

“The Accuser of the Brethren”

(Revelation 12:10-12)

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I. Introduction

A. Have you ever been falsely accused?

1. Parents accused of murder
 - a. Katie in Portugal
 1. Maddie’s mom
2. Can you imagine if you were innocent?
 - a. Lose a child and have the world think you did it
3. What if O.J. really didn’t do it?

B. Have you been accused...and been guilty?

1. The scene in Heaven...Rev. 12:10

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.”

- a. Bringing charges against God’s children
 -against you
2. Can you imagine having your sins thrown before God?
3. I wonder if Satan accuses me of things I haven’t done
 - a. Or just things I have done
 - b. Has plenty to work with

4. Could it be that God doesn't see our sins?
 - a. Covered by the blood of Jesus?
 - b. Yet Satan carries our trash before a holy God
 - c. Trying to break the heart of God
5. Do the saints and angels hear about my sins?
 - a. Are they grieved to know we've failed?

C. Today we get personal

1. We've been looking at the global work of Satan and his demons
 - a. What they've done in the past
 - b. And what they will do in the future
 1. The Book of Revelation
2. But what are they doing right now on an individual level?
 - a. Do they have a strategy to harm you as an individual?

II. Text

A. Satan cripples the army by attacking individual warriors

1. That would be you and me!
2. He knows your potential more than we do
 - a. Spurgeon

“Thus, for you who honor God most, Satan will struggle very sternly. He wants to pluck God's jewels from His crown, if he can, and take the Redeemer's precious stones even from the breastplate itself.”

3. You are involved regardless of whether or not you want to be
4. And Satan knows he needs to move fast
 - a. He knows his days are numbered

b. Revelation 12:12

“Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.” (v.12)

c. Billy Graham

“Demonic activity and Satan worship are on the increase in all parts of the world. The Devil is alive and more at work than at any other time. The Bible says that he realizes his time is short, his activity will increase.”

B. Satan operates more like a terrorist than an army

1. Our frustration after 9-11
 - a. Didn't know where to strike back
2. Satan operates so much like a terrorist
 - a. An unseen enemy
 - b. An enemy with no morals or conscience
 - c. An enemy who will strike when least expected
 - d. An enemy willing to fight to the death
 - e. An enemy with nothing to lose
 - f. An enemy that hates our Savior...and us
 - g. An enemy with a vast army of embedded cells of demons
3. Understanding our enemy....Ephesians 6:10-11

C. God has provided you with special armor

1. What God has provided for you....Ephesians 6:10-11

(10) “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power (11) Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.”

- a. You have God's power available during the conflict

b He provides you with armor which cannot be penetrated

1. Absolutely guaranteed

2. Why you need the armor?

“For your struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (v.12)

a. Because of *who* you will battle

b. Can't defeat him by yourself

3. The armor is useless unless worn

a. “Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.” (v.13)

b. You have to “put it on”

c. Yet so many Christians fail to wear it

1. Like seatbelts

d. Or...they wait till they are in the midst of conflict

1. Strap on the power of God *before* the battle

a. Not *during* the battle

2. Battles are won by those who are prepared

D. Your enemy is the personification of evil

1. Charles Stanley

“You have a powerful enemy, and he has a name. Behind every evil person and every evil act lurks the real enemy of your life. He exists in the spirit realm, and he is relentless in his pursuit of you. He is 100 percent evil, and he has a plan to destroy your life.”

2. His nature

a. ***He is real***

- b. *He is invisible*
- c. *He is organized*
- d. *He is a murderer, liar, and thief (John 8:44)*
- e. *He is crafty and scheming (II Cor. 11:3)*
- f. *He is 100 % evil*
- g. *He is not alone*

- 1. The fallen angels
- 2. John R. W. Stott regarding demons

“bear in mind that they have no moral principles, no code of honor, no higher feelings. They recognize no Geneva Convention to restrict or partially civilize the weapons of their warfare. They are utterly unscrupulous, and ruthless in the pursuit of their malicious designs.”

h....and he is intent on ruining your life

E. Your enemy has a nasty plan to ruin your life

- 1. *“put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”* (v.11)
- 2. “schemes” = “metho deia”
 - a. To follow after a thing systematically; to learn it, to follow it, to write it down, to analyze it
 - b. “methodical”
- 3. He has a methodical plan to systematically ruin your life
 - a. Like the terrorists and America
- 4. Last week we saw the Global “Conflict of the Ages”
- 5. Today....what it means to you personally!
 - a. Satan’s plan to mess up your life

F. Some of Satan’s most successful strategies:

1. Rob you of any peace and joy

a. Physical ailments

1. The devil has the power to send sickness and injury our way, to affect our physical, emotional, mental, and financial well-being and our relationships.

b. Emotional turmoil

1. The devil has the power to send agitation into the calm waters of our lives. He can stir up trouble for us and cause us to find ourselves in turmoil

2. Loss of a job

c. Charles Stanley

“Satan can and will attempt to drag you down into such deep bondage that you will lose your joy in living. Some may call this bondage oppression, depression, or addiction. If the devil can pull you into bondage, you will have no peace, no zest for living and perhaps even no will to continue living. You will struggle continually with desires that are not met, drives that are not satisfied, dreams that are not realized, and a destiny that is unfulfilled. The devil will do his utmost to completely destroy anything that is essential for abundant life.”

d. Don’t let him steal the blessing

1. Life is 10% what happens to you, and 90% how you respond

2. Use weak believers to hurt you or your reputation

a. In the things they say and do that undermine our reputations.

b. Disillusionment with other believers

1. Frustration with the local church
2. When other believers let you down

c. Don’t judge Christ by his kids

d. The importance of a reputation

3. Cause misunderstandings in ministries and relationships

- a. The devil is a master at causing misunderstandings.
 - 1. Often for no apparent reason.
 - 2. Especially in church
 - 3. Over seemingly insignificant issues
 - a. People even forget what they are angry about
- b. Some of you are carrying around hurts from years gone by
- c. “Get over it!”

4. Attack you where you are most vulnerable:

- a Destructive weakness....*Gold, Glory, and Girls*
 - 1. (I John 2:16) “For everything in the world...the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes, and the boasting of what he has and does...comes not from the Father but from the world”

(NKJV) “the lust of the eyes (gold), lust of the flesh (girls), and the pride of life (glory)”
- b. What is your area of greatest vulnerability
 - 1. The effects of lust
 - 2. He sets traps
- c. You won’t survive apart from Christ
- d. He will use good people to take down other good people
 - 1. Attracted to another man’s wife?
- e. Never underestimate the destructive power of pride
 - 1. Why God chooses not to use some talented people
 - 2. They will steal the glory

f. Satan knows to attack the most vulnerable

1. Seeks to stifle the passion of new believers
 - a. Wolves prefer lambs
 - b. Like a new-born baby
2. Seeks to sidetrack youth with potential
3. Seeks to plant bitterness in the hearts of the physically afflicted
4. Seeks to plant pride in the heart of the successful
5. Seeks to plant evil thoughts in the minds of the bored or idle
6. Seeks to plant fear in those facing death
7. Seeks to plant discouragement in those on the verge of a victory

5. *Cause you to become discouraged*

- a. Make you want to quit
- b. Life is filled with discouragements
- c. Get discouraged with your area of ministry
 1. As Carolyn and I waited for God to move this church
 2. Happened so quickly in California
- d. When discouragement turns to depression

6. *Tempt you to become cynical regarding life and church*

- a. Cynical people are miserable people
 1. Seem to enjoy watching others fail
- b. Cynical regarding the local church
 1. Have seen it all
 2. “Here we go again”

3. Your cynicism is costing you blessings

7. *Plant seeds of doubt regarding God's Character*

a. It started with Eve in the Garden

*"hath God said?"

b. Satan is the father of lies

c. He wants believers to doubt God's....

1. love

2. power

3. forgiveness

4. salvation

8. *Cause division within the local church*

a. When Satan can get the troops to shoot at each other

1. he stands back and laughs

2. The "Sabbath Tracts" on cars

b. Other believers are not the enemy

c. The power of unity...

9. *Encourage the watering down of pure doctrine*

a. Fear being labeled a "religious nut"

b. Want to get along with all people

1. fear being labeled "dogmatic"

2. "we all believe in the same God."

3. "The Bible is subordinate to....

a. personal opinion

- b. personal experience
 - c. other books
 - d. church leadership
 - e. church tradition
- c. Fear to take the Bible as the anchor of our faith
- d. J. Vernon McGee..... *We don't seem to realize that there is a spiritual warfare being carried on today, and people need to be grounded in the Word of God. It is a manifestation of demonic power that people are being blinded and carried away into all kinds of cults and religions and "isms" with false beliefs. As a result of all this, the Word of God sinks into insignificance in such churches and organization. This is the work of the enemy, Satan and his demonic hosts.*
- e. Satan sneaks into the Church because people don't know truth from fiction
1. And he's tough to get out once inside

10. Tempt you to slowly drift into worldliness

- a. Hard to tell the sides apart any more
- b. Rom. 12:2.... *"do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."*
- c. The "rip tide"
 1. My days in the surf

11. Distract you from what's really important

- a. The story of the "garden hose"
- b. Too many "good things"
 1. And only a dribble out of the nozzle
- c. Satan uses attractive things to distract
- d. Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)
 1. Mary spending time with Jesus while Martha did all of the work

2. “Martha, Martha, Martha. You have been distracted by much serving””

3. “Mary has chosen what is better”

e. Jesus was asked what is the greatest commandment

1. Mark 12:29-30

“The most important commandment,” answered Jesus, “is this (30) Love the Lord your God with all you heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

f. Keep your focus on Jesus

1. Our goal

IV. Summary

A. The key to victory is Jesus

1. Martin Luther

“His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal

2. Randall

Although the Devil can never separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, he can so wound us in battle as to render the believer powerless in his life and witness for Christ.”

It is impossible to outwit the Devil. It is impossible to out strategize him. All of education will never keep us from falling in the invisible war. It is impossible for man to even understand the depth of the wicked schemes of the evil one.

B. Things to remember

1. You are being targeted by a band of terrorists that is more evil than any on earth

2. You will never reach a place of safety from their relentless attack this side of heaven

3. Your enemy will not show mercy on you

4. Your enemy has legions of evil unseen and embedded helpers

5. The members of Chapel Pointe are considered collateral damage in his quest to stop the work of Jesus Christ

6. *Satan attacks churches by going after individual members and their families*

7. *You need not fear the Devil and his legions*

a. You have access to a power infinitely greater than Satan's

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

2. I John 4:4 "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because ***greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.***"

8. *What Satan fears most is the blood of Jesus*

a. *Revelation 12*

"Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: 'Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. (v.10)

"They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death." (Revelation 12:11)

b. What Jesus did for you

C. Next week....The Antichrist

(12) Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."