

Three Lies Satan Wants You To Believe

Introduction:

- I. In Genesis the third chapter, we read of the first lie ever told (**Gen. 3:1-5**). This is what prompted Jesus to call Satan the father of lies in **Jn. 8:44**. No one has ever matched the adroitness of Satan in the realm of deception.
- II. With this in mind, I want to talk to you this morning about some lies that devil wants you believe.

Lesson:

I. **There Is No Such Thing As Absolute Truth.**

There are those who hold to the position that truth is completely subjective, i.e., that truth is within the mind of the individual. So then, what that ultimately means is that truth to a particular person is essentially whatever he wants it to be. But may I suggest to you that when it comes to spiritual matters there is an absolute and objective truth, and that truth is very must attainable and understandable. It is the truth of God's word, and we have that truth preserved for us right here in the Bible. And please be advised that the truth of God's Word is infallible and unchangeable. It doesn't change according to one persons view. It doesn't change according to time or season. Truth is truth and will always be truth regardless of our attitude towards it or ignorance of it (**e.g. of earth being round**). Likewise, the truth of God's Word, no matter how it is viewed, will not change. Now, what does the Bible say about truth?

- **It has been revealed (Jn. 16:13; Gal. 2:14-15).**
- **It can be known (Jn. 8:32; 1 Tim. 2:4).**
- **It can be obeyed (1 Pet. 1:22).**
- **It can be disobeyed (Gal. 3:1; 2 Thess. 1:8-9).**
- **It can be walked in (2 Jn. 4; 3 Jn. 3-4).**

These passages would make no sense if there wasn't such a thing as absolute truth that can be known and attained. So then, when it comes down to spiritual matters, there is absolute truth, and that truth consists of God's revealed Word (**Jn. 17:17**).

Now, Satan does not want us to believe this. He wants us to believe his lie that there is no absolute truth because that will keep people in darkness. Remember what David said about truth?

Ps 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Those who are in darkness are those who have not come to know the truth of God's Word. In another place, Paul wrote the following:

2 Cor 4:3-4

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

The Devil, ladies and gentlemen, knows what he is doing. If he can keep people thinking that there is no absolute truth to regulate our lives, then the philosophies of men, human creeds and popular opinion will be the guiding force behind the lives of countless millions; and the end of that is damnation for those in darkness. Don't believe Satan's lie. There is such a thing as truth and that truth is absolute and it must be obeyed in order for salvation to be obtained.

II. There Is No Eternal Punishment In A Place Called Hell.

That's a lie that the Devil has many people believing today, even some who claim to believe in the Bible.

"The doctrine of a burning hell where the wicked are tortured eternally after death cannot be true...hell, 'Sheol and Hades' means mankind's common grave, the condition where humans, good and bad, go and rest in hope of a resurrection under God's kingdom" (Jehovah Witnesses, Let God Be True, pg. 99).

This, my good friends, is Jehovah Witnesses' doctrine, not Bible doctrine. But they are not the only ones who believe and teach the Devil's lie about hell. Edward Fudge, a one time conservative preacher in the Lord's church, says this about hell.

"The wicked, following whatever degree and duration of pain God may justly inflict, will finally and truly die, perish and become extinct for ever and ever" (Edward Fudge, The Fire That Consumes, p. 425)

Homer Hailey, another conservative preacher, and a man who at one point stood for the truth on this issue, changed his position on hell and wrote the following before he died:

Sodom and Gomorrah left the spiritual or moral realm in which God intended man should live, for a lifestyle of lust. God rained brimstone and fire upon them,

totally destroying the cities. The destruction was so complete that their location is uncertain, not a vestige of either city has yet been confirmed. Jude says, These "are set forth as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire" (v. 7)...If they serve as an example, what do they teach except that those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire are to exist no more? (Homer Hailey, God's Judgments and Punishments, pp. 141-142).

All of these positions on hell are lies. Now, I believe that all of these folks who teach this false doctrine on hell believe that they are telling the truth. They are not teaching lies on purpose. But the one who is the father of lies, that is, the Devil, is using them to dispense, disperse and disseminate this lie to a gullible religious world. Listen to me: don't be gullible! Don't listen to people when they say that hell is incompatible with the love of God. Don't listen to people when they say that the doctrine of hell is unreasonable and illogical. Don't listen to people when they say that hell is not a real place for a real people. Make them do something that they can't do! Make them prove that doctrine of Satan by the Bible.

Listen: people are just too gullible when it comes to religion. Really people are just gullible in general.

Illus.

Nathan Zohner, a 14-year-old at Eagle Rock Junior High, won first prize at the greater Idaho Falls Science Fair, April 26, 1997. In his project he urged people to sign a petition demanding the strict control or total elimination of the chemical "Dihydrogen monoxide." And for plenty of good reasons:

- It is the a major component in acid rain.
- It contributes to the erosion of natural landscape.
- It accelerates corrosion and rusting of many metals.
- It can cause decreased effectiveness of automobile brakes
- It causes excessive sweating, vomiting and urination.
- It can cause severe burns in its gaseous state.
- It can kill you if accidentally inhaled.
- It has been found in tumors of terminal cancer patients.

He asked 50 people if they supported a ban of the chemical. Forty-three said yes, six were undecided, and only one knew that the chemical was H₂O (water). The title of his prize winning project was, "How Gullible Are We?"

Let's not be so gullible when it comes to the doctrines of the Devil. Don't rely on human reasoning when it comes down to what you believe. Rely on the Bible. That's the final source of authority in religious matters. And what does the Bible say about hell? Listen to what we find in the book of Matthew alone:

Matt 5:22

But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

Matt 5:29

And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Matt 5:30

And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Matt 10:28

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matt 13:41-42

The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Ladies and gentlemen, hell is real! Don't believe the Devil when he lies to you through earthen vessels. "Well," someone says, "some of the arguments made against eternal punishment in hell are pretty good." No they aren't. None of them can stand close examination. "But what about what the Jehovah Witnesses say about hell being the common grave?" They're just wrong about it. The truth is the words Sheol and Hades never refer to the common grave, EVER! Listen to what Vine says about it.

HADES

"The region of departed spirits of the lost." It corresponds to "Sheol" in the OT. IT HAS BEEN UNHAPPILY RENDERED "HELL," E. G., PS 16:10; OR "THE GRAVE," E. G., GEN 37:35; OR "THE PIT," NUM 16:30,33; in the NT the revisers have always used the rendering "Hades"; in the OT, they have not been uniform in the translation; usually they have "Sheol" in the text and "the grave" in the margin. IT NEVER DENOTES THE GRAVE, nor is it the permanent region of the lost; in point of time it is the intermediate between decease and the doom of Gehenna" (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words).

“Well what about what Edward Fudge said about finally being extinct for ever and ever?” That concept doesn’t fit the Bible description of hell. Listen to Jesus.

Matt 25:46

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Two thoughts about what Jesus said here comes to mind. First, how can a punishment be everlasting if one ceases to exist. Punishment involves some kind of suffering, whether it be physical, mental or emotional. Second, the words everlasting and eternal in this verse are the same. The Greek word is *aiōnios* and denotes something that is perpetual. Now, since the words are the same, whatever you say one denotes, you must conclude that the other denotes the same. If the punishment is not perpetual, neither is the life.

“Well maybe both the Witnesses and Fudge are wrong, but Homer Hailey hit it right on the head. Since Sodom and Gomorrah serve as an example of eternal punishment (Jude 7), and they ceased to exist, that must mean that we will cease to exist too.” No, Homer Hailey made a great blunder in confusing the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah with the citizens of those cities. It is not the physical cities that serve as an example for us of the vengeance of God, it is the punishment of the people. They are the ones guilty of fornication, not the cities. The cities were obliterated, but not the souls of their citizenry.

After all of the arguments are made opposing the reality of hell, it is still a lie of Satan that he wants you to believe. Not only is hell a real place that will be populated with real souls, the Bible tells us unequivocally who will be there. Those who obey not the gospel will be there (**2 Thess. 1:7-9**). Those who live immorally will be there (**Rev. 21:8; 1 Cor. 6:9-10**). And those who do not remain faithful to God after they obey the gospel will be there (**Rev. 2:10**).

III. That One Church Is As Good As Another.

This lie sounds good to many honest and sincere people. One church is as good as another so join the church of your choice. Well, in this country you can join the church of your choice, but the Lord won’t add you to just any church. The Lord only adds people to His church and the truth is there is only one of those.

It is amazing how believable the lies of Satan can become to man. Is the Bible vague regarding the number of churches the Lord established? Well let's see.

Eph 1:22-23

And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the CHURCH, WHICH IS HIS BODY, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

Eph 4:4

THERE IS ONE BODY, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling.

How do denominational preachers explain these passages? They say that there is one universal church made up of all denominations in the world. But what passage in the Bible teaches us that. The truth is when these passages were written by inspiration, there were no denominations in the world so how could they be speaking of them?

What verse in the New Testament scriptures gives us the picture of the one church being composed of churches. The truth is the universal church is made up of people not churches. When one obeys the gospel, he is added to the church by the Lord (**Acts 2:47**). The body of Christ is composed of people (**1 Cor. 12:13**).

Listen: the church is God's spiritual plant. Jesus is the true Vine and members of the body of Christ are the branches. The branches are not denominations, they are people (**Jn. 15:1ff**).

Now it is true that there are some imitation plants out there, and sometimes a fake plant can look just like the real thing. But Jesus said, *"Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up."*

How do you tell the real plant from the fake plant? You have to investigate it, don't you? Sometimes you have to reach out and touch it and smell it before you can find out that it is fake. But I'll tell you something else, you have to know something about the real thing in order to know the imitation is a fake. Now when it comes down the church, God's spiritual plant, I want you to consider this:

- Fake plants (churches) wear human names; the real thing wears the name of Christ.
- Fake plants (churches) focus on social issues; the real thing focuses on spiritual things.

- Fake plants (churches) elevate man above measure; the real thing respects the preacher, but treats him just like everyone else.
- Fake plants (churches) are guided by man-made creeds; the real thing is guided only by the Word of God.
- Fake plants (churches) are involved in emotionalism and worship God in ways not authorized by the Bible; the real thing worships God in spirit and in truth.

Don't believe the lie of Satan. One church is not as good as another. Obey the gospel of Christ and be added to the church of Christ.

Conclusion:

Don't believe a lie. Oh lies are sometimes very believable. If there weren't, they wouldn't be very good lies, would they? But the Devil is the Master when it comes down to lying. And I'll tell you right now, he wants you to believe that there is no such thing as truth. He wants you to believe that there is no hell. He wants you to believe that one church is as good as another. All these lies will put your soul in jeopardy. The Devil knows it. That's why he's lying about these things. Overcome Satan by believing and obeying the truth.