given to it except

the sign of Jonah the prophet.’ Then He left them and went away” (vs 2-4).

Then the miracles of the loaves didn't even convince the disciples. Consider this: You're one of the disciples. You gather around this prayer that Jesus gives: ‘Father, thank You for the food and we're going to feed the 5,000.’ To the disciples, ‘You take a basket, you take a basket, everyone of you take a basket, you have a piece of fish and some bread. You go over this section, you go over to this section...’ etc. You're breaking off this bread for how ever long it takes and give some to everyone. Break off the fish and give some to everyone.

After Jesus was crucified, after He was buried, what did the disciples say? Even after His resurrection, what did Peter say? *I go fishing!* Wasn't even long enough for them to remember. They had the bread in their hand it just kept being there. Another case of did it really bring belief? We would all love to have miracles, but what would we do then? *We would think that we were so righteous that anything we did from there on would have God's approval!*

John 1:43: “And he led him to Jesus. And when He saw him, Jesus said, ‘You are Simon, the son of Jona. You shall be called Cephas’ (which is, *being* interpreted, ‘a stone’). On the next day, Jesus desired to go into Galilee; and He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow Me.’ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found *Him* of Whom Moses wrote in the Law, and *also* the prophets, Jesus, the son of Joseph; He *is* from Nazareth.’ And Nathanael said to him, ‘Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?’.... [Nazareth must have been some kind of miserable place] ...Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’” (vs 43-47).

God does things the opposite. He sent His own Son to a place of *no reputation*. Today, if you don't have the credentials, you're nowhere!

Verse 48: “Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said concerning him, ‘Behold, truly an Israelite in whom *there* is no guile.’.... [A rare bird indeed!] ...Nathanael said to Him, ‘How did you know me?’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Before Philip called you, *when you* were under the fig tree, I saw you’” (vs 48-49). That's quite a statement!

Verse 50: “Nathanael answered and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Because I told you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? Greater things than these shall you see.’ And He said to him, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God descending to and ascending from the Son of

man” (vs 50-52). Nathaniel is not listed as one of the 12 apostles—is he?

pp 90-91 of the book on Satan's lies, he gives 13 things on how to have prayers answered, but for what?

pp 91-92—These characteristics of prevailing prayer are not to discourage us but to warn us against spiritual presumption. God gives us these modifiers that will keep us from going off the deep end as we seek the Lord for answers.

These Scriptural principles also serve to remind us to reject the human formulas are commonly advocated by those who hold to some sort of automatic *A-B-C*-type prayer involvement with God. The formulas are many, but most of them boil down to a three-stage approach. One, have faith; two, send me your prayer request and believe in “my prayers”; three, make a contribution to my cause.

Ah la Oral Roberts—greatest example, plus many others.

These religious charlatans ought to be held in sustained contempt by all spiritual and reasonable people. We have seen that the satanic doctrine is almost true, that “all that a man has will he give for his life.” This almost truth has enriched the professional miracle-workers to an astonishing and heartbreaking degree.

Needless to say, we are to try the spirits. There's going to be a miraculous surprise to all of these miracle workers who have done all of these things falsely in the name of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 7:21: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but the one who is doing the will of My Father Who *is* in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy through Your name? And *did we not* cast out demons through Your name? And *did we not* perform many works of power through Your name?’ And then I will confess to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who work lawlessness’” (vs 21-23).

Miracles on demand, or having God follow the commands of a man, will never work! That is Satan's seventh most believable lie!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Jude 1-4
- 2) Exodus 7:8-12
- 3) Exodus 8:17-18
- 4) Isaiah 8:19-20
- 5) Deuteronomy 18:9-12
- 6) Hebrews 2:1-4
- 7) Acts 3:1-6
- 8) Acts 7:51-54, 60
- 9) Revelation 16:13
- 10) Romans 1:17
- 11) Hebrews 11:1-6, 13, 24, 28-31, 34-40
- 12) Matthew 12:38-39
- 13) Matthew 16:1-4
- 14) John 1:43-52
- 15) Matthew 7:21-23

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Deuteronomy 8
- Acts 8
- John 9
- Revelation 13

Also referenced: Books:

- *Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies* by Dave Breese
- *The Beautiful Side of Evil* by Johanna Michaelsen
- *The Lost Years of Jesus* by Elizabeth Clare Prophet

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies VIII #8—Exploit the Promises

Fred R. Coulter

Is one of Satan's lies—as the public purports—that there is no devil? I would have to say that that is one his lies but this book—*Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies*—are those not related to the public in general, but are related to what happens to Christians after they believe.

If you can get people to the point that they really do not believe in Satan, then you know for sure that he's got them. The next step is *Satan is god*. People are going to follow some sort of spiritual thing.

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies, p 95:

The most remarkable book that has ever appeared on the human scene is the Bible. Written over the course of 1,500 years by more than forty authors, it claims and demonstrates that it is more than the words of eloquent men. It is indeed the very Word of the living God.

During the Feast of Tabernacles I went over is that the numerics of the Bible itself prove that God had to write it. Let's look at one of *the promises* that God has given, which is a very good promise.

Exodus 20:12: "Honor your father and your mother so that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God gives you." That's what Paul says is the first commandment with *promise*. God has given promises. God has shown that He will fulfill his Word.

Let's look at a promise that God gave in the form of a covenant. Here's one that we see quite often as a promise and a reminder of the Word and power of God. To us, light appears as one color, but there are actually seven colors in what we call *the light spectrum*. You can see this when you see a rainbow. You're actually seeing the colors because they are defused by the mist of the water. God made a promise in the covenant.

Genesis 9:8: "And God spoke to Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, 'Behold I, even I establish My covenant with you, and with your seed after you; and with every living creature that *is* with you—of the birds, of the livestock, and of every animal of the earth with you—from all that go out from the ark, to every animal of the earth. And I will establish My covenant with you. Neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood. Neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth'" (vs 8-11).

For those of you who believe in 'localized flooding' then why would God make this promise. If you only had localized flooding in one area, why would you make this promise, because the other area would have survived? God makes this promise because He destroyed the earth.

Verse 12: "And God said, 'This *is* the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you and every living creature with you, for everlasting generations: I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be *the* sign of *the* covenant between Me and the earth. And it shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud. And I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the rainbow shall be in the cloud. And I will look upon it that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth'" (vs 12-16). There is a promise in the form of a covenant.

Sometimes when things are a little difficult it's kind of hard to rely on the promises of God, let alone exploit them.

Psalms 77 is quite an interesting Psalm because this is a pattern on how to re-establish our faith and belief in God and in His promises, though they may not be fulfilled in the exact way that we think. That's an important thing to always remember.

Psalms 77:1: "I cried to God with my voice, to God with my voice; and He gave ear to me. In the day of my trouble I sought the LORD; my hand was lifted up, and my tears ceased not in the night; my soul refused to be comforted. I remembered God and was troubled; I moaned, and my spirit fainted. Selah" (vs 1-3).

He was really in a terrible, terrible condition. Had a sore or sickness so bad that it just refused to be healed. It said that it ran in the nighttime. He complained to God, probably because of the pain, misery and suffering that went along with it.

Verse 4: "You keep my eyes awake... [could not sleep] ...I am too troubled and I cannot speak. I have pondered the days of old, the years of ages past" (vs 4-5).

Here's how to begin to remember the promises of God. Go back to what God has said. Go back to what God has done, and see that He has

completed it.

Verse 6: “I remember my song in the night; I commune with my own heart, and my spirit made diligent search. Will the LORD cast off forever?...” (vs 6-7). He apparently felt that not only could he *not* exploit the promises of God, but the promises of God were not forthcoming to him.

“...And will He be favorable no more? Is His mercy gone forever? Has His promise failed for all generations?” (vs 7-8). That’s a pretty tough situation when you get down to feeling that God’s promises have failed. But maybe we tend to look at the promises, not in the way that God would want us to look at them.

Verse 9: “Has God forgotten to be gracious?... [Those are pretty strong words. This is almost as strong as the arguments that Job had.] ...Has He in anger shut up His tender mercies? Selah. And I said, ‘This is my grief, that the right hand of the Most High could change.’ I will remember the works of the LORD; surely ‘I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, and talk of Your doings. Your way, O God, is in Holiness; who is so great a God as our God?’” (vs 9-13).

The rest of it goes on showing the great powers and might that God has, and He will fulfill His promises. But there are times when He let’s us get way, way down, way low.

Psalms 89—look at who wrote it: Ethan the Ezrahite. Who were the Ezrahites? *Those were the ones who were the disciples of Ezra!* Ezra helped re-establish the temple after the Babylonian captivity. So, he starts out praising God, how great He is and so forth. He recalls everything that God has made.

Psalms 89:11: “The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; You have founded the world and all its fullness. The north and the south, You have created them...” (vs 11-12). That shows that they knew north and south. How are you going to tell north and south unless you have a compass? So, they were technically well along there.

Verse 15: “Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound; they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance.... [v 18]: For the LORD is our shield; yea, our King is the Holy One of Israel.”

Then he goes on, he reminds God, v 34: “I will not break My covenant, nor change the thing that has gone out of My lips. Once I have sworn by My Holiness, I will not lie to David. His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before Me. It shall be established forever like the moon, and like a faithful witness in the heavens. Selah.... [Selah

means *amen, pause, think on this!*] ...But You have cast off and rejected us; You have been full of wrath against Your anointed. You have turned away from the covenant of Your servant; You have defiled his crown by casting it to the ground” (vs 34-39)—talking about God’s covenant with David.

When they came back out of captivity, did they have any seed of David to sit on the throne as king? *Jehoiachin went into captivity and died in Babylon childless!* Hezekiah and his sons were killed. Here they come back out of captivity and here’s the Ezrahite and he’s complaining to God that God is not fulfilling His promises or His covenant.

He recalls all the things to David, which are true, v 40: “You have broken down all his hedges... [defenses of protection] ...You have brought his strongholds to ruin. All who pass by the way plunder him; he is a curse to his neighbors. You have set up the right hand of his enemies; You have made all his enemies rejoice. You also have turned back the edge of his sword and have not made him stand in the battle. You have made his glory to cease and have thrown his throne down to the ground. The days of his youth You have shortened; You have covered him with shame. Selah” (vs 40-45).

He’s complaining to God; listen to the next one, v 46: “How long, LORD? Will You hide Yourself forever? Shall Your wrath burn like fire? Remember how short my time is; for what vanity have You created the sons of men? What man lives and never sees death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Selah. O Lord, where are Your former loving kindnesses which You swore to David in Your Truth?” (vs 46-49).

And we could add right there: ‘Lord, where is the descendant of David to sit on the throne, as You have promised. Lord, you have broken your promise to David, because we see no one on the throne.’ That’s the sum of the whole Psalm.

What was the answer to the Psalm? Study the life of Jeremiah and the ministry of Jeremiah. He ended up with the king’s daughters. Why would Jeremiah end up with the king’s daughters? Why were not the king’s daughters executed as well? In the book of Ezekiel it talks about the ‘tender young boughs’ that were to be transplanted. That’s why later in Irish history we find a man called ‘Jeremiah, the prophet of God’ brings Tea-tephi the princess to marry the prince in Ireland. Go back and realize that that was still of the line of Judah.

Judah had two sons and the first one born put the hand out and the midwife put a red thread on his hand and he pulled it back and the other one was born first. Therefore, the firstborn was called Pharez—a breach; and the other one was called

Zerah; he was actually born first, but there was a breach in the firstborn because Pharez came first.

Jeremiah took the daughters of the king and remarried into the line Judah through Zerah and the throne of David continues to this very day, which is now residing in Westminster Abbey. That is a very short summary of a very long history. But the Ezraite did not know that.

He's accusing God of not keeping His promises, which is kind of the opposite of *exploiting the promises*. But I wanted to bring that out here from the point of view that all of God's promises, and the fulfillments, do not necessarily seem to be exactly as we would perceive them.

Our whole purpose as Christians is based upon some very fundamental promises. What are those promises? Those promises that God gave: *the resurrection, hope of eternal life*—based upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ—are based upon promises given to Abraham. Not one of those promises given to Abraham were not fulfilled in a way that Abraham thought. Nevertheless, they were fulfilled.

You can go back and study about Abraham and all the promises that God gave, and they were fulfilled. He had to wait 25 years for Isaac. They had the mistake of Ishmael for 13 years into that 25. We're still stuck with the problem today—the problem of the Jews and the Arabs.

Let's just remember why Abraham was counted righteous. Very simple, the Bible tells us 'He staggered not at the promises of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith giving God the glory, and was fully persuaded that that what God had promised He was able also to do.'

Galatians 3:16: **“Now, to Abraham and to his Seed were the promises spoken. He does not say, ‘and to your seeds,’ as of many; but as of one, ‘and to your Seed,’ which is Christ.”**

- There was the promise to the nation.
- There was the promise of the coming Christ.
- There was the promise to the sons of Abraham that they would be as the stars of heaven, etc.

Here Paul is focusing in on Christ; that through the seed of Abraham, the house of David would come the Savior. That was fulfilled.

Go back and look at all the fulfillments of the prophecies of Jesus Christ: his birth, life, death, resurrection, and so forth. You find that many of these promises were fulfilled in such a way that some people didn't understand that they were

fulfilled. What was the first controversy concerning Jesus? *That He was to be born in Bethlehem*, but there was no record that they lived there. The truth is, they didn't live there. They only came to Bethlehem during the days of taxation and for the Feast. They were only sojourners there when Jesus was born. You can go on and on with many of the promises and prophecies concerning Jesus. But they all happened!

Ephesians 1:13—the most important promise that we have, right today; one of the very reasons why we are here: “In Whom you also trusted after hearing the Word of the Truth, the Gospel of your salvation; in Whom also, after believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.” Whom does God give that Spirit to? *Those who believe in Him, and those who obey Him!* He gives the Holy Spirit to those that obey Him' (Acts 5:32). Obviously, you're not going to receive the promise of the Holy Spirit if you don't believe. Will God fulfill all of His promises to you? *Yes!*

1-Kings 8—we find that in the establishing of the temple of Israel during the days of Solomon a very interesting thing that Solomon said in his prayer to God: 1-Kings 8:54: “Now it came to pass as Solomon finished praying all this prayer and petition to the LORD, he rose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven. Then he stood and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice. saying, ‘Blessed *be* the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to **all that He promised. There has not failed one word** of all His good promises which He promised by the hand of Moses His servant’” (vs 54-56).

God fulfilled all of His promises up that point, there were many other yet to be fulfilled. Every one of the promises that God gave to Moses concerning the children of Israel, the nation of Israel, the temple, the priesthood and the presence of God, has taken place. Let's look at the other hand of that:

- What about *exploiting* the promises of God?
- How can you *exploit* the promises of God?
- What do you mean *exploit* the promises of God?
- What would that mean in your mind, to *exploit* the promises of God?
 - ✓ by taking advantage of the promises of God
 - ✓ by twisting it around
- When you twist the Word of God what happens?
 - ✓ It's twisted for your own convenience and later will end up in your destruction!

John 8:31: “Therefore, Jesus said to the Jews who had **believed in Him**... [they believe on Jesus to a certain degree] ... ‘**If** you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples. And you shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free.’ They answered Him, ‘We are Abraham’s seed, and have never been in bondage to anyone. What do You mean by saying, “You shall become free”?’” (vs 31-33). What were they relying upon? *Their physical inheritance of being Abraham’s seed!*

Jesus said, v 37: “I know that you are Abraham’s seed...” But Abraham wouldn’t do these things. So, they’re trying to *exploit* the promises of God so that they could continue in their own sin. That’s the whole key, that God must do this because He’s promised it ‘regardless of who I am, what I am and what I do.’

People take advantage of that concerning God’s grace. God has promised to forgive our sins if we confess them—right? But we also have to repent of them. We can’t *exploit* that promise of God and say, ‘God, You must forgive my sins, therefore, I am going to go and do this and You’ve got to forgive my sins.’ Doesn’t quite work that way!

It becomes very interesting when you really put it all together and see how this is. We have, I’m sure, lived through quite a few of these things. We’ll get into the book and show the examples that he shows on how people *exploit* the promises of God.

Acts 13:22: “And after removing him [Saul], He raised up David to be their king; to whom He also gave testimony, saying, ‘I have found David, the *son* of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will perform all My will.’ Of this man’s seed has God according to *His* promise raised up to Israel a Savior Jesus.” (vs 22-23). There were some who didn’t believe in that promise. They wanted to exploit the promise that they were Abraham’s seed, and only to Abraham’s seed would this promise of the Savior come.

You read the rest of the chapter, and of course, this is in the synagogue of the Jews that He’s talking, 38: “Therefore, be it known to you, men *and* brethren, that through this man *the* remission of sins is preached to you. And in Him everyone who believes is justified from all things, from which you could not be justified by the Law of Moses” (vs 38-39). This really got to the Jews because they figured that the Law of Moses was enough to justify them.

Verse 40: “Take heed, therefore, lest that which is spoken in the Prophets come upon you: “Behold, you despisers, and wonder and perish; for I work a work in your days, a work that you will in no way believe, *even* if one declares it to you.” And when the Jews had gone out of the synagogue, the

Gentiles entreated *him* that these words might be spoken to them on the next Sabbath” (vs 40-42).

Verse 45—the next Sabbath: “But when they saw the multitude, the Jews were filled with envy; and they spoke against the things proclaimed by Paul, *and* were contradicting and blaspheming.”

pp 96-98—Any Christian will be greatly encouraged when he studies the Word of God and lists for his own soul’s satisfaction the promises of God.

But there is a danger here. Danger because Satan’s next doctrine has to do with a presumptuous relationship to the promises of God. The eighth doctrine of the devil is “exploit the promises.”

We learn of this doctrine from a further statement by Satan during the temptation of Christ.

What a scene that must have been! “Then the devil takes Him up into the Holy City, and sets Him on a pinnacle of the temple” (Matt. 4:5)....

...With this in mind, listen to the words that Satan now speaks to Christ. “If You be the Son of God, cast Yourself down: for it is written, He shall give His angels charge concerning You: and in their hands they shall bear You up, lest at any time You dash Your foot against a stone” (Matt. 4:6)....

...To this passage, the devil turns when he would corrupt the spiritual life of our Savior. He quotes a valid promise from God, not merely a piece of philosophic reasoning. It is not impossible that Satan expanded on this, reminding the Lord of the spectacular results that could come from such an exploit as jumping off the Temple, but landing safely on the pavement below. Surely, thousands would be impressed with this magnificent feat, and they would turn from their lesser pursuits to follow Him.

The only one I can think of is, when I was reading this, is Mighty Mouse! How he would swoop down and all the mice would cheer, yell and follow him. Or Superman or something like that.

In the same fashion, Satan appeals to would-be spiritual leaders of our present world, tempting them to move in the realm of the spectacular. Just as he invited Jesus Christ to become a superstar, he tempts men today to resort to one form of magic or another. He suggests that this is the key

to success. He awakens the hope of making a lasting impression on people, obscuring the fact that the spectacular, even if successful, only impresses superficially, the response lasting no longer than other fascinations; and soon, the people are calling for better, more spectacular tricks from greater magicians.

That's sure true! This is true in any sport. They go along and do something great, and then they do something bad and all that what they have done that is great is all forgotten. It's exactly the same thing here.

But has not Satan in a great measure succeeded in his call to spiritual presumption? How many are those in places of religious influence today who have forsaken piety for public relations?

We've all experienced that—haven't we? More concerned with what the press thinks; more concerned with what other people think; rather than whether the individual is in right standing with God or not.

Promotion has become king, even in the work of the Lord. Large segments of the church have ceased to believe in the power of prevailing prayer and have expanded their dependence on the power of hidden persuaders.

Such as putting *hidden persuaders* on tapes or on music that they send out, or on television programs that they put on; *not relying on the faith of God to provide what God said He would provide*, but 'we're going to help the Lord along.' Does the Lord need any help? *I would say, no!*

We remind ourselves that the biggest men in popular religion today hire public relations firms and ad men to tailor their image for the newspapers and television sets of waiting and impressionable multitudes.

We've seen that happen today. It was recently mentioned that some religious programs that now they've stopped all radio broadcasting and they've gone just to television—which may or may not be right or wrong—but the philosophy behind it is that 'what we are interested in is our market share compared with other religious programs.'

That's exactly what is happening here: being presumptuous in exploiting the promise of God to leave off preaching the Gospel as you should, but claiming the promise that you're doing the work of God, and you're not!

p 100—By contrast there are those who announce that they are "living by faith,"

meaning that they do nothing to support themselves or the work of Christ.

You have the opposite extreme. It's even been that some even quit their jobs and just lay back and pray to God and say, 'God, supply every one of my needs.' Then run around and intimidate people with preaching to them by saying, 'Oh, I quit my job; God is going to supply every one of my needs. And by the way, brethren, I see that you have a little extra money. Would you mind sharing that with me?' What was Paul's answer to that kind of behavior? *If you won't work, you won't eat!*

There are people who will do that. There are people who do that with welfare. They're exploiting the promises of the government. It's all going to make us go broke!

They become charity cases, adding to the bad reputation that the church already has in some places for spiritual foolishness. In their case, living life by faith becomes an excuse for laziness or incompetence. **They presume that their need will be supplied no matter how irresponsibly they live.**

That is the whole key to presumptuously exploiting the promises of God. Ask God to put His angels about you when you drive, but you drive 99 mph down the freeway. You may just have a wreck. I don't think you're going faster than the angels, but if you drive 99 mph wherever you go, you're surely tempting God!

You shall not put the Lord your God to the test!

It is Satan who tempts us to perform a dangerous "act of faith," thereby forcing God to work a miracle to save us. In the face of this insane call, we have the absolute command of Christ. "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." Who are we to force the God of the universe to do anything?

Exodus 17—here is a good less about what the children of Israel did in the wilderness. Of course, God was doing plenty for them at that time. The whole experience in Exodus could have been a whole lot different if they would have remembered the miracles. Remember what we studied in part seven—*Miracles on Demand? Miracles do not produce belief!* So, they didn't believe God! It would have been so much easier if they would have remembered the miracles and say, 'If God did all of this to bring us out of Egypt, surely it's no big problem to feed us.' But they said, 'Oh no, God brought us out in the wilderness to kill us and to kill our children.' In Exo. 16 we find that God sent the quail; then He began sending the manna; so they

come here:

Exodus 17:1: “And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim. And *there was* no water for the people to drink. And the people argued with Moses and said, ‘Give us water that we may drink.’ And Moses said to them, ‘Why do you argue with me? **Why do you tempt the LORD?**’ And the people thirsted there for water. And the people murmured against Moses and said, ‘Why *is* this, *that* you brought us up out of Egypt to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?’” (vs 1-3).

Then the Lord heard it. He sent them water, out of the rock. Quite a thing! Wouldn't it have been much more different if the people would have all prayed to God, all at once, and said, ‘Oh, God, we saw what You did with the quail; we saw what You did with the manna; and there's no water here. Could You provide water for us? we know that You want us to live. We trust in Your promises, our Great God, to provide everything that we need.’ There would have been a river running right down the middle there.

Sometimes we get impatient with God; tempt God; exploit the promises of God, misunderstand the promises of God, be presumptuous with the promises of God in such a way that it destroys us and destroys faith.

p 101—Make no mistake about it, if we would master another language, we must study.

With the exception of the miracle of tongues temporarily.

If we would have a church building, we must build it. If we would preach and teach well, we must learn the Word of God. The same God who wrote the Scripture ordained that the law of gravity would operate on all normal occasions. The Christian, no matter how spiritual he pretends to be, is a fool if he expects that God will cancel that law in his favor whenever he chooses or pleases.

And we can put there: *to ask God to do so!* If you're cutting with a sharp knife and you cut the wrong way and you cut your hand, don't blame God. It's one of those things that happens. You can say: Why did God allow it?

I cut myself pretty bad one time. I skinned back the top of my thumb. It was not God's fault; He was not involved in it. I did something I should not have done. I should not have cut toward me. What's

one of the first lessons you learn using a knife? *Cut away from you lest you cut yourself!*

Or whatever the case may be. I wouldn't have gotten in a wreck if I would have looked. There are times when God protects us and we don't even know that something is about to happen, or has happened, or could happen, and He protects us from it. That's a different story.

Why is it that God tells us never to put Him to the test? The reasons are obvious. The first is that we may have the wrong understanding of the promise.

Do we understand it correctly; that's very important. For example: If one takes the attitude of saying that ‘I know God can heal all of my diseases. Psa. 103 tells me that and that is a promise, therefore, God must keep His promise.

(go to the next track)

We must take care of it, and if a person takes the attitude that ‘I'm going to do anything I want to do and God has got to heal me, because He's promised,’ He just might let you die. We have to know that we understand the promise.

For instance, when we read the promise, “My God shall supply all your need,” we may really have little idea as to what our real need is. We may tell ourselves that we need great riches when our real need may be severe discipline.

I've used this example before: ‘Oh, God, provide me with a car, and let it be a brand new Mercedes Benz, and let it have all of the good things.’ So, you're able to buy a Dodge for \$1500; your prayer is answered! You got the Dodge; you didn't need the BMW; a Dodge will be quite sufficient; it'll get you around.

If you've seen some of these BMWs you can almost pay the same price for one of those as a house. Some of them are pretty close to a \$100,000. Try a Rolls Royce! How many of these ‘religious leaders’ have we known—so-called Christian—who got around in Rolls Royces? To impress whom? *The world!* Jesus didn't run around in a Rolls Royce. He didn't even have a slick donkey to ride on. He walked! We're not here to impress the world.

We may think our most pressing need is the love of this man or that woman, but we may be asking for hell on earth.

Sometimes that may be the case!

p 102—Our understanding about ourselves and about God is limited enough so that we should be careful about

prescribing to God how He shall fulfill this promise to us.

That's why in our prayer we pray, 'not my will, but Your will be done.'

A second reason we must be careful about putting God to the test is that we may be attempting to claim a promise that simply does not apply to us at all.

Then he gives the promise of several things going through about land; the promise of tithing—in the sense of Old Testament tithing.

p 103—A further reason we must be careful about putting God to the test is that we may not be in a condition to receive God's promise. We remember that David said, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." The person who is not saved, or the Christian who is allowing a sinful condition to continue in his life, is in no position to receive a promise of God except the promise of judgment.

Or, we might add at this point, to be presumptuous to claim the blessing of God while you are in a state of sin. It won't work!

One of the great qualities of discernment that we must be given of God is the ability to tell the difference between faith and presumption. Faith has been the basis upon which God has produced marvelous results in the lives of believing people. **Presumption, on the other hand, has produced nothing but spiritual disaster.**

Much of this presumption comes in the way of ministers—or supposed ministers—coming to *new truth*, such as we have recently heard that we no longer need to fast on Atonement. That is a very presumptuous declaration. I would be afraid—in reading Lev. 23 what God says to those who keep the Day of Atonement and do not fast—as to what the results may be.

We can recall some of these:

- When the Church got into the temple-building business, did not presumptuous disaster happen? *Yes, indeed!*
- When we in the Church were led by someone called *the apostle*, was that not spiritual presumption a disaster?
- When we were convinced that preaching the Gospel without the name of Christ in various places around the world was going to convert a lot of people, was not that a spiritual disaster from the presumptuous

attitude of leaving out the name of Jesus Christ? *Yes! Yes! Yes!*

- Do people suffer because of that?
- What about David in numbering the children of Israel?
- Was that not a spiritual presumption upon his part? *Yes! look at the disaster!*

The fine line between faith and presumption is obscure to many people. This obscurity, of course, is due to a lack of knowledge of the Word of God, and therefore, a deficiency of the spiritual discernment, which such knowledge produces. Faith is a wonderful gift from God, but presumption is one of Satan's most widely distributed products.

I love that paragraph! That is terrific! In a real good summation, in a nutshell, it really tells you how important it is concerning the promises of God, and the faith of God. It all hinges upon His will and our spiritual condition, too.

Five important conditions for the promises of God:

p 104—...The following are some simple rules for relating to the promises of God:

#1) The promises of God must not become a substitute for faithfulness...

In other words, it is not a condition of faithlessness and you quit keeping the Sabbath, but you send more offerings to the Church relying on the promise that God is going to give you blessings because you tithe and are generous, then you are substituting a promise of God for your faithfulness—the lack of it. That's why I use the term *faithlessness*. If you substitute the promises of God for your faithfulness, then you are faithless, or the lack of faith.

He uses the example that God promises to fulfill all your needs (Rom. 8:32).

...must never lead a person to become a thief under the argument that all things belong to him anyway....

The FBI doesn't believe that!

#2) Our interpretation of the promise must be consistent with the whole of Scripture.

...“With long life will I satisfy him” (Psa. 91).

Long life today is anything more than three score and ten. Could be four score; maybe five score—100; maybe it's six score—120. But that's about it, because God has put a limit on that. We can't live as long as they did before the Flood because we don't have the same conditions.

#3) Our faith must not violate moral principles. "Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

A person cannot presumptuously rely upon the promises of God and be living in sin. Just cannot do it! There will be times when people will sin, and one of the promises of God is that 'if you be any otherwise minded he shall also reveal this' to you as He did to David with Bathsheba so he could repent.

#4) We must remember that God may have a greater plan in mind.

Then he talks about how things are changed and circumstances change.

p 105—Any of us would be a fool to forget that God may have a plan that is greater than our physical deliverance from distressing circumstances.

Then he talks a little bit about martyrdom.

#5) We must not let the promises of God obscure the Person of God.

That becomes very important! You must not let it obscure the Person of God.

[transcriber's note: In the book, p 106, the author quotes a poem by A. B. Simpson, then comments]:

p 107—Well said. Mr. Simpson has give us eloquent testimony of the path toward spiritual maturity that he followed. His immature faith wanted the things of God. His mature faith then sought for only the Lord Himself....

That is very profound! I think that the longer you are in the Church, the more that you are seeking God Himself, rather than the things that God can provide—right? Rather than the things that God's promises will provide.

If someone is driving along this road and suddenly a tire blows, he might be in great trouble. The car bounces against the retaining fence, returns to the road, and the damage is slight. But for the retaining fence, the driver and the automobile would have been in deep trouble. The fence and its implied promise became a source of deliverance.

This is something like the manner in which we are to relate to the promises of God. the normal course of events in our lives is that needs are supplied through work; health is sustained through diet, exercise, and even the help of a physician (as was the case with Paul). The extreme circumstances in life are rare. At that

point, man's extremity may well become God's opportunity. The Lord may choose to avail Himself of this opportunity. Whether He does or does not, has nothing to do with His love or justice in the eyes of a trusting soul. It is, therefore, good to remind ourselves again of the imperative principle "The just shall live by faith."

1-John 2 becomes important for us to understand as far as the promise of the Spirit of God, the promises of God and so forth in our very lives today.

1-John 2:20: "But you have *the* anointing from the Holy One, and you have knowledge of all things *pertaining to salvation*." Obviously, that doesn't mean you know everything there is in the world. But it means you discern all things concerning the Truth.

Verse 21: "I did not write to you because you do not know the Truth, but because you know it, and *you understand* that not one lie comes from the Truth. Who is the liar if it is not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is the antichrist—the one who denies the Father and the Son. Anyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either. Therefore, let what you have heard from *the* beginning dwell in you; if what you have heard from *the* beginning is dwelling in you, then you will be dwelling in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He has promised us: eternal life" (vs 21-25).

That is the key, overall, overriding promise. How do you receive eternal life? *Through the resurrection!* How do you get to the place where you can be resurrected; that is if you don't live until Christ returns? *You die!* So, part of the fulfilling of the promise of eternal life is that first in this flesh you must die. That is the promise.

Verse 25: "**And this is the promise that He has promised us: eternal life....** [That's the whole key thing! All other promises that God has are subordinate to that.] ...These things I have written to you concerning those who are leading you astray. But you yourselves have dwelling in you the anointing that you received from Him; and you do not have need of anyone to indoctrinate you... [the context here is anything other than the Truth] ...for the same anointing instructs you in all *spiritual* things, and is true, and is not a lie; and *if you do* exactly as it *has* taught you, you will be dwelling in Him. And now, little children, dwell in Him, so that when He is manifested we may have boldness, and not be put to shame before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you *also* know that everyone who practices righteousness has been begotten by Him" (vs 25-29).

The promises of God can be absolutely and totally relied upon, but we are not to exploit the promises and go out and live in sin and then come and claim those promises. The promise you might claim might not be the promise of blessing, but the promise you claim—if you've been living in sin—may be the promise that God has given of discipline, correction, or whatever it may be. I've seen how that works; we've all experience that, too.

Hebrews 6:9: "But, although we speak these things, beloved, we are persuaded *of* better things concerning you, even *the fruits* that accompany salvation. For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work, and the labor of love... [God will remember that] ...*by* which you have showed *honor* to His name, *in that* you have served the saints and are *continuing* to serve *them*. But we earnestly desire that every one of you be demonstrating the same diligence, unto the full assurance of the hope until *the end*" (vs 9-11)—which is the promise of eternal life. Notice, there's diligence, obedience, work, faith—all of that is implied there.

Verse 12: "So that you do not become lazy, but *that you be* imitators of those who through faith and steadfast endurance inherit the promises. For God, after promising Abraham, swore by Himself, since He could swear by none greater, saying, 'Surely in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply you.' Now, **after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise**" (vs 12-15). We saw that Solomon said, 'He has fulfilled all of His promises.'

There are a lot of promises in the New Testament that we can look to; that we can hold onto; we can claim. But we have to ask it according to the will of God and not follow the satanic thing of exploiting the promises, do everything that you want to do and God is going to have to save you in spite of yourself.

Verse 16: "For indeed, men swear by the greater, and confirmation by an oath *puts* an end to all disputes between them. In this *way* God, desiring more abundantly to show the heirs of the promise the unchangeable nature of His own purpose, confirmed *it* by an oath; so that by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible *for* God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to lay hold on the hope *that has been* set before *us*; which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both secure and steadfast, and which enters into the *sanctuary* within the veil; where Jesus has entered for us *as* a forerunner, having become a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchisedec" (vs 16-20).

2-Peter 1:1—here are the promises that we need to rely on; here are the things that are laid out

for us: "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained *the* same precious faith as ours by *the* righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in *the* knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord" (vs 1-2). That's quite and introduction there—*isn't* it? We wish, pray and hope all these things for everyone of us to be brought upon us.

Verse 3: "According as His Divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and Godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by *His own* glory and virtue." Having this promise of eternal life and glory ahead of us becomes the most important, absolutely all consuming thing that we need to look to, that God can give us. But we must not let anything become between us and God:

- No thing!
- No attitude!
- No sin!

Rely on Christ to really bring us to God the Father.

Verse 4: "Through which He has given to us the greatest and *most* precious promises, that through these you may become partakers of *the* Divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in *the* world through lust.

Hebrews 13—here is the promise to always remember, regardless of your circumstance of what you are in, or where you may find yourself. Hebrews 13:5: "*Do not allow the* love of money to influence your behavior, *but be* satisfied with what you have; for **He has said, 'In no way will I ever leave you; no—I will never forsake you in any way.'**" That's the greatest promise you can have, that God will not ever—never—leave you or forsake you.

That's the one we need to rely on, v 6: "So then, let us boldly say, '**The Lord is my Helper, and I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?'**" ***Don't exploit the promises of God!***

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in its Original Order, a Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) Exodus 20:12
- 2) Genesis 9:8-16
- 3) Psalm 77:1-13
- 4) Psalm 89:11-12, 15, 18, 34-49
- 5) Galatians 3:16
- 6) Ephesians 1:13
- 7) 1 Kings 8:54-56
- 8) John 8:31-33, 37
- 9) Acts 13:22-23, 38-42, 45

- 10) Exodus 17:1-3
- 11) 1 John 2:20-29
- 12) Hebrews 6:9-20
- 13) 2 Peter 1:1-4
- 14) Hebrews 13:5-6

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Acts 5:32
- Exodus 16
- Psalm 103
- Leviticus 23
- Romans 8:32

Also referenced: Books:

- *Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies* by Dave Breese

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies IX #9—Satan's Way is the Best Way

Fred R. Coulter

I put a subtitle: *God's Way the Worst!*

p 109—Titanic forces are locked in combat for the rulership of the universe.

That's quite a way to start out.

When we realize that the world is being acted upon by an omnipotent God and a nearly omnipotent devil, we should be careful as to the placement of our loyalties. Each believer in Christ is thereby a protagonist... [*against Satan and for God*] ...in a spiritual struggle with stupendous issues. The kingdoms of this world, the moral balance of the universe, eternal life, and eternal death, all of these are at stake in the conflict of this age.

I was brought a very interesting clipping of an event that took place right here in San Francisco. I don't how much you saw on television, but it was really quite something what they had in San Francisco. It's right in line exactly with what Dave Breese wrote.

'Spiritual Warfare' at Civic Auditorium
(*San Francisco Chronicle*, Oct. 30, 1990; toobeautiful.org)

New Age contingent to greet evangelists. Pagans, witches and costumed gays will be out to greet Texas evangelist Larry Lea tomorrow night when his "prayer army" descends on San Francisco—a city the controversial 'Christian' preacher described as "famous for sin and satanism."

They just proved that they're for sin and satanism by what they did. This was written before the fact, but after the fact they did. They had to have police there to seal off the civic auditorium from all of the homosexuals and the lesbians and the pagans; and there were some pagans that went out there and they took these so-called special pagan salts to drive away Christian spirits and sprinkled them everywhere. What they say here is true, San Francisco is that.

Lea, whose Halloween crusade of "spiritual warfare" being at 7 p.m. in the Civic Auditorium, has given rise to protests by several New Age groups, including the New Earth Temple and an ad hoc organization called GHOST—Grand Homosexual Outrage at Sickening Televangelists.

That's what they think, and, of course, a lot of them are sickening televangelists—you can agree with that.

"His message is, 'Perverts are bad and we're going to destroy perversity,'" said GHOST organizer Mark Pritchard.

"People in San Francisco want a chance to stand up against fundamentalists. Larry Lea has made himself a convenient target."

Lea, who travels around the country conducting noisy prayer marathons to defeat "territorial spirits" that he says hold sway over particular cities, said his militant rhetoric has been misunderstood.

"Our purpose is prayer, spiritual warfare," Lea said. "We are not here to cause a physical riot of any kind. We're not going to bash anyone's party."

They had a plan for a march, but that was canceled because there would too many out there throwing eggs and water-balloons and all this sort of thing.

Stake-Burning

Eric Pryor, the "high priest" of the New Earth Temple, an emporium of witchcraft that is run out of a small Geary Street apartment, is organizing a pagan protest and ritual at 3 p.m. today at the Civic Center.

There are a lot of witches around.

- How does Satan get all of this stuff in?
- What's his famous way of getting all of this stuff in?
- Why are so many people so susceptible to witchcraft and paganism and things like that today? *Through TV!*
- Where does it start? *In their mind!*
- When does it start chronologically?
- How are they indoctrinated?
 - ✓ Halloween
 - ✓ Schools
- What is the most profound way?
 - ✓ Movies and cartoons

Do yourself a favor, before you come to Sabbath services, just spend Saturday morning surveying on kiddy cartoons. I want you to watch for all kinds of things: witchcraft and demonism and all this sort of stuff that you will see there. Of course, watch for

reversal of sex-roles; they even have that with Bugs Bunny—don't they? This is how these things get in. Another way that it gets in is with humor.

- How does Satan also get in to put down Christianity? *With humor, because it's funny, but it still has an entrance into your mind!*

So, now they've got all of these people that are ripe for the picking for Satan's lie that his way is the best way and God's way is the worst way. They had a near riot down there.

"We came to the United States to escape religious persecution," said Pryor. "The witch-hunts are over, and I, for one, don't intend to be burned at the stake."

Replied Lea: "This is not a battle between me and them. It is a battle between God and the powers that lead people from a real faith in Jesus Christ.

Absolutely true!

"Anyone who has done any study of Satanism knows this is the high holy day [Halloween] of the satanic church. We just thought that was a good time to come and for Christians to pray."

Janet Christian, coordinator of Bay Area Pagan Assemblies...

Isn't that weird? A woman whose name is *Christian* is the coordinator of the *pagan assemblies!*

...an umbrella group formed 18 months ago in response to more frequent attacks on the New Age movement by conservative evangelicals, said she is concerned that "the Christian right is getting more militant in their response.

"We're tired of them trying to force their beliefs on us," she said. "How would Larry Lea feel if on Christmas, their holiest day...

Has them trapped; Christmas is also a pagan day assumed that it's taken over by Christians.

...we decided to surround his church and out-pray him? They wouldn't stand for it."

- Satan is subtle!
- Satan is powerful!

Revelation 12—let's see that it is universe threatening. Let's see that it is titanic. I have felt that there's a just an onslaught against Christianity of a magnitude that we have not really fully comprehended or understood.

I don't know how many of you have felt it, but I've just felt the crush of society coming in and especially with Halloween. I went into the bank, nice

little San Benito Bank—nice little hometown; all the rich people own the stock; it's a nice bank—and I met with all of these women dressed up like bunnies and witches and Halloween decorations all over the place.

I wasn't too offensive that day, but just said, 'What is this?' The teller said, 'We wanted to have a theme of Indians.' Of course, they're the most misunderstood. If you want to know why God had most of the Indians killed, it was because of their terrible witchcraft and paganism that they had.

She said, 'We couldn't find enough Indian costumes so we all decided to do this.' Here they are with a round little thing on their nose, with whiskers and all this stuff painted on them, wearing these jumpsuits that look like oversized pajamas with a white little tail stuck right on the rear end, walking around the bank with huge slippers on that look like bear-claws.

Then they're all going to go party. I thought, ten years ago they didn't have this. This is mostly a thing that women are doing. I will make a statement and I may offend some people: Most of the women's-lib thing originates from witchcraft and goddess-worship—period! Though they won't tell you that to begin with; it does!

It is in rebellion against God and to why God made man and woman and why we each have our own separate and individual roles, yet, together to be as one. That's why there's so much divorce, and that's why there's so much of this going on the world today.

Here's where it started, and the conflict has been ever since God was going to do what He was going to do. That's why it is written this way, Revelation 12:1: "Then there appeared a great wonder in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and *having* the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars." This is symbolic of the *Bride of Christ* as was manifest in the nation of Israel. You can put this together with several things in Rev. 21 & 22.

Verse 2: "And being with child, she cried in travail, and was in pain to deliver. And another sign was seen in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns on his heads; and his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth..." (vs 2-4).

When we get to #10 of this series, it's called "Don't Go to the Cross"—we'll see how many times Satan was there to try and destroy Christ or get Him to change course and do Satan's bidding.

"...And the dragon stood before the woman

who was ready to deliver, so that he might devour her child when she gave birth. And she gave birth to a man child, Who was to shepherd all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and His throne” (vs 4-5). That is, I think, the shortest summary of the Gospel, right there, one verse.

Verse 6: “And the woman escaped into the wilderness, where she had a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there *for* a thousand two hundred *and* sixty days. And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels warred against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels warred. But they did not prevail, neither was their place found any more in heaven” (vs 6-8).

You know the rest of the story, Satan is cast down with his angels, he deceives the whole world. He's wrought at the Church. Part of the Church is going to a place of safety and the other part he's making war against. So, it is a *spiritual warfare*.

Jesus said, after His disciples came back— He had sent 70 pair out to cast out demons and so forth—rejoicing saying, ‘Oh, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name’ Jesus said, ‘Don't rejoice in that, rejoice in the fact that your names are written in the book of Life. And I saw Satan fall from heaven as lighting.’ That spiritual war is true. (Luke 10:17-18).

Ephesians 6:10: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in *the* Lord...” Let me tell you something, that's where it's at—you *have to be strong in the Lord!* Satan is there to try and take away that power, take away your defenses. Not only that, he is there to get at you in any way he can, to *wear* you out, to *drag* you down, to *tempt* you into things.

“...and in the might of His strength. Put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (vs 10-11). The devil is:

- subtle
- soft
- good
- cunning
- powerful

He may give you just a little to nibble on—*try it, you'll like it!*

Verse 12: “Because we are not wrestling against flesh and blood, but against principalities *and* against powers, against the world rulers of the darkness of this age, against the spiritual *power* of wickedness in high *places*.”

This answers the question of what's going on back in Washington, D.C. The powers that want

to totally paganize this nation and destroy any semblance of Christianity. Eventually it's going to happen; *going to destroy any semblance of Christianity whatsoever!* That's what they want to do. We're going to see more confrontations and riots like they had in San Francisco. That is only the beginning. We'll see that there were even some in the book of Acts. We know that Satan is the ruler of this world.

I had a very interesting conversation with a man last night and I asked him, ‘How come you don't fast on Atonement.’ He just sort of laughed and giggled and said, ‘Well, I'll give it to you in a nutshell: all that was fulfilled in Christ and we no longer have to fast on the Day of Atonement.’ I said, ‘That's the biggest bunch of nonsense I've heard in a long time.’ He said, ‘Read the book of Hebrews.’ *I have many times!* ‘It's all there for you.’ *Well, obviously you've convinced yourself that that's what you need to do.* I asked him about it and they had coffee and cake right after services and then went out to dinner

Pray tell, what is the object of the Day of Atonement and fasting? Why even have the day if you're not going to fast. I almost said it, but I didn't: *Well, that is a fitting penalty for taking your hand and beating up on other Christians, seeking to destroy them.*

2-Corinthians 4:1: “Therefore, having this ministry, according as we have received mercy, we are not fainthearted. For we have personally renounced the hidden things of dishonest gain, not walking in *cunning* craftiness, nor handling the Word of God deceitfully...” (vs 1-2). Who do you suppose is going to handle the Word of God deceitfully? *Those that are being inspired by Satan!* One of the subtiles and wiles of Satan the devil is to handle the Word of God *deceitfully*. For what purpose? *For your own doctrine, your own power, your own thing!*

“...but by manifestation of the Truth, we are commending ourselves to every man's conscience before God” (v 2). Is this telling us that those at that time were *handling the Word of God deceitfully?* *Yes! Nothing new!*

Verse 3: “But if our Gospel is hidden, it is hidden to those who are perishing; in whom the god of this world [Satan the devil]...” (vs 3-4). I've even heard people come along and say that this means *Christ*. Talk about getting all things twisted around. That is unbelievable if you believe that!

“...has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, lest the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is *the* image of God, should shine unto them. For **we do not preach our own selves...**”

(vs 4-5). Why did we miss that for so many years?

Remember our great apostle? How did we miss that? We've had to suffer and go through things—for what? *That we might honestly look at the Bible and see what God has for us!* And if there's anything that a minister should be able to say, it is:

Verse 5: "For **we do not preach our own selves** but Christ Jesus *the* Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

How important is that? We put it all together and what do we have? *Those that are twisting and handling the Word of God deceitfully are **teaching themselves!*** That's exactly what it's telling us. It shows what happens when people take Scriptures and they have their own doctrine and handle it deceitfully, and they try and combine error with Truth, because the error that they have is so 'wonderful and good' that they've got to keep it; like Christmas, Easter, New Years—and that's just at the top of the list.

2-Peter 3:15: "And bear in mind that the long-suffering of our Lord *is* salvation, exactly as our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has also written to you; as *he has* also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them concerning these things; in which are some things *that are* difficult to understand..." (vs 15-16).

Some of them are, and some of them are even more difficult to understand when you try to understand the English translation and you have no background at all in the Greek—not even the slightest.

"...which the ignorant [unlearned] and unstable are twisting *and* **distorting**, as *they* also **twist and distort** the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction" (v 16). And we're seen that happen *before our very eyes* with this group that we know of.

Verse 17: "Therefore, beloved, since you know this in advance, be on guard against *such practices*, lest you be led astray with the error of the lawless ones, *and* you fall from your own steadfastness... [because the error of the wicked comes through Satan the devil, inspired by him, because it's spiritual warfare] ...rather, be growing in *the* grace and *the* knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..." (vs 17-18).

When you put all of that in full context, what happens in a Christian's life is this:

- First of all, you become so miserable and God calls you, and you're even more miserable!
- Then God leads you to repentance, and you repent and because you want your sins

blotted out it is a benefit you want for yourself, because you're so miserable.

- Then we're baptized and we feel good, fine and right, and everything is great. Then we try and be so good so we can escape the Tribulation—with a little progress with a little knowledge and understanding and things like this.
- After you've suffered for a while, after you've gone through some trials for a while, after you've been put through the meat-grinder for a while:

What becomes the most important thing? **God Himself! That's the whole process of conversion!** There is nothing more important than God the Father and Jesus Christ and that you are seeking **Their salvation from Them** as personal to you, of which then *the Bible and the Holy Spirit are the vehicles that God is using to get you there!*

Your whole purpose and whole modus operandi as a Christian then changes *from self, from others, to God!* Even though God is involved all the way along as you're making the progress. That's what becomes so important.

- it's not just a matter faith alone
- it's not just a matter of knowledge alone
- it's not just a matter of grace alone

but it's all of those combined with the love of God, that ***you are seeking God Himself!***

I don't know how you feel about that, but I feel more strongly about that than ever before. You can take all of this nonsense, all of this falderal that's all around and you seek what people are going through and you realize that it is a spiritual battle, and Satan is coming in there and saying, 'My way is the best way.' or 'Have you ever thought of this?'

So, I told the gentleman last night, 'Why don't you just quit keeping everything altogether and just go to church on Sunday, and find some nice, wonderful people?' One of these days I'm going to get myself in trouble!

It was brought up about the Mormons, pray for everyone that has ever been alive and died to get them baptized and into the church, which I want to ask: What church in the world has the largest database on mankind? *The Mormons, and it's all computerized!*

There are many ministers who are supposed to be ministers of the Gospel. Isn't it interesting how we go back to some of these basic, fundamental Scriptures, some of the first that we ever read when we first came into the Church, and how they just sort of leap off the page, being so absolutely vivid today.

2-Corinthians 11:3: “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds might **be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ**. For indeed, if someone comes preaching another Jesus, whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit, which you did not receive, or a different gospel, which you did not accept, **you put up with it as something good**” (vs 3-4).

Verse 13: “For such *are* false apostles—**deceitful workers** who are transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And *it is* no marvel, for Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore, *it is* no great thing if his servants also transform themselves as ministers of righteousness—whose end shall be according to their works” (vs 13-15).

Everything there is in ‘religion’—no matter what kind it is—the *true religion of God*, or the *satanic religion of all the varieties and the broad way of Satan the devil*—regardless of what it is:

- sociology
- psychology
- psychiatry
- therapy

It is all a way to make you justified to what you do! Think about that!

- *Psychologists* have you live with your sin without repentance.
- *Ministers* counsel people so that they can get along and have a ‘good conscience.’

They’re suppose to lead them to Christ and let their conscience be with Christ. Think on that! Everything that is done, everything in working with human beings is to justify what they are doing or to have a behavioral modification that is acceptable and justified. Ministers of righteousness they appear to be.

There is the *way of God!* There is the *way of Satan!* It’s going to come just like this article with Evangelist Larry Lea. It’s going to come down to that. The Apostle Paul had those kinds of experiences.

Acts 19—after Paul came to Ephesus and he found there were disciples who believes but only had the baptism of John and were baptized them and had hands laid on them again, received the Holy Spirit, spoke in tongues and all the me were about 12 (Acts 19:1-7).

Acts 19:8: “Then he entered into the synagogue *and* spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading the things concerning the Kingdom of God.” Paul was a contentious speaker.

You’ve got to realized that. Wherever he went he stirred things up. He didn’t go into the synagogue and say, ‘All you wonderful Jews, we’re blood-brothers and it’s great and wonderful, I’m a Pharisee and hallelujah, praise the Lord.’ He said, ‘You serpents, snakes in the grass, I’m going to tell you about Jesus Christ. I’m going to show you that you can be justified from your sins and the Law of Moses couldn’t do it.’

Verse 9: “But when some were hardened and refused to believe, speaking evil of the way...” They had some kind of services—didn’t they? I’ve often thought what it would be like if I, for example, walked into a synagogue of the Jews. I wonder if I could get out alive preaching Christ or would there be a riot like this.

“...before the multitude, he departed from them *and* separated the disciples; *and* he disputed *these things* daily in the school of a certain Tyrannus. And this took place for two years, so that all those who inhabited Asia heard the message of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. And God worked special works of power by the hands of Paul, so that even when handkerchiefs or cloths were brought from his body *to* those who were sick, the diseases departed from them and the wicked spirits went out from them” (vs 9-12).

Do you think Satan is going to allow this to continue very long? Notice what happens:

Verse 13: “Then certain vagabond Jews, exorcists, took it upon themselves to pronounce over those who had wicked spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, ‘We adjure you *by* Jesus, whom Paul proclaims.’ Now, there were certain *men*, seven sons of a Jew *named* Sceva, a high priest, who were doing this” (vs 13-14). These were high-level Jews.

Verse 15: “But the wicked spirit answered *and* said, ‘Jesus I know, and Paul I have knowledge of; but you, who are you?’ And the man in whom was the wicked spirit attacked them, overpowered them and prevailed against them, so that they escaped out of that house naked and wounded” (vs 15-16). That was quite a battle. Do the spirits know what the scoop is? Do they know what’s going on? *Sure they do!*

Verse 17: “Now, this became known to everyone inhabiting Ephesus...” Can you imagine the ‘Ephesus Daily Chronicle’ put out on vellum or sheepskin or whatever? Can you imagine the gossip and story-telling going on?

“...both Jews and Greeks; and fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Then many of those who believed came *forward* to confess and declare their deeds. And

many of those who practiced the occult arts... [their little idols and things] ...brought their books *and* burned *them* before all; and they calculated the cost of them and found *it to be* fifty thousand pieces of silver” (vs 17-19). So, they had a big book-burning party right in the middle of the town square.

Do you know what Ephesus was as a city? *It was the capital, the headquarters of Diana, the great goddess!* Read about Diana, called ‘Artimus’ in the Greek.

Verse 20: “And so the Word of the Lord spread and prevailed mightily. Now, when all these things had taken place, Paul determined in *his* spirit *that* when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, he must go to Jerusalem, saying, ‘After going there, I must also see Rome.’ And when he had sent to Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, he remained in Asia *for* a time. And at that time it came to pass *that there was* no small tumult about the way” (vs 20-23). Retaliation is coming!

Verse 24: “For *there was* a certain *man* named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver temples for Diana, *which* brought the artificers no small gain.” They had a depression because of what Paul was doing. They weren’t making money.

Verse 25: “After gathering together the workmen *who worked* in such things, he said, ‘Men, you know that from this *craft* we gain our wealth; and you see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded a great multitude to turn away, saying that they are not gods which are made by hands. Now not only is our business in danger of coming into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana, whom all Asia and the world worship, is in danger of being regarded as nothing, and her majesty also is about to be destroyed” (vs 25-27). This is like standing right there in St. Peter’s square.

Verse 28: “And after hearing *this*, they were filled with rage; *and* they cried out, saying, ‘Great is Diana of *the* Ephesians!’ And the whole city was filled with confusion; and they seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians *and* fellow travelers of Paul, *and* rushed with one accord to the theater. Now Paul was determined to go in to the people, *but* the disciples prevented him” (vs 28-30). I mean, this was a riot!

You can see in some of these archeological things that they had a huge amphitheater. This may have been the theater where Paul was. It was so bad that the whole multitude that was there. They wanted to bring him forth and have him tried by the law, and they said, ‘this is not a lawful assembly, we shouldn’t do this.’

Verse 34: “But when they recognized that he was a Jew, there was a unified shout from all for about *the space of* two hours *as* they cried out, ‘Great *is* Diana of the Ephesians!’”

Finally, everyone was appeased, v 41: “And after saying these things, he dismissed the assembly.” And Paul went on his way.

We’re going to have riots like that, I’m sure, as we go along in our Christian life. I don’t know exactly how and when, but it’ll come upon us one of these days.

pp 110-112—Our essential struggle is not one of guns and bombs, nor one that will be decided by the conquest is resident in the moral universe, the physical world being one arena of that greater struggle. The presence of this spiritual conflict comes as a shock to some who have hoped that they might be allowed to live quiet and unperturbed lives.

This is what we would all like to have. I would love that; everything just nice and peaceful, everything fine and good and everyone kind, no robbery, stealing, lying, anger, fights, anger, drunkenness, car wrecks and live to a ripe old age of 85 and you’re sitting in your rocking chair and all of a sudden God puts in your thought you’re going any minute. You say, ‘Well, mom, the time has come.’ And you’re gone! That would be ideal, but it won’t happen.

If our lives appear to be undisturbed, it is only because we are momentarily in the passing point of equal tensions in this fierce conflict. “In the world you shall have tribulation”... [that’s what Jesus said] ...is more nearly the description of the status quo of our lives.

Then he talks about the temptation of Jesus revealed in this point here:

“Again, the devil takes Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and shows Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and says, unto Him, ‘all these things will I give you...

This is a very important point

“...if you will fall down and worship me. Then said Jesus unto him, ‘Get you hence, Satan: for it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve’ (Matt. 4:8-10).

Here is revealed the ninth doctrine of his infernal majesty, namely, “Satan’s way is the best way.”

This temptation is most stunning. Up until this point, no human had ever been

presented with such an offer. Until now, the normal approach in satanic temptation had been to offer just a little bit.

Like with Adam and Eve. Just a little bit!

Satan takes fiendish glee in corrupting an eternal soul with as pitiful a temporal prize as possible. Even gave in because of the offer of a bit of experiential knowledge and few bites of a forbidden fruit. Esau sold out for a bowl of food to satisfy temporary hunger. Achan threw in the towel for a wedge of gold and a goodly Babylonish garment. David committed his great sin because of one erotic scene—Bathsheba at her bath.

This is the kind of bargain that Satan usually offers.

(go to the next track)

He asks for nearly everything and in return gives almost nothing. He counts on the fact that the individual's sense of value is so distorted that he will pay and pay again for empty packages. We chase the will-o'-wisp of economic gain, corporate advancement, human applause, or persona satisfaction. We carry in our hand our Divine birthright, thoughtlessly trading it for a mess of pottage. Satan wins easily and without a struggle with most of us.

With ridiculous ease, his infernal majesty, the devil, also subverts most of us by proxy. He rarely needs to appear on the scene, for he knows that he can trust the established pattern of our society to press upon us its lusts and sins in the name of status [and acceptance].

That's how it's pressed upon everyone. He's got his little troopers out there working, marching hand-and-hand, foot-and-foot, deed for deed.

The world and the flesh have served the cause of iniquity so successfully that Satan must be close to boredom with inactivity. Through centuries of nearly effortless conquest, our enemy has grown fat on the swell of little souls and easy subversions. The moral death that comes to most people is not murder by the devil but merely another case of voluntary spiritual suicide.

I think he has written this very well and has put the words in there just right—*voluntary spiritual suicide!*

Thankfully, this was not the case with Jesus Christ. Satan's approach failed, for

Christ would not work a miracle on demand for His own physical need. The spiritual presumption approach failed, for Christ would not exploit the promises of God foolishly. In this breathless moment, Satan now makes a final decision. Revealing his own deep spiritual inversion, he offers his own "birthright" for a moment's sincere respect by the Person Who was the essence of moral purity—Jesus Christ the Son of God. In this utterly important moment, the moral balance of the world is at stake. Here, Satan sees that his opportunity to seduce Christ into sin is slipping away, and therefore, he makes a desperate last offer. He offers to Christ the kingdoms of his world....

...The diabolical aspect of this temptation is that the offer of Satan was both true and false. It is presumably true that Satan would have given to Christ the kingdoms of this world. The false aspect of this temptation, however, was that Christ would have achieved this point of rulership only **by conceding in advance to the ultimate rulership of Satan.**

Stop and think about that with a lot of 'religions' in this world, a lot of movements in this world, a lot of do-gooders in this world; they're allowed to do this bit of good, or that bit of good, or to have whatever they have. But their ultimate allegiance is to Satan because he is the one who is ruling over them. That is so powerful a point here, it's really profound.

He would not have ruled the kingdoms of this world in His own name, but as a surrogate of the devil. An act of worship before his infernal majesty would have amounted to an eternal concession that Satan was the final ruler. No one can rule independently if his independence has already been taken from him. **When one submits himself to satanic leadership, he becomes a slave to the devil.**

That is really profound! You can see this in everything! Why has Washington, D.C., gone so wrong? *Right there! They have submitted to satanic leadership! They have kicked God out! Etc., etc., right on down the line! Read that over again and really let it really sink in deep.*

John 8:31: "Therefore, Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, 'If you continue in My Word, you are truly My disciples. And you shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free.'.... [after the people said they were not in bondage] ...Jesus answered them, **'Truly, truly I say to you,**

everyone who practices sin is a servant... [*'doulos'*—*slave*] ...**of sin.**" (vs 31-34).

Now do you see how absolutely important that it is, that in our spiritual growth that whatever is taught is always points you to Christ? *He alone should rule in your life!* Any other thing that comes in the way, becomes a form of idolatry and becomes a form of worshipping of men, and it becomes even worse when these men leverage all of that to themselves and put you in fear of not doing what they say.

Romans 6:16: "Don't you realize that to whom you yield yourselves *as* servants to obey, you are servants of the one you obey..."—as a slave, bought and paid for. Which we are *if* we're servants of Christ; we are bought and paid for:

- we are His
- He owns us
- He bought us
- He paid for us

"...whether *it is* of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But thanks *be* to God, that you were *the* servants of sin, but you have obeyed from *the* heart that form of doctrine which was delivered to you" (vs 16-17)—through the operation of baptism, through the operation of the Spirit of God, where then sin does not have dominion over you. You've got to fight it, but it doesn't have dominion over you.

Verse 18: "and having been delivered from sin, you became *the* servants of righteousness. I speak from a human point of view because of the weakness of your flesh; for just as you *once* yielded your members in bondage to uncleanness, and to lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now yield your members in bondage to righteousness unto sanctification. For when you were *the* servants of sin, you were free from righteousness. Therefore, what fruit did you have then in the *things* of which you are now ashamed?..." (vs 18-21).

Just stop and think of how it was before God called you: miserable, horrible, terrible and wretched.

"...For the end result of those things *is* death. But now *that* you have been delivered from sin and have **become servants of God**, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end result *is* eternal life. For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord" (vs 21-23). Why did He become our Savior?

p 113—From this encounter, we can know the method Christ used to withstand against the powerful pressure of Satan. Note again the words of our Savior, "You

shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve." Christ involved Himself in no philosophic discussion about the nature of temptation, the validity of this satanic offer, or the economic value of the kingdoms of this world, He did not even ask for the opportunity to think it over.

Which we probably would! If someone came and said I will give you all the kingdoms of this world, I suppose the smartest thing we would say would be, 'Let me think it over.' Most would immediately say, 'Yes, and I'll straighten out this mess. However, 'you've got to worship me, and I forgot to tell you that I'm really going to do the ruling; you're only going to be my front guy.' That sound a little bit like Rev. 13 and the beast that's coming.

Not compromising, His response was instant, straightforward, and total. It was a clear, final no!

The fact that the worship of any thing or person beside God is forbidden in Scripture was enough for Jesus Christ. The Law of God was the foundation of the spiritual conviction of the Lord Jesus....

That becomes so very paramount and important.

...No matter how much evil seems to prosper, the ultimate base and the final reality of the universe is not evil; it is good.

What does God offer us out of this evil? *He offers us repentance!*

- We have repentance!
- We have forgiveness!
- We have the way out because we are not God!
- We are not Jesus Christ!
- We cannot perform as He performed!

He was the Son of God, but with Christ *in* us and with His grace, love, mercy and forgiveness, we are at-one with God and we can certainly overcome those things that are within the realm of our lives to do. That can be done. Here's the promise:

1-John 1:9: "**If** we confess our own sins, He is faithful and righteous, to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Of course, He's going to do the same for all the world. He's going to forgive their sins, yes, indeed!

2-Timothy 2:24: "Now, it is obligatory *that* a servant of *the* Lord not be argumentative, but gentle toward all, competent to teach, forbearing, in meekness correcting those who set themselves in opposition; if perhaps God may grant them

repentance unto acknowledging of *the* Truth” (vs 24-25). God gives the way out. God provides the way. In Rom. 2 says, ‘No you not that the goodness of God leads you to repentance.’

Verse 26: “And *that* they may wake up *and escape* from the devil’s snare, who have been taken captive by him to *do* his will.” Most people are ready to eat at the trough of Satan the devil.

pp 113-114—As we have noted, in this last phase of the temptation Satan reveals another of his doctrinal positions; the real way to gain the kingdoms of this world is to worship Satan; the path to progress, capability, and fulfillment is to turn from fidelity to the living God... [turn away from that] ...and commit our lives to the worship of the devil.

That’s what every one of these secret society lodges are all about. There’s an inner knowledge and there’s an outer knowledge. That’s why a politician cannot get anywhere unless he has proven ahead of time that he will lie, *lie*, *lie* and *lie!* When that is done, then what Satan does, he’s got him, and now he must go along with the program. How do you think that they got this new immigration thing in to let every evil thing under the sun in to the tune of 200,000 a year? Up to 675,000 a year.

Planned destruction of Christianity in the United States by immigration of pagans, perverts and weirdoes, *because they were bought by Satan* in the beginning and now they must do his bidding! Maybe enough people can stand up and vote enough out, but when they get back to Washington, what do they have? *They have their staff already in place who are the ones who are perpetrating it!* That’s why Christ has to destroy it.

We are asked to believe that Satan’s way is the best way, that is, superior to the way of God. **This view is completely anti-God.**

And, as astonishing as it may seem, that view is gaining credence. The outright worship of Satan is increasingly popular among otherwise intelligent people.

And broadcast abroad as such!

From major cities and rural areas across America and the Western world come frightening reports of individuals who have committed their lives to Satan and who have literally fallen down to worship him....

I just read it to you out of the paper—*The San Francisco Chronicle*—as I started this sermon.

Witchcraft, paganism and the Church of Satan’s headquarters is right in San Francisco.

...They declare Lucifer the true king of the universe. I have personally seen pamphlets distributed to high school students in a Southern California city giving them detailed instructions on how to make a covenant with Lucifer. The material claims that Lucifer is the true god and advocates the blasphemy that Christ is a usurper. It tells the proper candles and incantations to use for the commitment of one’s soul to Satan.

Those who really give their souls to Satan are every one of these rock music people that are absolutely devoted and dedicated and open blasphemous tools of Satan the devil. All you have to listen to what they preach. Listen to the sounds that come out of there.

So it is that various forms of the occult have trapped many naïve and irresponsible souls into a form of anti-God, anti-Christ religious activity.

All for what? *So that you can gain the inner power that you possess!*

The evidence continues to mount that multiplied thousand are involving themselves in this aberrant, religious behavior.

Twenty years ago we would have been absolutely shocked to where the soles of our shoes would literally blow right off, if someone would have told us in 20 years they would have a riot between pagans and Christians in San Francisco.

The prophetic Scriptures warn us of the time when the world will worship the antichrist, the representative of the devil on earthy.

pp 114-115—So the spiritist and witchcraft scene commits itself to anti-God religious worship with all its frightening implications. Thousands have stood on smaller mountains than the mount of Christ’s temptation and looked on lesser kingdoms and have quickly said yes to Satan, where Christ said an emphatic no. The corrupt lives and blasted psyches of the hapless victims of today’s dark, satanic practices are an illustration of the kind of awful fate that was spared us by the moral victory of Christ.

This, I think, is the most powerful chapter that he has, right here.

This satanic doctrine can also be expressed in another form, helping us to see its frightening application to larger multitudes of people. In this variant version, Satan has said, "There is a way to human achievement other than the worship of and fidelity to the true God."

That's exactly the doctrine of all the public schools! I should have brought *The Humanist Manifesto #s 1 & 2*. That is absolutely incredible! That is the creed of the National Education Association and the teacher's union. Unbelievable! Oprah Winfrey professing the same thing!

In this lesser form, this doctrine of the devil has corrupted more millions of people than many of us can possibly imagine. Since God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, and since Jesus Christ is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, it follows that there is no morally correct alternative to doing the will of the true and living God.

Absolutely profound! There is no alternative!

To hold that any other entity in the universe has final value and therefore, can legitimately be worshiped for its own intrinsic worth is idolatry. There is no final value in the universe other than God. God, by His very nature, must be exclusivistic. He confesses that He is "a jealous God." This, of course, is not a fault in His personality, but simply a true expression that he is the ultimate fact, the uncaused cause. All other values are derivative of His value, His ultimacy.

It follows, therefore, that the commitment of one's life to any value or object of worship that is less than God is ultimately a satanic commitment.

That's the whole point of this chapter. Anything less than that, of worshipping God—that's why God says that you're to love God with 'all your heart, mind, soul, being and strength.' There is nothing else worthy of worship.

Jesus expressed this clearly by saying, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him *only* shall you serve" (emphasis added). There is no pluralism as to the rulership of the universe. All rulers derive their authority from the final rulership of God.

Tremendously written! Then he quotes Exo. 20 for the second commandment. Now you see why Jesus said, 'I am *the* Way, *the* Truth, and *the* Life.' I

tell you, even though we have maybe known—not expressed in the way that he has written this book—through Bible study understood somehow understood some of these things written here, and have at least lived by them without not necessarily totally articulating them as he has, what this book has done for me is helped give me more conviction concerning the Bible and the say of God, and concerning seeking God, than anything that I have done in past years.

He says of this commandment:

p 116—"You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make unto you any grave image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath... (Exo. 20:3-6).

This law is not some arbitrary municipal statue made by a local legislator. It is a simple necessity. If God is God, which He is, it could not be otherwise.

That truth has great implication for us. The Christian faith, by this world's standards, is a most exclusive, arrogant faith.

That's what we're going to be accused of by all the pagans. 'How dare you say that only in the name of Jesus Christ. How dare you say there is only one way.'

Christianity claims for itself ultimate truth, and it insists that other prepositional theologies are infinitely inferior to it. The Christian is to believe and serve no other truth and to admit to no other authority, in the sense of agreeing that that authority is final.

That's really something!

This concept of final truth enabled Christ to resist the offer of Satan. He took refuge, not in argument, but in the Word of God. Satan's offer was certainly most appealing, but it became utterly ridiculous in the light of the final truth of Scripture.

When you look at it this way, and instead of looking at the temptation to have all the kingdoms of the world given to Jesus by Satan in that temptation—if He would have succumbed to it—which we look at and from our finite little position looking out toward that, that is an awful lot. But let's look at from Jesus' perspective.

What was Satan really offering Jesus? *Nothing!* Why? *Because He had it all!* Isa. 44 tells us that 'all the kingdoms of this world are as nothing before God'—right? The power of them is like a 'drop in a bucket' and they're like the 'dust in the balance.' God says, 'The heaven is My throne! The earth is My footstool!' From Jesus' point of view:

Hebrews 1:2: "Whom He has appointed heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds." He would have traded the universe for the world. Not much comparison!

Verse 3: "Who, being *the* brightness of *His* glory and *the* exact image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His own power... [Satan could not add anything to Christ.] ...when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at *the* right hand of the Majesty on high."

Satan could not offer Jesus Christ anything! That's why it's really profound in the way that he has written it here.

That truth has great implication for us. The Christian faith, by this world's standards, is a most exclusive, arrogant faith.

Christianity claims for itself ultimate truth, and it insists that other propositional theologies are infinitely inferior to it. The Christian is to believe and serve no other truth and to admit to no other authority, in the sense of agreeing that that authority is final....

p 117—...His method was to invoke the authority of the Word of God....

How we can overcome the temptations:

...We must acquire a knowledge of the Word of God...

True, but not the whole answer.

...and we must invoke that knowledge at the point of moral pressure.

True, but not the complete answer.

Knowing and using the Bible will be for us, as it was for Christ, the source of spiritual strength that can produce victory over temptation.

The promise of personal vindication and triumph is utterly valid for us, if we follow the same commitment to the Word of God as was true about Jesus Christ there may be a thousand versions of this satanic doctrine, some of them so sophisticated as to be almost unanswerable, but they all are belied when we answer them with the refutation of Scripture. There is therefore, no better course to recommend than a thoroughgoing, working knowledge of the Bible. By this knowledge alone...[I feel he's wrong there] ...we will be able to withstand the wiles of the devil.

Not by that knowledge alone will we be able to withstand the wiles of the devil. ***We must do it***

with the Spirit of God! That's how it is to be done! The Word of God is the ammunition, but the power and the source comes from the Spirit of God.

1-John 4:1: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit..." Just because something supposedly spiritual happens does not mean it's 'religious' or if it is 'religious' it does not mean it's of God!

There was a report where everyone went absolutely 'bananas' over this Greek Orthodox icon that was supposedly weeping tears. I thought it was ridiculous. Like falling down in front of toys and say, 'Save us!' You can even buy baby dolls that weep. What's so hard about making an icon that can weep?

"...but **test the spirits**, whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this *test* you *can* know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in *the* flesh is from God" (vs 1-2).

Of course, the Catholics think that they profess that Jesus is, but they don't because they say His flesh was not like our flesh because He had immaculate conception, and so did Mary—which was formulated 1800 years afterward.

Verse 3: "And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not from God. And this is the *spirit* of antichrist, which you heard *was* to come, and even now it is already in the world." And now has been multiplied so many times over and compounded with every modern technology today upon us.

Verse 4: "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them... [Here is the key in addition to the Word of God] ...**because greater is He Who is in you than the one who is in the world.**"—being Satan the devil!

So, what we must do is let the Word of Christ—being Christ—the Word of God *in us* fight that battle against Satan the devil. Let that power come from God!

"...because **greater is He Who is in you than the one who is in the world.** They are of the world; because of this, they speak of the world, and the world listens to them" (vs 4-5). Isn't that wonderful! Isn't that lovely! Isn't that nice! And *God says it's an abomination!*

Matthew 7:13: "Enter in through the narrow gate..." Who is the Shepherd at the gate, at the door? *Christ!* ...for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and **many are those who enter through it.** That is the way of Satan, which he says is 'the better way.' But it isn't!

Verse 14: "For narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way that leads to life... [one leads to

death, the other one leads to life] ...and few are those who find it.

The way of God is infinitely better and far more powerful than Satan's way.

p 118—The spiritually perceptive soul is conscious that many idols are constantly attempting to creep onto the altar of worship of God. There are many external alternatives and inner attitudes that, with the help of Satan, can drive a wedge between us and our heavenly Father. In the face of these dreadful, satanic alternatives, we must heed the absolute command of Scripture, quoted by Jesus Christ: "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him **only** shall you serve."

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in its Original Order, a Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) Revelation 12:1-8
- 2) Ephesians 6:10-12
- 3) 2 Corinthians 4:1-5
- 4) 2 Peter 3:15-18
- 5) 2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15
- 6) Acts 19:8-30, 34, 41
- 7) John 8:31-34
- 8) Romans 6:16-23
- 9) 1 John 1:9
- 10) 2 Timothy 2:24-26
- 11) Hebrews 1:2-3
- 12) 1 John 4:1-5
- 13) Matthew 7:1-4

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 21; 22
- Luke 10:17-18
- Acts 19:1-7
- Revelation 13
- Romans 2
- Isaiah 44

Also referenced:

Book: *Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies* by Dave Breese

Articles:

- 'Spiritual Warfare' at Civic Auditorium (*San Francisco Chronicle*, Oct. 30, 1990; toobeautiful.org)
- The Humanist Manifesto #1 (ijnet.com/archives/documents/humanist)
- The Humanist Manifesto #2 (*American humanist.org*) (books on this can be found at Amazon.com)

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies X #10—Don't Go to the Cross

Fred R. Coulter

- Does God have a purpose?
- Is He accomplishing this purpose?
- If He is, what aspect of it does Satan fulfill?
- What does Satan do?

We're going to find that

- God does have a purpose
- God does have a will
- God does have a means and a way

that He's going to accomplish what He is going to do. When you think about God and talk about God and understand about God, you need to realize that

- if God *is* God—which He is
- if He is true—which He is
- if His Word is Truth—which it is

then the revelation of God to us tells us what God is doing. But it also tells us that there is another antagonist, and that is Satan the devil.

Satan the devil wants to take over God's place, God's throne, and Satan wants to get rid of Jesus Christ—all knowledge of Christ and all knowledge of God. But Satan is not going to succeed, because God has a purpose.

In this fight in the universe God is going to prevail, but let's see how Satan has always attacked God and how Satan is still attacking Christ and what he is doing to you. Satan is not going to rest until he comes after each and every human being. To either get them on his side, or to destroy them because they belong to Christ.

Isaiah 14:24: "The LORD of hosts has sworn..." Whenever you read in the Bible that God has sworn, that means you can be absolutely guaranteed that it's going to happen. God doesn't need to swear. He doesn't need to go into court and put His hand on the Bible as they do in court today and say, 'I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help me God,' and then turn around and lie. When God says He swears, that means that it is absolutely going to happen!

"...saying, 'Surely as I have thought, so it shall come to pass; and as I have purposed, so it shall stand'" (v 24). God is not going to be turned back. Satan has tried everything that he can to destroy God's way. But it's an impossibility to do it.

- ***God is greater than Satan!***
- ***God is more powerful than Satan!***

Verse 26: "This *is* the purpose that *is* purposed upon all the earth; and this *is* the hand that *is* stretched out upon all the nations, for the LORD of hosts has purposed, and who shall reverse *it*? And His hand *is* stretched out, and who shall turn it back?" (vs 26-27).

There is one being identified in the Bible as Satan the devil. He thinks that he is going to turn back the hand of God. He thinks that he is going to thwart the purpose of God. But Satan also has a purpose. What is that purpose? If he could succeed with Christ or against God or against all human kind, then Satan would, in fact, be God! That's what he is looking at. That is what he is trying to do!

What happened to Lucifer? After God created the heavens and the earth, and He created the angels and Lucifer was to be the 'light bringer'; then:

- he rebelled
- he went against God
- he went against the purpose of God

Remember Luke 10:18_[transcriber's correction], Jesus said, "...I beheld Satan fall as lightning from heaven."

Isaiah 14:12: "How you are fallen from the heavens [Lucifer], O shining star, son of the morning!.... [or light bringer] ...*How* you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!" That is sure true!

- We are weakened!
- We are indebted!
- We are diseased!
- We are corrupted!

All the nations of the world are, and it's going to be even more before the return of Jesus Christ.

Let's see Satan's purpose, because he has a purpose, and he is trying everything that he can to fulfill that purpose: *to be like God*; or *to be God!*

Verse 13: "For you have said in your heart, 'I will ascend *into* the heavens, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High'" (vs 13-14).

God says, 'Who can be compared to Me? In what likeness will you compare Me?' So, there is this great war going on.

When we go back to Revelation 12 we find the summation of the entire battle between God and Satan completely encapsulated for us. This encompasses everything that took place before Adam and Eve were created after God had to repair the earth with the destruction that took place in the war with Satan.

Also, it reveals what Satan is trying to do to us today, and what Satan tried to do to Jesus Christ when He was here. Stop and think of it for a minute. Go back to the beginning with Adam and Eve, and what did Satan say to them? He preached his purpose, his doctrine, and he said that *if you will eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and taste the fruit; for it tastes good and pleasant to the eyes and it's going to make you wise. If you do you shall be like God!*

Satan has tried to usurp God's purpose before Adam and Eve were created with the war in heaven. He was cast back down to the earth. Then he tried to succeed through Adam and Eve. He's going to eventually fail in that. He tried to destroy all human life until there were only eight left during the days of Noah, and God destroyed everything but those eight. Satan tried to thwart the plan of God at the Tower of Babel, and you just go right on down through the history of Israel and you see where Satan was there trying to destroy and thwart the plan of God. **But he has not won!** and **He will not win!**

Revelation 12:3: "And another sign was seen in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns on his heads; and his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth..." (vs 3-4). In symbolic and prophetic language, the stars mean angels. Satan drew a third of the angels with him.

- he is very convincing
- he is very subtle
- he is very powerful

And those angels became demons.

"...And the dragon stood before the woman..." (v 4)—personified in the person of Mary, who was a type of all Israel, also a type of the Church. So, the woman here portrays three specific things:

1. Israel
2. Mary
3. the Church

In this case, "...before the woman who was ready to deliver, so that he might devour her child when she gave birth" (v 4). That is talking about Mary specifically. Satan was there to devour the child. Satan was there to try and destroy Christ, as we will see all the way along in his battle and war against

Christ during His ministry. Satan was intent, unrelenting, just so powerful against Christ all the time. If Satan could have once gotten Christ to sin; if Satan could have gotten Christ to obey him once in anything, then Satan would have succeeded in destroying Christ and the plan and purpose of God. Not many people really understand and realize that fantastic part in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

So, as soon as the child was born, Satan tried to devour and destroy Him. He tried to beforehand also.

Verse 5: "And she gave birth to a man child, Who was to shepherd all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and His throne." There is a really brief resume of the whole Gospel encapsulated right there.

Verse 6: "And the woman escaped into the wilderness... [v 7]: And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels warred against the dragon, and the dragon and **his angels** warred." The third of the angels that followed Lucifer became demons and they are there doing Satan's purpose and Satan's will.

Verse 8: "But they did not prevail, neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, the ancient serpent who is called the Devil and Satan, who is deceiving... [actively, ongoing, now] ...the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him" (vs 8-9).

Let's notice something here, because this shows that there was war against Christ, to destroy Him. But it also shows that there was war against us, because it says, v 10: "...who accuses them day and night before our God." There is an intense war even against you!

Let's first of all examine the war against Christ. There are some very interesting things that we'll find in the book of Matthew. We will see that Satan tried to destroy Jesus Christ *before* He was born. We find when Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant before they got married, he was going to go ahead and divorce her, put her away. In today's society, Satan would have been there to try and tempt Mary to have an abortion. Of course then, that would have destroyed Christ.

God had to reveal to Joseph through an angel as he thought on this, what he was going to do. Joseph was going to put her away privately. That means *divorce her*—quietly; not make a public spectacle.

Matthew 1:20: "But as he pondered these things, behold, an angel of *the* Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be

afraid to take Mary to *be* your wife, because that which has been begotten in her is of *the* Holy Spirit.” That’s exactly what happened.

1. Satan Uses Herod to Try to Destroy Jesus Christ

After Jesus was born, who was the first one that Satan used to try and destroy Jesus—innocent little baby; try and destroy Him. Of course, what Herod did, it talks about what happened; talks about how the wise men came—there may have been more than three—and they asked:

Matthew 2:2: “‘Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east, and have come to worship Him.’ But when Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him” (vs 2-3). Herod wanted to know all about this. Herod was jealous, and wondering, ‘I wonder who He is. When you wise men find out who He is you come back and tell me so that I can also go and worship Him.’

After the wise men gave their presents and gifts to Jesus and worshiped Him, v 12: “But being Divinely instructed in a dream not to go back to Herod... [God has His part in directing what He wanted to do. God’s will is going to be done.] ...they returned to their own country by another way. Now after they had departed, behold, an angel of *the* Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, ‘Arise and take the little child and His mother, and escape into Egypt, and remain there until I shall tell you; for Herod is about to seek the little child to destroy Him.’” (vs 12-13).

Satan was right there putting it in the heart and mind of Herod to destroy Jesus, so they left. God warned them and they left at night and were gone.

Verse 16: “Then Herod, seeing that he had been mocked by the Magi, was filled with rage; and he sent *and* put to death all the boys who *were* in Bethlehem and in the area all around, from two years old and under...” So, there was a great slaughter of children, because Satan—in his wrath stirred up inside Herod—wanted to kill and destroy Christ. That is the war that began right there to destroy Christ. It also occurred throughout His entire life.

After this Herod had died, there was another, Herod Antipas. People came along and were trying to warn Jesus about Herod.

2. Satan Uses the Pharisees Try to Destroy Jesus Christ

Luke 13:31: “On the same day certain Pharisees came to Him, saying, ‘Go out and depart from this place because Herod desires to kill You.’ And He said to them, ‘Go *and* say to that fox,

‘Behold, I cast out demons and complete healings today and tomorrow, and the third *day* I shall be perfected’” (vs 31-32). Jesus wasn’t afraid.

Jesus was not afraid at all of what Herod could do to Him, and God protected Him when He was a child and Jesus resisted Herod when He was in His ministry.

The next tool that Satan used to destroy Christ was, in fact, the Pharisees themselves. Even on the Sabbath—supposed to be the Holy Day of God, which it is—the Pharisees were claiming how righteous they were—which they weren’t. After Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath Day and told him to take up his bedroll and go, the Jews sought after Jesus.

John 5:18: “So then, on account of this *saying*, the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, not only because He had loosed the Sabbath...” Jesus was chased out of towns! Jesus was sought after to be killed, destroyed! We find that at one time they couldn’t lay their hands on Him because ‘His hour was not yet.’

Let’s see what happened in the synagogue where Jesus preached. After doing a fantastic and tremendous miracle: Mark 3:1: “And again He went into the synagogue, and a man who had a withered hand was there. And they were watching Him *to see* if He would heal him on the Sabbath, in order that they might accuse Him” (vs 1-2).

- Who is the accuser of the brethren? *Satan!*
- Who is the accuser of God? *Satan!*
- Who is the enemy of both? *Satan!*

But Satan uses human beings to do his work. Now look at what happened in this scene:

Verse 3: “Then He said to the man who had the withered hand, ‘Stand up *here* in the center.’ And He said to them, ‘Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbaths, or to do evil? To save life, or to kill?’ But they were silent. And after looking around at them with anger, being grieved at the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ And he stretched *it* out, and his hand was restored *as* sound as the other” (vs 3-5).

Rather than rejoicing; rather than being happy; rather than being glad that the man was healed, notice what the Pharisees did:

Verse 6: “Then the Pharisees left *and* immediately took counsel with the Herodians...” We’ve had something to say about Herod before—didn’t we? Well, the Herodians were the followers of the party of Herod.

“...against Him *as to* how they might destroy Him” (v 6). At every turn Satan the devil was there

to try and destroy Jesus Christ; to try and keep God from fulfilling His purpose.

Jesus said of God's purpose: *I did not come on My own; I did not come to do My will, but the will of the Father Who has sent Me!* God was going to do and complete His purpose in spite of all that the Pharisees could do or wanted to do. You read time and time again:

- they were to cast Him over a cliff; but He escaped
- they were going to get stones and stone Him

'Oh we're just dying and anxious, tell us who You really are. Are you the Son of God?' Jesus said, 'I have told you before that I am the Son of God.' Then they sought to stone Him because of that. So, Jesus said, 'Why are you seeking to stone Me, for what good work are you going to stone Me?' *We're not trying to stone you for a good work, but because You, being a man, said that you are the Son of God.* Jesus said, 'Isn't it written in your own law that He said, *you are Gods*, and the Scripture cannot be broken?' Then He had to escape out of their hands again so that He would not be stoned.

Satan was there to try and destroy Jesus Christ all the way along in everything that Jesus did. Let's look at another account.

3. Satan Uses the Elements to Try and Destroy Jesus Christ

Many people really do not even get the picture of this. Mark 4:36: "And after dismissing the multitude, they took Him with *them*, as He was *already* in the ship; and there were many other small ships with Him also. And a violent windstorm came up..." (vs 36-37).

- Who is the prince of the power of the air? *Satan!*
- Has Satan ever used storms before to destroy? *Yes, read the book of Job!*

There was a whirlwind that came and destroyed, and the Bible reveals that Satan was given permission of God to do that to Job.

I want you to notice what was taking place here; I want you to notice the reaction of the disciples; and I want you to notice *carefully* what Jesus said and did, and we have to examine why and the way He said what He said.

"...and the waves were crashing into the ship so forcefully that it was rapidly filling up" (v 37). It says in the parallel account in Matthew that the waves were great.

I don't know if you've ever been in a boat

where the waves coming in on you are great; or if you've been on a ship on the ocean. And believe me, when you stand on a pier and look at the ship it looks gigantic! But when you get out on the ocean, in the middle of the ocean, and you look around and see all the ocean, it is so teeny it is unbelievable!

I remember one time when I was on a troop ship coming back from Japan, after spending a year in Korea, that we were in a storm in the Gulf of Alaska coming back to Seattle. There were waves almost as high as that huge ship, which made it look like a little tinker-toy.

Just imagine that you're in a smaller boat. Obviously, in the Sea of Galilee they can't have very big boats there; they can't have troop ships like we would see today. So, here are the disciples and here comes this storm that the waves were so much that they were crashing in, coming over, and the boat is filling up with water.

Verse 38: "Now He was at the stern... [the back of the ship] ...sleeping on a cushion. And they aroused Him, and said to Him, 'Master, don't You care that we are perishing?' And after being awakened, **He rebuked the wind...**" (vs 38-39). Why would He *rebuke* the wind? The Greek gives the meaning or connotation like you would *command* or *reprimand*. Why would He do that? *Because Satan was there stirring up the storm, hoping to sink the boat and drown them all in the water!*

We have another account where Peter, in another storm, walked on the water to meet Christ. That's another whole subject. The point is, Satan was there stirring up the storm and Jesus had to come and *rebuke* it!

"...and said to the sea, 'Silence! Be still.' And the wind died, and there was a great calm" (v 39). Who is more powerful? Satan? *or* Christ? *Obviously Christ!* Satan is there as the antagonist! He was there dogging Jesus' life step-by-step, seeking every way to destroy Him; seeking every means to keep Jesus from fulfilling His purpose; to keep Jesus from going to the cross.

Satan knew that if Jesus made it to the cross, that he was through. So, Satan was seeking everything he could do to keep Jesus from obtaining that purpose and going to the cross.

4. Satan Tempts Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Jesus went out there before He was arrested and was praying for strength from the Father, asking the Father to give Him the strength, power and ability to go through the crucifixion. It was a great agony. If Satan could have gotten to Him there, and

would have discouraged Jesus so much that Jesus would have said, 'Father, I can't go through this'—*Satan would have succeeded!* Satan didn't want Jesus going to the cross to be crucified.

Luke 22:41: "And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw; and falling to *His* knees, He prayed, saying, 'Father, **if You are willing to take away this cup from Me...** [That temptation was there; the weakness of a human being—as He was the Son of man—was there.] **...nevertheless, not My will, but Your will be done**'" (vs 41-42). Yes, God's purpose, God's plan, God's way is going to be done and carried out in spite of all human beings! Yes, it will!

Verse 43: "Then an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly...." (vs 43-44). The whole power of God had to be there to give Him the strength because of the agony and the wretchedness of the crucifixion that Jesus would have to go through. Satan was right there tempting him: 'Don't go! Don't go!' So, Jesus was strengthened.

"...And His sweat became as great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (v 44). That was a pretty powerful prayer that Jesus had to go through. Notice the strength that He had:

Verse 45: "And after rising up from prayer, He came to *His* disciples *and* found them sleeping for grief." Isn't that the way it always is with us as human beings? When the important moments come along we're asleep at the switch!

Verse 46: "Then He said to them, 'Why are you sleeping? Arise and pray, **so that you do not enter into temptation.**'" Why did He say that? *Obviously, Satan was there trying to get Jesus not to go to the cross!*

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies by Dave Breese is one of the most profound books you can have today. In this book he has #10—Don't Go to the Cross. That is talking about Satan's efforts to get Jesus to not go to the cross. Also, Satan's effort to get us to not go to the cross. That is the war against Jesus that Satan was perpetrating against Him, and also, *against us!*

Let's see some of the comments that Dave Breese has written. You don't need God. Who needs God? Who needs stupid religion? Who needs all of these things? *You don't need that! You just need yourself!* There's no God! There's no purpose! Eat, drink and make merry and have a good time.

p 119-120—Life has a purpose.

Life does have a purpose! You need to understand why you were born; the very purpose why God has

created you. What are you going to do with life? What are you doing with it now? or Are you like the disciples, sound asleep at the switch and ready to enter into temptation? Ready to give up on God? Ready to say, 'Oh well, you know, this God bit is no good. I don't need God anymore.'

Then you are being deceived into exactly what Satan wants, that you don't go to the cross of Christ and have your sins forgiven and walk in God's way. Satan then has won that battle! He has executed *his* purpose in your life.

We are here in this world on a Divine mission. There is a reason for our existence, a reason that is realizable in time and understandable in the light of eternity. Unfortunately, this fact remains forever obscure to most people.

Just to show you how obscure it is to most people. Just take one little thing that happened during the election in California (1990). It was just one little blurb on one little report on the votes. There was a man in northern California in one of the most liberal counties, which has a lot of homosexuality, New Ageism, witchcraft, and all the things that go with that: adultery, fornication, demonism, Satan-worship, the whole thing.

Here was a man who stood for the one truth. He was totally and absolutely against abortion. Guess how many votes he received in that liberal county? *None! Not one vote!* So, it is not extreme for Breese to say that the fact of the purpose of God's plan remains hidden forever to most people, because they love their evil. They love their deception.

The lives of a majority of people, and most would readily admit it, are without a personal goal.

God has given us the great overall personal goal of seeking first the Kingdom of God. But how many people have any goals in their lives? What are you going to do tomorrow? What are you going to do the next day? What is your life? Where are you going? What are you doing? Most lives are accidents walking along and waiting for a disaster to happen in the palm of the hand of Satan the devil.

If it ever occurs to them that life has a purpose, they quickly escape from this nagging suspicion into a world of amusement or indulgence.

Just to show what it's like. On my way over this morning I stopped at 7-Eleven and I got a cup of coffee. I walked into the store right about 9 a.m. and they had this terrible, awful rock music banging away. It wouldn't have been so bad if it wasn't so

loud. The rock music scrambles every brain that ever listens to it, so don't anyone come and try to defend rock music to me under any basis at all, under any circumstances. That is totally satanic, demonic and meant to destroy, pervert and scramble your brain.

Whenever I hear this it just sets me on edge. I looked at the clerk and said, 'How can you stand that; it's only nine in the morning?' It does good to complain. He went and turned it to another station and said, 'How's that?' I said, 'That's lovely.'

Most people don't even know! It just their music, their indulgence, their sports, whatever they're going to do; their hobby, they're just *driven* to do their own thing. Who's doing the driving? *Satan the devil!*

Life's purpose is given insufficient attention by most of us. This inattention becomes tragic when we remember that nothing in all of the world becomes useful or significant unless it functions in the fulfillment of its purpose....

That includes *you* and what is the purpose for *your* existence? Why did God create *you*? and me? and all human beings? Satan doesn't want us to fulfill our purpose; he wants to destroy us!

We can draw an inference from this disinterest in life's purpose, namely, that when a person ignores the purpose of life...

Isn't that something? That we walk around in the world—most of the world—blinded, deceived, empty, hollow, wretched, miserable, to where now in grade school one of the biggest crimes is rape! They don't know what to do about solving the problem—the *poor, bleeding satanic hearts!* Put in the commandments of God and you will stop all of that nonsense! They miss the whole purpose in life!

...he is not merely stupid, he is spiritually subverted.

- Why are you here?
- Why were you born?
- What is the meaning of your life?
- What is the meaning of life?
- Where is God?
- What should you do about it?

He is being drawn into irrationality by a force acting upon his thought processes, clouding his reason, so that he does not see the foolishness of his position. As Scripture warns, Satan himself is blinding his mind so that the simple truth that life has a purpose continues to escape him.

We have already seen that one of the doctrines of the devil is to suggest that God has no true destiny for our lives. The final satanic doctrine what we shall consider is an expansion of this earlier suggestion. It is the call that says, "Don't give yourself to fulfill the purpose that God has for your life." Or, as he expressed it, in effect, "Don't go to the cross."

We can express it yet in another way: ***Don't let Satan win his war against you!***

This satanic doctrine is revealed through a conversation between Christ and His disciples. As Christ approached the end of His three-year ministry, He began to introduce to His disciples the subject of His coming suffering and death on the cross. The possibility of the death of their beloved Leader was a prospect so foreign to the thinking of the disciples that they were hardly able to comprehend His presentation of this unspeakable fate. Was He not the Messiah? Did He not come to establish a great kingdom? Were not they, the disciples, to reign with Him in that kingdom? With these questions in mind, they could hardly endure the dark foreboding that grew in their minds as Christ talked about the future.

Let's see about a very interesting and profound event.

(go to the next track)

When we read these Scriptures, it misses most people. They don't understand it. Today, you would be thought of as totally arrogant, totally neglecting the law, the concern that Peter had in his heart for Jesus.

Matthew 16:21: "From that time Jesus began to explain to His disciples that it was necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem, and to suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and to be killed, and to be raised the third day. But after taking *Him* aside, Peter personally began to rebuke Him, saying, '*God will be favorable to you, Lord. In no way shall this happen to You.*'" (vs 21-22). We won't let it happen. What did some of the disciples say, 'We are ready to go to the death with You.'

Peter said that, and what did Jesus say to him? *Before the night is over, you're going to deny Me three times! Did that not happen? Sure did!* Everyone of these things was a satanic attempt to keep Jesus from going to the cross.

'Some people miss how that Satan was there trying to get Peter. Let's see what Jesus told Peter. If

Satan was there trying to get Simon Peter; if Satan was there trying to destroy Jesus Christ; if Satan was there, trying in any way, to keep Jesus from fulfilling the purpose of God, *he would have done it!* He tried! He tried!

Luke 22:31: "Then the Lord said, 'Simon, Simon, listen *well*. Satan has demanded to have you, to sift *you* as wheat.'" That's a profound statement! If Satan desired him, does Satan desire you? Does Satan desire every Christian? Does Satan desire to try and subvert every minister? Satan there to try and twist, distort, change and get people off the track of following God with:

- *false doctrines*
- *subtle changes*

The Bible says that 'even so much that the very elect could be deceived, they would.' That's why Satan wanted Peter. What a great prize! He would have been, in fact, the first pope! But Satan didn't get him, because Jesus said to Peter, 'I pray for you that your faith fail not, and when you are converted, strengthen the brethren.'

With that in mind, when Peter said, 'Oh, Lord, we're not going to let this happen. Far be it from You that You're going to go to Jerusalem and be killed and suffer many things of the elders. We'll see to that, Lord.'

Matthew 16:23: "Then He [Jesus] turned and said to Peter, '**Get behind Me, Satan!**....'" Why did He say that? *Because Satan was right there and Peter at that moment was a tool of Satan the devil in a subtle way.* Peter thought that he was going to 'save the bacon' for Jesus, that He wouldn't have to suffer this death. Satan was right there trying to keep Jesus from *going to the cross, and Jesus said:*

"...'**Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me...** [Pretty powerful words—right? What does Satan appeal to?] ...because your thoughts are not *in accord* with the things of God, but the things of men'" (v 23). Looking at it from a human perspective

- we have love
- we have concern
- Lord, we won't let this happen to you, we're good people

Sounds just like these sickening politicians. Every time I see one of them on television or at some of the so-called hearings and someone says, 'We are concerned...' You can almost be guaranteed that's satanic!

Satan has his counterfeit love. Satan has his way of trying to subtly come in and 'do-gooders' to thwart and go against the will of God. Jesus didn't

say, 'Well now, Peter, I appreciate your loving concern.' He just said, "**...Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me...**" Pretty powerful words!

That means that in this battle that Satan is warring against you, don't let your own human thought take precedence over the Word of God. Maybe those thoughts could be just as satanically inspired as it was in Peter. I'm not saying that you may be Satan-possessed or demon-possessed by any means. But Satan is the 'prince of the power of the air' and we're warned to put on the 'helmet of salvation' to protect our thoughts.

p 123—...The issue is clear, and Satan must be denounced. In this instant and total repudiation of Satan we see one of the reasons his temptation of Christ did not succeed: Christ was determined to go to the cross and fulfill the will of His Father.

Jesus said, 'I must work the works of God while it is light.'

5. **Satan tries to destroy Jesus when He was on the cross**

How about when Jesus was on the cross; that's another whole story. Let's see the temptation that came along. After Jesus was on the cross and the sign was put up there by Herod.

Matthew 27:37: "And they put up over His head His accusation, written, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'"

Verse 39: "Then those who were passing by railed at Him, shaking their heads, and saying, 'You Who *would* destroy the temple and rebuild *it* in three days, save Yourself. If You are *the* Son of God, come down from the cross.'" (vs 39-40). If He would have—and He could have—the purpose of God would have been thwarted by Satan the devil.

Notice who was there cheering on this attitude, v 41: "And in the same way also the chief priests were mocking, with the scribes and elders, saying, 'He saved others, *but* He does not have the power to save Himself. If He is the King of Israel, let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe Him'" (vs 41-42). No, they wouldn't!

Maybe they would have, because then Jesus would have been a tool in the hands of Satan. They would have said, 'Oh, this is wonderful! This is marvelous!' But you would have had no sacrifice. You would have no forgiveness from sin. Mankind could not have possibly been saved if Satan would have succeeded in getting Jesus not to go to the cross, or come down from off the cross. Jesus didn't come down off the cross; He stayed there and died. When Jesus

died, that empowered Him to destroy the works of the devil. That empowered God's plan to go forward for the forgiveness of the sins of all of those God calls to repentance, and offering the forgiveness and the way out.

The Bible says that the crucifixion, Satan—the prince of this world—is cast out and judgment came upon him. Now, through death, Jesus destroyed the works of the devil, which means that the devil has been defeated. Yet, there were two more attempts that Satan tried. He was wanting to have the body stolen and removed so that Jesus could not be raised the third day. But God made sure that there was a big stone in front of the tomb. And even used the Pharisees and scribes to seal up the tomb and post guards so that His body would not be taken.

Then the finality of thwarting all of Satan's purpose was the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Now God's plan could move forward, and the power of God's way could take effect.

pp 124-125—The results in the life of the person who believes in Jesus Christ will be correspondingly great.

With God has done through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. You read there in Rom. 6 how that we are buried with Him in baptism unto His death! We're crucified with Him! Now we're going to begin to see the war against *you* and *me* to get us to not go to the cross of Christ for that forgiveness—and we need to.

However, we may be sure that Satan will come to every one of us and preach the same destructive doctrine of self-preservation. In many way, he will say, "Don't be a fool. Don't give yourself to so ridiculous a course as the denial of yourself in order to accomplish some abstract spiritual purpose. Accomplishment is here and now. It is made out of money, material, cars, homes, and human applause.... [and recognition] ...This is the only world we know anything about, and any man is a fool to live for the world to come. Enjoy yourself. Live it up" With these and many other propositions, Satan continues to play the hackneyed record that one is a fool to live for any moment beyond the existential now. He has not been without real help in promoting that theme. From the old atheistic philosophers to the modern television writers, Satan's media representatives in almost every field have denied the existence of spiritual value or eternal purpose in life and avidly promoted that soul-destroying message.

As a result, the theme of our generation is, "live now, it's later than you think."

Then you look at the millions of lives that have been destroyed because of that!

Now let's see what Jesus says to us, Matthew 16:24: "And Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, **let him deny himself, and let him take up his cross and follow Me.**'" Satan doesn't want you to go to the cross of Christ, and Satan doesn't want you to take up the burdens of your life to bring them to Christ and follow Him. So, you have your own cross to carry as it were; Jesus said so!

Verse 25: "For whoever desires to save his life shall lose it; but whoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world, but loses his life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?" (vs 25-26). Quite powerful words—aren't they?

Let's see what else Jesus said was our cross to bear; or coming to the cross of Jesus—which we have to. There is no man that can ever see eternal life unless they first come to the cross of Jesus Christ. It doesn't matter how well intentioned you are. It doesn't matter how good you think you are. It doesn't matter how evil other people are. It is what is your life. and who are you and who am I, and how is our relationship with Christ. There are things that we have got to do, and Jesus said so. They are pretty powerful! It's not that you can open your heart and give it to the Lord and say, 'I accept Jesus as my Lord.' Let's go to the Crystal Palace and have fun, fun, fun, good, good, good, wonderful, wonderful, wonderful! Jesus didn't say that.

Luke 14:25: "And great multitudes were going with Him; and He turned *and* said to them:

Why, I thank you everyone for following Me.
What a wonderful group of people you are.
Let's all work together and bring the will of God on the earth.

Bunch of baloney! He didn't say that. I say that in cynicism because so many people think that. ***That is Satan's way of thinking!*** Not God's way. Here's Christ's way of thinking:

Verse 26: "If anyone comes to Me..." I want you to ask this of yourself: Am I bearing my cross? Am I coming the cross of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness and remission of my sins?

"...and does not hate..."—love less in comparison in a sense to the purpose of God. You're not going to let anything stand in your way; everything else to deter you from it is the hatred of Satan the devil.

In that sense, yes, you must love God more

than "...his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brothers and sisters, and, in addition, his own life also..." (v 26). Your own life! You come to the point in your life that you *hate* your life.

I know that's the opposite of self-esteem. But I can tell you one thing for sure, you can have greater esteem in God than greater esteem in yourself. Unless you deny yourself in the presence of God, you're not going to have eternal life.

Jesus said, unless you do that, "...he cannot be My disciple" (v 26). The Greek there means it's *impossible*; there is no power that can make you 'My disciple.'

Verse 27: "And whoever does not carry his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."

Romans 6:3—concerning how this is accomplished. There is a profound transference that takes place when you are baptized. Baptism has to be a complete burial, fully submersed in water, because there is a meaning to that.

Romans 6:3: "Or are you ignorant that we, as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized **into** His death?" That has a profound meaning.

- It's not just a baptism so *you* can be 'good.'
- It's not just a baptism so now *you* can 'join a religion.'
- It's not a baptism so *you* can be the 'focal point.'

You have to deny yourself. You are baptized:

- *into* Christ Jesus
- *into* God's plan
- *into* God's purpose
- *into* the very being of Jesus Christ

Verse 4: "Therefore, we were buried with Him... [that's how we deny ourselves; we bury the old self] ...through the baptism **into** the death; so that, just as Christ was raised from *the* dead by the glory of the Father, in the same way, we also should walk in newness of life."

- God's way
- God's purpose
- God's love
- God's commandments
- God's Word

In our heart and mind and inward parts, and

- God's Spirit

to lead us, guide us and direct us! Not the way of this world!

Verse 5: "For if we have been conjoined together in the likeness of His death, so also shall we be *in the likeness* of His resurrection. Knowing this, that our old man... [old self] ...**was co-crucified with Him...**" (vs 5-6). In a sense your cross is:

- your human nature
- your way
- your thoughts
- your life

as it exists apart from God is dead; crucified with Christ. Have you gone to the cross of Christ? Are you going there on a continuous basis?

"...**in order that the body of sin...** [which dwells in you] ...**might be destroyed**, so that we might no longer be enslaved to sin" (v 6)—and Satan. We serve God and Christ. That's what becomes the most profound and important thing that we need to do.

How do we do that? Let's see some more about this crucifying of the self. Can you say this with the Apostle Paul:

Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ, yet, I live.... [still live in the flesh] ...*Indeed*, it is no longer I..." You're not living for yourself; you're not living for the world; you're not living for Satan. ***You're living for God!***

"...but Christ lives in me..." That's why you've got to come to the cross of Christ. That you can have your old self, your old nature—which has been inspired and run by, and directed and controlled by Satan the devil—be removed and Christ is in you.

"...For *the life* that I am now living in *the* flesh, I live by faith—that *very faith* of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me" (v 20). That's why you need to come to the cross of Christ.

What are you going to do that Satan is there accusing you day and night? *You have the crucifixion of Christ. The cross of Christ to protect you!*

Revelation 12:10: "...because the accuser of our brethren has been cast down, who accuses them day and night before our God. But they overcame him..." (vs 10-11). You can overcome Satan. You can absolutely, completely thwart him and stop him and have him been removed from your life. That doesn't mean you won't have other temptations and things that come along.

But here's how you overcome: "...through the blood of the Lamb..." The blood of Christ has got to cover your very life, your sins, by that perfect,

spotless sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

“...and through the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death” (v 11). It may require your physical death, whether by martyrdom or being faithful to the end.

One final admonition that comes from God:

- how you can resist Satan the devil and
- how you can continually come to the cross of Christ every day.
- how you can let the blood of Christ cover you
- how you can also win this war against Satan

He is warring against Christ. He is warring against you and all the brethren of God in the world. Here's what we need to do:

1-Peter 5:6: “Be humbled, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt you in *due* time; casting all your cares upon Him, because He cares for you” (vs 6-7).

- Whatever your care!
- Whatever your worry!
- Whatever your problem!
- Whatever your difficulty!

Don't let Satan get an entrance into your mind to turn you from God, to keep you from going to the cross of Christ.

Verse 8: “Be sober! Be vigilant! For your adversary *the* devil is prowling about as a roaring lion, seeking anyone he may devour. Whom resist, steadfast in the faith, knowing *that* the same afflictions are being fulfilled among your brethren who *are* in *the* world” (vs 8-9).

Jesus said, ‘Be of good cheer, I've overcome the world!’ That's even though you're going to have tribulation. We can overcome Satan! We can overcome the world!

Verse 10: “Now, **may the God of all grace, Who has called us unto His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, Himself perfect you, establish, strengthen, and settle you.**”

Don't heed Satan's message, which says, ‘Don't go to the cross of Christ.’ ***You go to the cross of Christ and fulfill your purpose; fulfill the purpose of God in your life, and you will win the battle against Satan!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) Isaiah 14:24, 26-27
- 2) Luke 10:18
- 3) Isaiah 14:12-14
- 4) Revelation 12:3-10
- 5) Matthew 1:20
- 6) Matthew 2:2-3, 12-13, 16
- 7) Luke 13:31-32
- 8) John 5:18
- 9) Mark 3:1-6
- 10) Mark 4:36-39
- 11) Luke 22:41-46
- 12) Matthew 16:21-22
- 13) Luke 22:31
- 14) Matthew 16:23
- 15) Matthew 27:37, 39-42
- 16) Matthew 16:24-26
- 17) Luke 14:25-27
- 18) Romans 6:3-6
- 19) Galatians 2:20
- 20) Revelation 12:10-11
- 21) 1 Peter 5:6-10

Also referenced: Book

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies by Dave Breese

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies XI The Solution!

Fred R. Coulter

Today we're going to finish this series from the book *Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies* by Dave Breese. Let me just read the back of the cover, because this is very important for today. In the end-time we know that Satan is seeking to destroy all knowledge of Christ; all knowledge of any Christianity; he's seeking to destroy every Christian and to literally wipe us from the face of the earth.

Here is a summary of the book, which is fitting for this final sermon:

Satanic activity on earth takes many forms.

Always keep that in mind: *many, many, many forms!*

His overt activities—witchcraft, sorcery, and related occult practices—are well-known in many circles. But more devastating may be his covert attacks on unsuspecting victims.

That's what we have to protect ourselves from, the covert attack. When I finish this series, I'm going to go through—because of necessity—there are so many people coming out with many different prophecies and strange interpretations of the Bible that I'm going to have to do a series on *Polemics for God!* A polemic is a defense for the Truth of God, so you can understand some of these covert activities that are coming along and to reach in and deceive people.

Just to show you how this can happen, we know some brethren who used to believe in the Bible exactly the same as we do, and now they have suddenly come to 'new truth.' That 'new truth' is that they

- changed the day of the Passover
- on the Day of Atonement they no longer have to fast

After their church services on the Day of Atonement—which God commands us to afflict our souls—they had coffee and cake and enjoyed it. They had a wonderful time and went out and had dinner afterward.

So, you see the covert attacks, the things that reach in to change doctrine, to change Truth, are the things that we have to be absolutely most concerned with.

While Satan's public activity has deceived millions, he has led astray other millions with false doctrine.

Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies describes ten of the enemy's false doctrines. Each chapter defines a satanic lie and compares it to the Truth found in Scripture.

Here are the ten satanic lies in review:

1. God is a Cosmic Sadist
2. God is a Liar
3. Man is God's Slave
4. Man Serves God Only for Human Rewards
5. Adversity Results in Turning from God
6. This Life is Everything
7. God is a Magician Working Miracles on Demand
8. God's Promises Are for Our Worldly Profit
9. Satan's Way is the Best Way
10. God Has No Purpose for Your Life

In this final one, we're going to ask the question: What is the solution for these satanic believable lies.

Let's first of all begin in 1-John 4, and this is in the way of a slight review. But this is something that is so very important to understand and realize when we're dealing with the Truth of God, when we're living in a world where satanic activity has been increased and multiplied so many times over because of the things of media and modern communication, television and radio, music, politics, and the printed word are just flooding and gushing everything that there is.

Here is the comforting thing as we found out that God is *for you!* 1-John 4:4: "You are of God, little children, and have overcome **them...**"—referring to the false prophets and false spirits in vs 1-3. *We can* overcome! We don't have to succumb to the attacks and the lies of Satan the devil. We don't have to slide back into oblivion because you may feel alone and struggling in this world to just try and get by and survive. No, you have overcome them:

"...because greater is He Who *is* in you than the one who *is* in the world." Let's see what "...greater is He Who *is* in you..."—that is Jesus Christ.

- Did Jesus Christ overcome Satan the devil? *Yes!*
- Did He win that battle? *Yes!*
- Can you win that battle? *Yes!*

We're going to see how!

Colossians 1:26: “*Even* the mystery that has been hidden from ages and from generations, but has now been revealed to His saints.” How can it be that God can work within our lies, our hearts and our minds, and that we can totally overcome Satan the devil, totally overcome the world and attain to the resurrection of the dead when Christ returns.

- that is the tremendous mystery
- that is the tremendous plan of God
- that is the tremendous purpose that God has for us

Verse 27: “To whom God did will to make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you**, the hope of glory.”

If the One Who is in you is Christ, He is greater than the one in the world, and that is Satan the devil.

- Christ is greater!
- Christ can help you overcome!
- Christ can change all of these things for you!
- Christ can work in your life!

He has defeated Satan; he no longer rules in your life. He wants to come back and try and get you. He wants to come back and try and subvert you. He wants to cause a lot of difficulties and problems for you. However, let's see what it is that we are going to do to overcome this world. We have to overcome the world. I'll tell you one thing, if you want to know if you're overcoming the world, just try this on for size:

Do you feel estranged from the world? *If your answer is yes, then you're making progress!* If you feel that this world is kind of just crushing in on you from every side, then what God's Spirit *in you* is telling you is that you are fighting the world; you are fighting Satan the devil; and you are winning. So, don't worry about it. God is there and will protect you, because “**...greater is He that is in you, than he who is in the world.**” That's very profound and very important, and what we have to remember and just burn right in the frontlets of our mind.

1-John 5:4: “Now then, everyone who is begotten by God overcomes the world...” It is something you are doing; it's not a fait accompli; it is not final right now.

- We still have to finish the race.
- We still have to finish the fight.
- We still have to come to the end.

But you are overcoming the world! As you feel more estranged from the world, and as you feel how

wrong and awful the world is, that means you're overcoming it. The Spirit of God *in you* is convicting you and giving you that strength.

Perhaps 20 years ago it would be thought of as very strange. If someone would have said for a Christian he's going to have to really limit his or her viewing of television, but I tell you today, that is exactly what we're going to have to do. The bombardment of Satan is so absolutely attacking all of the values, all of the standards, all of the morality of God and Christ and the commandments of God, that it's almost an impossibility to view a commercial without having your mind exposed to some sort of satanic faldral designed to get some sort of sex across in your mind; or some sort of blaspheme or stupidity across so that he can have an entrance into your mind.

Verse 4: “Now then, everyone who is begotten by God overcomes the world; and **this is the victory**... [God guarantees us a victory!] ...that overcomes the world—our faith.” That's why our faith has to be that we are seeking God, because God *is* God. Not because God is going to necessarily going to give us something—which He will; not because God is going to give us blessings—which He will; not that God is God is going to do all of these things in a physical world for us—He may or may not do that. However, you must have the faith to be seeking God *because He is God*, and that is how you're overcoming this world. That brings you the victory.

Verse 5: “Who is the one who overcomes the world? Even the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” There have been many, many attacks on the Son of God. There have been many, many attacks as to whether God sent Jesus Christ and whether Jesus Christ was in fact God before He became human.

That's one of the first things that we're going to address. That's one of the things that is always under attack. If you want to know how to identify satanic doctrine, it is whenever the person and Divinity of Jesus Christ is under attack. That's why this believing, faith and overcoming is so very important.

Verse 19: “**We know that we are of God...**” Let's think on that for a minute. That's something you have to know positively. What is something you have to have as knowledge and conviction of the Holy Spirit in your mind, heart and being, that **you are of God**:

- Do you know that?
- Do you believe that?
- Do you act upon that?
- Is that part of the way that you think?

- Is that part of the way you feel?
- Is that part of the way that you live your life?

That you are of God!

Notice what this is going to produce, "...and **that the whole world lies in the power of the wicked one.**" That's what it's going to produce in your life. Not that you now, because of this, become judge, jury and convictor.

- God is going to judge this world.
- God is going to convict this world.
- God is going to bring what He's going bring upon this world, the way that He's going to do it!

But that your life and my life is:

- hid in Christ
- buried in Christ
- walking in Christ
- living in Christ

Therefore, we understand that the whole world is walking in wickedness.

Verse 20: "And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us an understanding..." God is the only One that can give you understanding. God is the only One Who can make this possible.

Example: The other day I had to take a friend of mine to the hospital because he had to have some things done. He needed a ride and his wife was mad at him—they had a big argument—so I took him to the hospital. While I was waiting for him, I sat down at the coffee counter and there was a waitress that was nice, clean-cut, no makeup and she looked like she was a really an upright and stalwart type of person.

Behind her was the one making sandwiches and she had her back to me. Around the corner was the bus-girl. Everywhere I had been going there was Halloween stuff everywhere, more than ever before, and they had it in the hospital.

So, I thought, let me just try something on for size; let me just see their response. I started talking to the waitress and I said, 'Do you believe that we should always tell our children the truth?' That kind of took her aback. The cook turned around, looked at me and said, 'Yes, we should always tell our children the truth.' I said, 'Should we always tell our the children the truth concerning they most important things in life?' *Oh, yes!* I said, 'Then how come is it that we lie to our children about Halloween and Christmas. For example, take Christmas, Santa Claus doesn't exist. He doesn't live at the North Pole. It isn't the birthday of Jesus Christ. If you do tell these things to your children,

you're lying.'

The sandwich maker got this stark look on her face, she didn't know what to say. The waitress had kind of a puzzled look on her face. The bus-girl came around and said, 'Yes, I agree with you 100%.' Just as I was ready to leave in came some kids in Halloween costumes and a man with them, and guess who it was? *It was the two children of the waitress with her husband!*

So, God has to give the understanding! That's the whole point of it, because many are the doctrines and deceptions that come along that Satan gives us. If you tell them the truth, it is strange, because the carnal mind loves to be lied to. The carnal mind loves to be told how *good* everything is. So, God has to give us that understanding.

"...so that we may know Him Who *is* true [Christ]..." (v 20). ***The Truth of God stands*** in spite of all that is going on in the world around; ***the Truth of God stands***, in spite of what people may think. And the grace of God that is with us, that gives us the power and ability through God's Holy Spirit to overcome, is a tremendous and fantastic thing that God has given to us.

"...and we are in Him Who *is* true, *and* in His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the true God and the eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen." (vs 20-21). This is important for us to realize and understand.

Here's why we need to be careful and on guard, 2-John 7: "Because many deceivers have entered into the world—those who do not confess *that* Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. This is *the spirit of the deceiver and the antichrist.*"

John said in another place, 'there are many antichrists that have gone into the world.' Here is the distinguishing thing: They do not believe that Jesus Christ—Who was God before He became human—came in the flesh. You're going to be absolutely amazed at the number of people who have been in the Church of God who now believe that Jesus was not God before He became human. There are some evangelists who were in the Church of God, as we knew it years ago, who also now believe that.

There's no need in saying that Jesus came in the flesh unless He was God before He came in the flesh. They don't even understand now what human nature is, and they don't understand what kind of nature that Jesus had. They don't understand what great and fantastic and marvelous thing that God has done so that we can be able to understand His Word and have Christ *in us*. It is absolutely beyond belief. You're going to be astounded!

Let's see another thing that we need in

overcoming Satan the devil. Here is a completed, past tense saying of Christians, Revelation 12:11: "But **they overcame** him..." Satan the devil, that great dragon that deceives the whole world. They overcame! That is in the past tense! That is done! It is finished! It is completed! You can look to the end and see the victory, see the hope and see that your overcoming is going to be completed.

"...through the blood of the Lamb..." (v 11). Through the very atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which is constantly, daily applied to your life.

Let me just mention here, when there was the temple of the Old Testament, and when they had the sacrifice of the lamb every morning and every night, it was symbolic of Jesus' continuous sacrifice as the Lamb of God and His blood being applied to our lives on a daily basis.

You need to go to God and have that blood of Jesus Christ cleanse you from all sin everyday. And especially since we are just bombarded on every side with all of this satanic activity that we need that everyday.

"...and through the word of their testimony..." (v 11). There will be a time when we're telling people who we are and what we are and that we *stand for the Truth!* The Word of Truth and the very conviction of your being and your thought process, your speech and the way that you live is all part of "...the word of their testimony..."

"...and they loved not their lives unto death" (v 11)—that you account attaining to the resurrection of the dead as the paramount, most important thing in this entire universe for you.

Let's understand something concerning our attitude toward God, and our attitude toward the things that we need to have in this life.

Romans 14_[corrected]:7 is the very model of what we need to do, to live by: "For no one among us lives to himself..."

- God has called you
- God has a plan and purpose for you
- God wants you in His kingdom

You don't live to yourself, either to God alone, but brethren are involved. You don't live to yourself just in the world, otherwise you would have to be in capsule and vacuum to get away from the world, and you can't do that.

"...and no one dies to himself" (v 7). Here is the conviction of mind that we need to have to fulfill what it says that 'we love not our lives unto death' In reality, before God, when you are baptized into Christ, you are baptized into His death, so you, as a person, are already dead. And the life that you live is

now motivated by Christ *in you*, which is the hope of glory.

Verse 8: "For if we live, we should live unto the Lord... [not as the world that says, 'eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we may die'] ...and if we die, we should die unto the Lord. So then, **whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.**" That's how we need to characterize our lives. That becomes the greatest conviction of mind and belief that we need to fight against all of the satanic activity that we see going on in the world around us.

If you don't have this book—*Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies*—I think it's imperative that you buy it and study it, go back over it, that you understand exactly what he is saying here, because this is one of the most profound books that I have read in recent years.

p 124—The results in the life of a person who believe in Jesus Christ will be correspondingly great.

That is as compared to what Jesus did when viewed toward the resurrection.

However, we may be sure that Satan will come to every one of us and preach the same destructive doctrine of self-preservation.

That means that you save your life today. But remember what Jesus said, 'He who saves his life shall lose it, and he who loses life for My sake shall save it.' That's what he's talking about here.

In many way, he will say, "Don't be a fool. Don't give yourself to so ridiculous a course as the denial of yourself in order to accomplish some abstract spiritual purpose. Accomplishment is here and now...."

That's what we have with the '*now* generation.' Do it now; accomplish it now, make it now. People, because they are not willing to work, not willing to apply themselves have gangs out there shooting and killing because they want it *now* and they're going to take it. You see what that attitude degenerates into.

Then with all the fantasy and stupidity of all of the media, movies, etc., which portray the same thing. It is here! It is now! But if you really want to know what is *really now*, and if you think that this life is grand and glorious, go down to your local morgue and say, 'I'd like to see the bodies of those who have had it now.' You will see that it's not grand and glorious at all.

"It... [this life of accomplishments now] ...is made out of money, material cars, homes, and human applause. This is the

only world we know anything about, and any man is a fool to live for the world to come.

That's Satan's way of saying, and it's going to become even more so in the future, because Satan is trying to hold out the prospect of eternal life in the flesh—with all the miraculous accomplishments of science and technology.

I remember years ago the serial adventure that came out—*The Six-Million Dollar Man*—the bionic man. He had a bionic leg, arm, mind and eye. We're almost to the point that they can do that now. They can put in new joints, new bones, transplant livers and hearts and lungs, and now what they're trying to do is take all of the smart and elite in the world and say if you cut off the head and freeze it, somewhere down the line you can put it on a new body.

But nothing is ever said as to what happens to the head of that 'new' body so that we can preserve this 'grand and glorious' human mind. People believe that! People pay \$125,000 to have either their head or their whole body frozen in what is called *cryonics*. It is so incredible that if it weren't true, sadly, it would be laughable. God is, in fact, laughing at it. God says that He is 'in derision' against sinners like that.

"Enjoy yourself. Live it up" With these and many other propositions, Satan continues to play the hackneyed record that one is a fool to live for any moment beyond the existential now. He has not been without real help in promoting that theme. From the old atheistic philosophers to the modern television writers, Satan's media representatives in almost every field have denied the existence of spiritual value or eternal purpose in life and avidly promoted that soul-destroying message. As a result, the theme of our generation is, "live now, it's later than you think."

p 126—"So likewise, whoever he be of you that forsakes not all that he has, he cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:26-27).

We can see in all this a most important and difficult choice! The call of God upon a life forces one to choose between the immediate rewards of this life and the approval of God in eternity. It is self-delusion for any Christian to imagine that the things of this world can bring satisfaction either permanently or temporarily. Peter was beginning to give himself to this dread, spiritual obscuration, for, as Christ said, "You are not setting

your mind on God's interests, but man's" (Matt. 16:23, NASB).

p 127—Having failed to prevent Christ from going to the cross, the remaining activity of Satan is to prevent Christians from fulfilling God's intention to make of us significant witnesses to what that cross means.....

...God has a wonderful plan for each Christian's life, and that plan can be beautifully fulfilled with the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The Christian who will take up his cross and follow Christ, the Christ who will walk in the Spirit, can see the fulfilling of that bright purpose that the Lord Jesus died to make possible.

Now, very important; I want you to listen very intently to this:

The Christian who is living up to the purpose of God to push back the powers of darkness. Satan, knowing this, constantly works to get the Christian to believe the pernicious doctrine that salvation may be worth accepting, but Christ is not worth following, and obeying... [and loving] ...with the total of one's capability.

That's what Satan would love everyone to do, to say, 'Oh I want salvation, but, Lord, it's too hard. Why did I have to be born now?' I've heard people say that! I've heard people actually tell me, 'Why did God have to call me now? Why couldn't God call me in the second resurrection when it would be easy?' My answer is, 'How do you know, if you were in the second resurrection, that you would even repent; because if you have that kind of attitude now, what guarantee do you have that you won't have that attitude if you were called in the second resurrection.'

We can't change the age in which we live. We can't change the timetable of God's plan. We can't change the world. We can't, even by thought, add cubits to our stature or change one hair—black or white—or whatever it may be. But here's what we need to do; here's how we need to be making our lives on a daily basis:

Romans 12:1: "I exhort you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, Holy *and* well pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service." That means you're intelligent. That means your ongoing service to God. How do we accomplish this?

Verse 2: "**Do not conform yourselves to this world...**"

The other day I was in a store and I couldn't

believe it; they are bringing back mini-skirts. Only these things are mini-mini-skirts. It's almost like foolish women walking around with huge postage stamps on. It's incredible! Then I sat down in a restaurant and this person sat down next to me and they had one of the kinky hairstyles that is so bad, it's incredible! It was almost like this is so bad you need to stare at it to see if it's real.

I'm talking about obtuse things, that you would say, 'Oh how terrible; that's awful; I agree with you; that's bad.' But how else do people get conformed to this world? *By anything that helps perpetuate the values of this world!* You need to be careful, because in the world is the knowledge of good and evil. Not everything totally in the world is evil, but you have to be careful that even the 'good' that is in the world is not a satanic deceptive good to draw you into the world again.

Just to give you an idea of how these things work. I wrote this down on a card. This is the motto of Rotary International. When I saw the motto, I thought what a deceptive thing this is. Here are four tenets of Rotary International:

1. Is it the truth?
That's good to have—isn't it?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
That's good, because we need to have equity around—don't we?
3. Will it bring good will and better friendship?
That sounds wonderful—doesn't it?
4. Will it be beneficial to all?

(go to the next track)

Those four tenets, I guarantee you, will help bring on the satanic deception of the one-world order, which is now well down the road to being accomplished. Even though you may see something that is good, you can't go out and be conformed to this world.

Here is what God wants with us, Romans 12:2: "...but be transformed... [changed] ...**by the renewing of your mind**... [How? *Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit putting into your mind the very Word of God.*] ...in order that you may prove... [not only to yourself; not only to the world; but also to God] ...what *is* well pleasing and good, and the perfect will of God." That's what God wants us to do. That's how He wants us to live.

Then the other side of that coin we find in 1-John 2 and this becomes very, very important for us to realize and understand. Here's what we are told to do. If we are to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, being and strength—which we are to do, and that is the first commandment—then the reciprocal or the opposite of that is:

1-John 2:15: "**Do not love the world, nor**

the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." Because you're spending so much time loving the physical things, you have your idols out there. You have the things that you are creating in your mind, which are loving the world and the things in the world, and everything to do with the world—it is impossible to have the love of God in you.

Verse 16: "Because everything that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pretentious pride of physical life—is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world and its lust is passing away... [it's all coming to nothing] ...**but the one who does the will of God abides forever**" (vs 16-17).

That is the solution to all of these things that Satan is trying to use and perpetrate against us!

How are you going to keep from being conformed to the world? There are two suggestions: We want to protect ourselves—don't we? We want to get away from all the evil. The first course of action is to flee Satan in the hope of escaping him. Do you think that's possible?

pp 131-132—The Question That Remains—Christian history indicates that the route of escaping from satanic activity has been attempted by many. Unfortunately, their attempt to escape has been without success. Monks and nuns have retreated behind the walls of monasteries and convents. Others have become hermits in their own retreats in deserts or mountains. In this way, they hoped to escape the moral infections of a corrupt civilization. In their own published confessions, they have admitted that they were still pursued by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life. They carried sinful hearts to their hermitage, and they were unable, by mere isolation from the world, to insure themselves against defeat by the attacks of the evil one.

So, these monasteries and convents have in themselves become total dens of iniquity. And total foolishness in what they have tried to do. There is a monastery in Greece that's on a mountain that rises almost straight up all the way around. Right on top is this monastery. The only way you can get there is arduously climbing these stairs, and when you get to a certain point they had to let down a rope so you could hold onto and a little thing to stand in, and they would crank you up to the top. In this monastery they allowed no women, nothing female.

They didn't even allow chickens—hens—because it was a female.

In all the foolish attempts to get away from male lust toward women, that didn't help a thing. They all ended up being perverted and wretched in their own sins—men with men—'that which is working unseemly, as the Bible says.

You can't get away from Satan there. Because in all the quietness that is there, Satan is going to come in and have a bright idea. Since you can't see Satan—he can put thoughts into the mind—that if you were in that kind of situation you wouldn't know that it was from Satan the devil—would you? So, you can't do that. There's no way that you can solve the problem that way. We have to take care of our salvation in another way. We have to do what the Bible tells us.

Let's see the Bible way on how to handle this problem. There are times when things are so bad, I've *kidded* about let's all go find a cave in the Sawtooth Mountains in Idaho. But you know what would happen? *We'd get up there and there would be an earthquake and the caves would be gone!* And we would be dead! Or some raving manic who lived out there as a hermit and would go out and 'get these stupid people; look at these idiots trying to get away from the world.' There are certain things that we have to get away from. But those things that we have to get away from are those things *we* might get involved in.

1-Timothy 6:11: "But you, O man of God, flee these things, and pursue righteousness, **Godliness, faith, love, endurance and meekness.**" Mentally fleeing these things, because we go back to the verses before and it says concerning the activities that were there.

Verse 9: "For those who desire to become rich fall into temptation and a snare... [We have to beware of the snare of the devil, which he sets out] ...and many foolish and hurtful lusts, which cause men to sink into destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all evils; *by* which some, *while* striving after *riches*, were seduced from the faith, and have impaled themselves with many sorrows" (vs 9-10).

Haven't we seen that? That in a church that would be finally be blessed of God and go beyond that and start hoarding and taking in money and buying property and wanting more and more, of whom the prime example is Jim Baker—who is now serving 40 years in prison. "...many foolish and hurtful lusts...and have impaled themselves with many sorrows." Then we are to flee these things! That's what he's saying.

Verse 12: "Fight the good fight of the faith!

Take hold of eternal life to which you were also called, and did profess a good profession in the presence of many witnesses." We're to fight that *fight of faith!* We are to take those things that we need to do and work, change, overcome, grow and let the Word of God work in us.

pp 134-135—And what a warfare it is! Each day that we live, without exception, we will operate in a no-man's land of angry guns and exploding rockets.... [spiritually] ...Our courage will be ever tested and our strength taxed to the nth degree. Our loves, loyalties, hopes, and fears are all components in the great battle of life. We must steel ourselves for the supreme test, allowing no shocking sight or sound to deter us from the only goal: victory. The enemy *must* be defeated. Christ must prevail. We must equip ourselves adequately for the struggle. Our equipment has been provided.

As we will see, *by God!* Let's see how this fight must be. We must equip ourselves with this. The Apostle Paul told Timothy: 'Be a good soldier in Christ.' We have to! We have a race to be running. We have a fight that we have to fight.

1-Corinthians 9:24, Paul says: "Don't you know that those who run a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? That is the way you *are* to run in order that you may obtain *the prize.*" There are many analogies that you can draw. Even the world has the story of the tortoise and the hare and the race and who won and who lost.

Verse 25: "For everyone who is striving *for mastery* controls himself in all things...." In sports I want to tell you, every 'superstar' gets old, loses his capacity and has to quit. In that sense the analogy begins to break down, but as Christians are we going to be as those in a race? or as the sports figure? When we get old and broken down and worn out and just give up on Christ? *No, of course not!*

"...Of course, they *do this* so that they may receive a corruptible crown; but we *are striving for* an incorruptible *crown.*" We have eternal life that we are striving for. We have the blessing to look forward to of living forever in the Kingdom of God. He's saying here that that's worth running for; that's worth fighting for; that's worth putting your whole effort and whole being into doing it.

Verse 26: "I therefore, so run... [in that same way and attitude] ...not as one who is uncertain... [he knows what he's doing, because he's living by the Spirit of God and the Word of God] ...so *also* I fight... [we also must fight and have the victory] ...not as beating *the* air. But I

discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection... [Not letting the lust carry you away; don't let the lust of the world, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life get carried away in your life.] ...lest, after preaching to others, I myself might be rejected" (vs 26-27). Instead of overcoming Satan, Satan would have overcome him.

Ephesians 6 gives us the tools, the equipment, for the race and the fight. This becomes of paramount importance for us

- to understand
- to live by
- to use
- to think on
- to pray on
- to grow into
- to overcome

And as we're finishing up this series of *Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies*:

Ephesians 6:10: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in *the* Lord..." The One Who is *in us* is greater than the one who is in the world. So, if we're strong in the Lord:

"...and in the might of His strength.... [we rely on the power of God *in us*] ...Put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (vs 10-11).

- the subtleties
- the cleverness
- the arguments
- the false doctrines
- the entrance into our lives by our own weaknesses

That's why we overcome with the blood of the Lamb. And it's in the morning and the evening that the sacrifice is applied to us on a daily basis.

Verse 12: "Because we are not wrestling against flesh and blood, but against principalities *and* against powers, against the world rulers of the darkness of this age... [and much more so than ever before] ...against the spiritual *power* of wickedness in high *places*."

Because of all of this, and because of what we know, understood, read and learned of God's Word, v 13: "Therefore, take up the whole armor of God so that you may be able to resist in the evil day..." And you never know which day is going to be the evil day—today, tomorrow, ten days from now, two weeks from now, one year from now, two years from now. What we have to do is consider that every day could be that evil day, which it very well could be.

"...and having worked out **all** things... [not just part; not just some; not just almost] ...to stand. **Stand therefore, having your loins girded about with Truth...**" (vs 13-14). It's very interesting in warfare, and you can kill someone very quickly. It's called the knife under the fifth rib. Goes right up and pierces the heart and you're dead. God says to gird yourself with the Truth; protect your very innermost part of your body and being. ***The Truth is:***

- the Word of God
- Christ in us
- the Gospel of God
- that we are fighting against Satan and this world

So, have yourself gird about with the Truth "...and wearing the breastplate of righteousness" (v 14). To protect you!

- To protect your heart!
- To protect your lungs!

because our breath is akin to the Spirit of God. It's something you can't see; something you can't hold onto, but it's something that keeps you alive. Likewise with God's Spirit. You can't see it; you can't hear it; you can't feel it; but it keeps you alive. You have your *breastplate of righteousness*, which then is keeping the commandments of God—having the righteousness of Christ in you through grace.

Verse 15: "And having your feet shod with *the* preparation of the Gospel of peace.... [Always ready to do what God wants you to do. Always be prepared.] ...Besides all *these*, take up the shield of the faith... [Why do you have to have a shield? *You have to be mobile with a shield!*] ...with which you will have the power to **quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.**" (vs 15-16).

It's very interesting in the Greek. This means the *fiery missiles of passion!* Those things that come on you suddenly. You've got to be able to put that shield up and protect yourself. That is the *shield of faith*; the very power of God, that you know that you *know*, and believe that you *believe*, and that you are Christ's whether you live or die. You have that shield right there to stop all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Verse 17: "And put on the helmet of salvation... [to protect your mind, to protect your inward parts, to protect the Holy Spirit that brings you salvation. That helmet covers and protects you.] ...and the sword of the Spirit... [now you've got something you need to use; something that you need to do in that active fight] ...which is the Word of God."

God's Spirit cannot be active, cannot work through you, unless it's through your mind with the Word of God. That's why we are to live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. Let that Truth be *in us!*

Finally, the thing to put all this together, v 18: "Praying **at all times** ... [not just part of the time; not just when you're in trouble; not when you feel like it; but be praying always] ...with all prayer and supplication in *the* Spirit, and in this very thing being watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."

You can tie that in with Matt. 24 where it says, 'If the good master would have known when the thief would break in, then he would have watched. But since you don't know when it's going to happen—whether it's at the 1st watch, 2nd watch, the 3rd watch or the 4th watch, you are watching *always, with perseverance!*

- You never give up!
- You never let down!
- You never throw in the towel!
- *You always go on!*
- What happens if you become wounded?
- What happens if you have something in your life that sets you back?
 - ✓ You let God heal you!
 - ✓ You let God intervene and pick you up!
 - ✓ You come back to God and reinforce yourself with all the things that you need!

Ephesians 3 becomes the most important thing we need to realize in the love of God, the plan of God, and overcoming Satan the devil. If there's any one chapter in the Bible that I personally feel is the most helpful, inspiring and invigorating part of the Bible, it is Eph. 3, especially the last part of it.

Ephesians 3:4: "So that when you read *this*, you will be able to comprehend my understanding in the mystery of Christ), which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men..." (vs 4-5). God didn't make this known to all men in general; He just called a few—Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; Noah and the patriarchs on the other side of the Flood.

"...as it has now been revealed to His Holy apostles and prophets by *the* Spirit" (v 5). Here we are 1900 years from then, from when Paul wrote this, and now these things are really coming to the fore. But God's Spirit is still able to inspire us and bring us the meaning and understanding of God's Word, to lift us up toward God, to provide us with the ammunition and ability to overcome.

Verse 6: "That the Gentiles might be joint heirs, and a joint body, and joint partakers of His

promise in Christ through the Gospel, of which I became a servant according to the gift of the grace of God, *which was* given to me through the inner working of His power. To me... [notice how this humbled Paul] ...**who am less than the least of all the saints...**" (vs 6-8).

Brethren, this ought to humble us! Draw us closer to God to realize the great magnificence that God has for us, and the great calling that God has for us! So that we can be inspired to fight that fight and be inspired to overcome.

"...was this grace given, that I might preach the Gospel among the Gentiles—even the unsearchable riches of Christ; and that I might enlighten all *as to* what *is* the fellowship of the mystery that has been hidden from the ages in God, Who created all things by Jesus Christ; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the Church to the principalities and the powers in the heavenly *places*, according to *His* eternal purpose... [God's plan; God's purpose] ...which He has wrought in Christ Jesus our Lord, in Whom we have boldness and *direct* access with confidence through His *very* own faith" (vs 8-12).

We can have that courage and confidence and boldness, by faith, that we have access to God. Never forget that! Never let that leave the frontals of your mind!

Verse 13: "So then, I beseech *you* not to faint at my tribulations for you... [the suffering that Paul had to go through was really terrible] ...which are *working for* your glory. For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He may grant you... [this is Paul's prayer; this is Paul's plea; this is God's Word inspired by Jesus Christ to us today] ...according to the riches of His glory, **to be strengthened with power by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;** *and* that being rooted and grounded in love..." (vs 13-18). That foundation; that stability; that love of God continuously, always—in spite of all circumstances—know that God loves you.

"...you may be fully able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the breadth and length and depth and height... [of the whole magnificent plan of God] ...and to know the love of Christ, which surpasses *human* knowledge... [there's no knowledge in the world that can ever substitute for the love of Christ, and that Christ is there every day for you. Christ is there every day to help you. Jesus love you! And for you to know that love] ...**so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God**" (vs 18-19).

Obviously, that is at the resurrection. That is Paul's prayer to you; that is God's promise to you. Absolutely marvelous beyond belief, and we 'see through a glass darkly' that we might "...filled with all the fullness of God." The full meaning of that is just really beyond our comprehension to fully grasp.

Verse 20: "Now to Him **Who is able to do...** [God is able to do it! You can have the victory over Satan the devil through Jesus Christ and God the Father!] ...exceeding abundantly... [there can't be any greater superlative than this] ...above all that we ask or think... [that is marvelous, brethren; hold on to those promises of God] ...according to the power that is working in us, to Him *be* glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all generations, *even* into the ages of eternity. Amen." (vs 20-21).

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in its Original Order, a Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) 1 John 4:4
- 2) Colossians 1:26-27
- 3) 1 John 5:4-5, 19-21
- 4) 2 John 7
- 5) Revelation 12:11
- 6) Romans 14:7-8
- 7) Romans 12:1-2
- 8) 1 John 2:15-17
- 9) 1 Timothy 6:11, 9-10, 12
- 10) 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
- 11) Ephesians 6:10-18
- 12) Ephesians 3:4-21

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 1-John 4:1-3
- Matthew 24

Also referenced:

- Book: *Satan's Ten Most Believable Lies* by Dave Breese
- Sermon Series: *Polemics for God*

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