



The Devil



SEVEN RIVERS
CHURCH

Quotes from Screwtape
Letters
(Wormwood is the devil)

Warm-Up Question:

What was your view of the Devil growing up? What about your churches view?

READ: John 8:44; 1 Peter 5:8-10; Eph. 6:10-13

I. THE REALITY OF THE DEVIL

- ▶ How do these passages describe the devil?
- ▶ What does 1 Peter 5:8-9 tell us to do? What does that mean practically?
- ▶ What are some reasons that it is easy to neglect the reality of the devil?

II. THE LIES OF THE DEVIL

- ▶ If the devil's main strategy is to lie to you, what are some ways you might be believing some of his lies? Here are some examples to consider:
 1. "You can repent without making any real change - just feel sorry"
 2. "You know yourself better than anyone else - you see all your sin"
 3. "It is productive to focus on and worry about the future"
 4. "Church is about you and your preferences"
 5. "You can claim ownership over the people and things in your life"
 6. "Little sins aren't that big of a deal"
- ▶ What are the corresponding truths from God and his Word to these lies?

III. THE RESISTANCE OF THE DEVIL

- ▶ In Ephesians 6:10-13, what does it communicate that the "you's" are plural. What might Paul be envisioning us doing as we "be strong" and "stand against the schemes of the devil"?
- ▶ The armor of God is given in the context of Paul speaking about marriage, parenting and work. How have you most felt attacked by him in those areas?
- ▶ What does it mean that we are to "be strong," but we are to do it "in the strength of his might"? How does preaching the gospel to ourselves help us do this?

III. THE DEFEAT OF THE DEVIL

- ▶ Why does the Bible never tell us to fear the devil? How has he been defeated?
- ▶ How can you live more in light of 1 Peter 5:10 and the defeat of the devil?

"It is funny how mortals always picture us as putting things into their minds: in reality our best work is done by keeping things out."

"The more often he feels without acting, the less he will be able ever to act, and, in the long run, the less he will be able to feel."

"It does not matter how small the sins are provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one--the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."

For Prayer

- Ask for discernment against the devil's lies and courage to fight against him
- Give thanks for God's defeat over the devil

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Scriptures Used

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

1Pet. 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9** Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. **10** And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

Eph. 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. **13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Col. 2:14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. **15** He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Rev. 20:10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.