

Recognizing and Resisting the Devil - Ephesians 6:13-14a - September 9th, 2018

- I've titled today's teaching, "Recognizing and Resisting the Devil."
- I do so for the benefit of those who may not have been with us last week when we looked at the first step to walking in victory.
- Namely, that of recognizing how it is that Satan masquerades as an angel of light and is so subtle; we don't know that it's him.

- You'll notice that I'm not titling today's teaching, "Recognizing and Defeating the Devil." The reason is he's already defeated.
- Jesus already won the victory over the Devil, and has defeated the Devil, for us, and instead of us, when He was resurrected.
- As such, all that we need to do is recognize the devil and his strategies in order that we can stand against him, and resist him.

- It's important we understand that to stand against the Devil carries with it the idea of not falling when we're in the battlefield.
- The reason we're able to stand, is that we're not just conquerors because of Christ, we're more than conquerors through Christ.
- To be more than a conqueror means we as Christians can know we will stand victorious in battle, even before the battle begins.

- This is what the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome as it relates to both the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:34-37 - 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

- I would suggest that to stand against the devil as more than conquerors in Christ is to resist the Devil so we stand and he flees.

James 4:7 - Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- Thankfully, the Savior Himself provides Himself as the perfect example of standing and resisting the Devil and having him flee.
- He did this in His humanity, not His divinity, so that we would have His example of how we too can stand and resist the Devil.
- Actually, this is the very reason that the Devil seeks to deceive us so we'll believe that we cannot stand and will once again fall.

- This is where I'm going with all of this, and it's why I didn't sense that the Lord would have us get into the armor of God today.
- I'm hoping you'll kindly indulge me for the remainder of our time here in Ephesians, as I share what God has put on my heart.
- Specifically, that of the infrastructure of guilt and condemnation the enemy builds in our lives, when instead of standing we fall.

2 Timothy 2:13 - If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

Romans 6:14 - For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

- Paul is saying the condemnation of my sins shall no longer be my master because I'm not under law, but under grace instead.
- This is exactly what Satan doesn't want me to know. He wants me to think that I'll be controlled by sin and as such, fall into sin.
- Then when I fall Satan is right there to condemn us, so as to deceive us, into hiding our sin and keeping our distance from God.

I'll bring it to a close with a quote from Roy Hession who of this writes; "In that condition of despair we have little motivation but to commit further sin. Our spiritual situation is so dead and unsatisfying that we feel a further act of sin is not going to make things much worse – so why not? ... The most we can hope for in this situation is to try to hide some of the more shameful [sins]. But the longer we hide sin, the longer it goes on condemning us and we get more and more under its dominion. Is it not obvious from all this that the real purpose of Satan in provoking us to commit sin is not merely that we might do something unethical, but that when we have done it, he might have the opportunity to accuse us (he is called the accuser of the brethren in Revelation 12). And then in that condition we are rendered powerless... The Christian who has committed an impure act feels himself the next day an utter dog; he does not want to look God or his fellow-Christians in the eye; and as for undertaking some spiritual service – he would rather run away and hide. This is just the result the devil intended when he provoked that Christian to sin."