

WE ARE NOT IGNORANT OF SATAN'S DEVICES

2 CORINTHIANS 2:11

INTRODUCTION:

1. They say that the two greatest chapters of the Bible are the first two and the last two, for there is no evil contained within them.
2. The purpose of Satan is to devour, destroy, and eternally separate man from God. (1 Pet. 5.8; Job 1.11; 2.5)
3. It is critical that we know our enemy. God has provided us all we need, *"lest Satan should take advantage of us..."* (2 Cor. 2.11)

I. THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

- A. Christians are expected to *"not imitate what is evil, but what is good"* (3 John 11). But what is the difference?
 1. Good and evil does not exist as a balance of power, but are mutually exclusive. (1 Pet. 3.10-12)
 2. To know good and evil takes an understanding and application of the word of God. (Heb. 5.14; 1 Kings 3.9)
 3. Moral "gray areas" often come from considering the wisdom of men over God. (Acts 23.1; James 3.13-17)
- B. What is the origin of evil and how did it come to be?
 1. Evil is not created by God, but exists when beings of volition choose to ignore the will of God. (Rom. 5.12-14)
 2. However, Satan is the first to sin. (1 John 3.8; John 8.44)

II. SATAN: THE PRINCE AND GOD OF THIS WORLD

- A. **EPHESIANS 2.2:** *"in which you once walked... according to the prince of the power of the air..."* (cf. 2 Cor. 4.4)
 1. Not of the physical world in control of natural and political powers. (Ps. 135.6-10; Dan. 4.35; Matt. 28.18)
 2. Satan possesses the influence to enslave man in worldliness. (1 John 2.15-17; 4.4,5; 5.19)
- B. The characteristics of Satan are revealed to protect and guard us against His wiles. (Eph. 6.10,11)
 1. Satan is subtle, crafty, and cunning. Therefore he often goes unnoticed. (Gen. 3.1; 2 Cor. 11.3,13-15)
 2. Satan is a tempter using our weaknesses to lure us into sin. (James 1.14; Matt. 4.3; 1 Cor. 7.5; 1 Thes. 3.5)
 3. Satan is an accuser. (Gen. 3.4,5; Job 1.9,10)

CONCLUSION: Satan seeks to destroy. God seeks to save.

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"...fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God" -Ephesians 2:19

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MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

WHY DO WE HAVE NO MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS?

One of the most unique characteristics of the "Church of Christ" is that you will not find the use of musical instruments. Since most churches and denominations employ the use of pianos, organs, and even utilize entire bands, many think it strange that we choose to worship God a cappella.

The members of the church are not opposed to musical instruments. Many love listening to music and even spiritual songs accompanied with an instrument. However, such are not permitted in the worship of the church for one reason. There is no authority. The New Testament from which we gain our religious authority does not contain any example, command or even any implication that the first century Christians ever used musical instruments in their singing.

It may not seem to be a grave matter to include musical instruments. After all, God loves music and frequently enjoyed the worship of His people with flutes, guitars, tambourines, and the like (Ps. 150.3-6). There is no doubt that God loves music. But He is also very specific about the kind of worship He allows. No doubt Nadab and Abihu thought it a small matter to offer a different kind of incense than what God had authorized (Lev. 10.1-3).

Our worship to God must be in *"spirit and in truth"* (John 4.24). We cannot add what God has not (1 Cor. 4.6). CLP

IS HEAVEN FOR ME?

1 PETER 1:3,4

INTRODUCTION:

1. An eternal home in heaven is reserved to all those who are the chosen of God. But some wonder, “Is heaven for me?”
2. Some consider themselves disqualified. “I am not good enough”, “There are few who are saved”, “Predestination”
3. The only thing standing between man and the hope of heaven is sin. Yet God offers forgiveness to all, but only on His terms.

I. FORGIVENESS IS FOR THOSE WHO CONFESS

- A. Sin is the exclusive cause of man’s dilemma. (Isa. 59.2)
 1. Through the blood of Christ, the remission of sins is promised to those who obey His gospel. (Acts 2.37,38)
 2. Yet without acknowledging sin, one denies the need for forgiveness. (John 8.33; Matt. 23.1-5; 1 John 1.8,9)
- B. Why are some unwilling to confess their sins? (Prov. 28.13)
 1. My sins are too severe for God to forgive. (1 John 1.7)
 2. My sins are too trivial to be concerned. (James 2.11,12)
 3. I am afraid I will appear as weak. (2 Cor. 12.9,10)

II. FORGIVENESS IS FOR THE COMPASSIONATE

- A. **MATTHEW 18.15-17:** Sinful brethren need to be approached.
 1. Is it to accuse or to clarify? (Prov. 18.13; John 7.51)
 2. Are we approaching them to punish or to restore? (1 Cor. 6.7; James 1.19,20; 2.13; Eph. 4.31,32; Gal. 6.1)
- B. **MATTHEW 18.21-35:** The parable of the unforgiving servant
 1. Forgiveness is found in the compassion of God. (vs. 23-27)
 2. How can we expect forgiveness who does not have compassion on his brother? (vs. 28-35; cf. Jonah 4.1,2,11)

III. FORGIVENESS IS FOR THE CHANGED

- A. Change first occurs when one obeys the gospel. (Rom. 6.17)
- B. Continuing in sin while seeking mercy will never grant forgiveness. Change must occur! (Heb. 6.4-6)
 1. Claim faithfulness, but deny Him in works? (Titus 1.16)
 2. Transformed by renewing the mind. (Rom. 12.1,2)
 3. Corinthians sinned, but then repented and changed.
“*You proved yourselves clear.*” (2 Cor. 7.10,11)

CONCLUSION: Heaven is extended to all who will receive it.

THE NATURE OF THE ENEMIES OF GOD

The enemies of God are not content to humiliate or ridicule the people of God. It is their intention to destroy them. Nothing would make God’s enemies happier than to rid the world of those who stand for righteousness and proclaim the way of God through their word and their lives. Psalm 83 contains a plea to God to not allow the way of the wicked to prosper. **VERSE 1:** *Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, And do not be still, O God!*” Contained within this descriptive psalm is the nature of the enemies of God.

The enemies of God “...*make a tumult...*” (Ps. 83.2). Those opposed to God and His ways are often vocal. From making appearances on the news speaking out for a woman’s right to choose to marching on the streets promoting the gay and lesbian lifestyle, God’s enemies create quite a stir.

The enemies of God “...*have lifted up their head...*” (Ps. 83.2). With great arrogance and pride, the enemies of God are confident in their position. Their self-righteousness is clearly evident believing that their way is a way of peace and love while calling the people of God close-minded and prudish (Luke 18.9ff).

The enemies of God have taken “...*crafty council...and consulted together...they form a confederacy...*” (Ps. 83.3-5). In the days of the psalmist it was the Assyrians, Edomites, and Moabites. In the days of Jesus it was the Pharisees, Sadducees, and chief priests. Today it is the gay rights movement, the abortion rights activists, and the New Age Movement. The enemies of God form groups and conspire together to overthrow the ideology of the New Testament.

The enemies of God will be “...*confounded and dismayed forever...*” (Ps. 83.13-18). It may seem that there is initial success in their cause, yet the enemies of God will never overcome and eliminate the ways of God. With the righteous living among the world we are confident that “*the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment*” (2 Pet. 2.9).

The enemies of God surround the righteous and seek to destroy all that is good in the name of self-promotion and self-gratification. But if the world sees us as their enemy, then we must be doing something right (John 15.18,19). CLP