

## **Satan's Attacks on Our homes, Our Moral Compass, Our Purpose in Life, and Our Children's View of Life**

How many times have you heard the saying, "When I was growing up, life was better than it is today"? You could leave your doors unlocked without the fear of your belongings being stolen. You could play outside all day without the fear of being kidnapped or being harmed by strangers. Most children grew up with both of their parents. Most children were respectful. You did not have school meetings or sporting events on Sundays or Wednesday evenings because most people went to worship and Bible class. Stories about gun shootings at malls, grocery stores, and schools were not reported regularly on the evening news. Today, our society is heading in the wrong direction – away from God and his teachings!

Who is influencing us to turn from God? In Genesis Chapter 3, we see how Satan put doubt in Eve's mind concerning what God had commanded about not eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Satan convinced her that it was okay to eat its fruit and confirmed that she would surely not die! Genesis 3:6 reads, "*When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.*" 1 John 2:16 says, "*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*" We see that Satan used temptations from each of the three categories of sin mentioned in 1 John 2:16 on Eve in the following ways: 1) she saw that the tree was good for food (lust of the flesh), 2) it was a delight to her eye (lust of the eyes), and 3) she wanted to be wise like God (boastful pride of life). In what ways is Satan attacking us today?

### Satan is attacking our homes.

In the very beginning, we see that God instituted marriage between one man and one woman (Genesis Chapter 2). Marriage is for life – man is not to separate what God has joined together. Satan's attack on our homes is rampant today. He convinces people that it is okay to leave their spouse for any reason. They become selfish and are unwilling to work out their differences (pride of life). Many do not nourish their relationship, lose desire for each other, and become attracted to others (lust of the eyes / lust of the flesh). Men are to nourish and cherish their wives and love them as their own bodies and as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25-29) and women are to be subject to their husbands just like the church is subject to Christ (Ephesians 5:22-24).

### Satan is attacking our Moral Compass.

Satan has persuaded many to believe that there is no God and that there is no absolute truth. He has convinced them that the truth is relative for every situation. Many today rely on themselves (boastful pride of life) to decide what is right and wrong instead of looking to God's word, the Bible. However, John 8:31-32 says, "*...If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*" John 17:17 says, "*Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*"

### Satan is attacking our Purpose in Life.

Many people today have a worldly purpose. Many put having a successful career first (boastful pride of life) in their lives instead of living for Christ. Matthews 6:19-20 tells us to lay up for ourselves treasures in Heaven - not worldly treasures here on earth. A Christian's purpose is to seek and save the lost by spreading the Gospel and teaching everything that Christ has commanded (Matthew 28:18-20). Satan has persuaded many Christians that saving the lost is not their purpose individually, but it is the responsibility

of their local preacher and elders. John 15:1-11 tells us that we should bear fruit and warns that the branches that do not bear fruit, will be taken away. Everyone's purpose in life should be getting to Heaven and taking many others with them!

### Satan is attacking our Children's view of life.

Our children are growing up in a society that believes humans have evolved over millions of years and that the world was not created by God as revealed to us in the book of Genesis. More children today seem to be self-centered (boastful pride of life) and are not being taught to respect their parents or adults. They learn from society that being successful is based solely on the amount of wealth and material things one accumulates (pride of life / lust of the flesh).

We can learn from Jesus how to refute the temptations of Satan. In Matthew 4, Satan tempted Jesus using the same three ways he tempts us:

- 1) Satan, knowing that Jesus was very hungry because he had been fasting for forty days and forty nights, tempted Jesus to turn stones to bread (lust of the flesh) – Matthew 4:3
- 2) Satan then tempted Jesus and asked him to throw himself off the top of the temple stating that the angels would catch him and hold him up, thus proving that he was Son of God (pride of life) – Matthew 4:5-6.
- 3) Finally, from a mountain top, Satan showed Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world and offered them and all of their glory to Jesus if He would fall down and worship Satan (lust of the eyes) – Matthew 4:8-9.

During each of these instances, Jesus countered Satan using scriptures from God's word. We also should combat Satan and counter his attacks and temptations using our knowledge of the Bible. However, to do so, we must know God's word.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> we had corresponding lessons on this topic. Check our website for sermons titled "Satan's Attacks - Yogi Bear (1 John 2:12-17)" from the AM service and "Satan's Attacks - David (2 Samuel 11:1-6)" from the PM service. Also, you can find our worship services on our Facebook page.