

Our Adversary the Devil - Conclusion

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- [0 : 0 0] Well, amen and good morning, and let's advance that to where we need to be.
- Okay, so this morning we're going to conclude with our study on our adversary, the devil. I didn't check exactly, but I think it was around February or March when we started this study.
- I'm not positive about that, I didn't really look it up, but I do have all of my pages of notes to go through with you this morning to review. And I'm not kidding, it's 27 pages here, and so we're going to go over it all.
- Well, there's the six categories that we've studied, and each one took several weeks. There's a lot of material to cover there, as you well know.
- If you want to turn in your Bible just to get settled somewhere, you can go to 2 Timothy chapter 2, and we'll get there in a minute. And I really do intend on reviewing the material super, like a flash.
- [1 : 1 5] And just to bring to your remembrance, at the very least, more of the outline of the material. We won't be talking about the verses. But this study started out by an introduction that he's our adversary in the Bible.
- He's called the enemy, and he's real, and he's against you, and he's against our Savior and our God. And the thought was, if he's in fact our enemy, then we would be wise to understand what we can understand about him.
- Not to glorify him, not to get our minds engulfed in who he is, and not to think about him, but to know that he's real.
- And we're going to face him in some way, and I don't want to be the guy that just walks around saying the devil this, the devil that. But if the shoe fits, then we need to know whose shoe that is.
- And the point is, with this study, was that if God revealed something in this book, we should know it. Or at least attempt to understand it and study it. And he did reveal, and he revealed a lot.
- [2 : 2 3] And I've never in my life to date had as intense of a study about the devil or the Satan as this. And I bet you haven't either.
- And so we've gone through this material and studied to begin. We studied his making. And that was that he was an anointed cherub that covered the throne of God.
- He's a created being. He's created as a very special and anointed cherub. Anointed, I don't understand that, above all the other cherubs, or anointed just in the sense of over the throne of God.
- His name was Lucifer, which means light bearer or shining one. And so he's a glorious being. And the scriptures describe his beauty and his wisdom and his brightness.
- And he was covered in precious stones, including gold. And so we made some comments about that and some interesting things. On top of that, he had musical instruments built into his being.

[3 : 26] And was a musical being. And the application goes to show you that he knows music. And you better be cautious when you're dabbling in music. Now, that was his making.

And that's all we're going to say about it. We said a lot back in the day. His might. But we learned that he has some power. And God has created him powerful and has given him incredible power.

One that is not to be overlooked or taken for granted. He has power. And when God allows him, you might say, when God permits him to use it, he can exercise his power over people groups, over nations, and over kingdoms.

And all of this we studied out of the word of God that this is the case. And in the future, he's going to gather all the nations together to battle against the Lord or against his people in Jerusalem.

He can do that. He has power over nature. He manipulated the weather and the elements and the fire of God and the wind in Job's day. He did that.

[4 : 28] He also is what I call the ultimate engineer of evil. Capable in Job's story. Capable of timing all of that evil and tragedy against Job all to the very moment of time.

And just said, wait for it. Wait. Just waiting to see when this one hits him and that one hits him and the next one hits him. He's going to curse God. Watch. Watch. I guarantee he's going to do it. And he set him up to do it and he didn't.

But he was a master of devising and organizing that evil plan. He thinks big picture. He thinks broad scale. And he's working in little areas, subtle areas to that end.

He also has power over man's body to possess their bodies as we saw in several cases in the Bible. And the Bible. Not in what people say or what they write in their books. But in the Bible we saw that he possessed people's bodies.

And he also oppressed people's bodies with sicknesses and diseases. He gave Job boils. How do you give somebody boils? He did it. He put boils on his body.

[5 : 34] He can do that. He can source out his power. He can empower other beings. That's what he does in Revelation 13. He gives power unto the beast and unto the other beast.

And they are able to do miracles and wonders. And we studied other passages that relate to that. He was also able to give life to a beast.

Which you thought God was the only one that could do that. When he formed man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. And he became a living soul. And you thought God was the only one that could do something like that.

But Satan has the ability to imitate it at the very least. And causing man to make that beast or that image to the beast. And then having it come to life in front of him. It's remarkable stuff.

And his power or his might is incredible. He also could influence the thoughts and decisions of men. He can get inside of your head. And there's plenty of scriptures we looked at to prove that.

[6 : 32] That he has access to your mind. An ability to influence your thoughts and your decisions. And so you're told to cast down imaginations. And every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

And bring every thought into captivity. And so he has the power that might. Then his manifestations. He was manifest originally as that anointed cherub.

Beautiful, glorious, bright. And who truly knows how incredible he was. But he was cast down and destroyed. And that destroyed being in the second heaven as we studied.

Is portrayed in the Bible as a great red dragon. And that great red dragon has some other names. When we put scripture with scripture. He's called Leviathan. The piercing serpent.

He's called Leviathan. That crooked serpent. He's called the dragon that is in the sea. And God gives a very descriptive detail in Job 41 about Leviathan. We studied that out.

[7 : 30] And saw and proved that this is no dinosaur. That this is no earth born creature at all. And we spent some time in that. To show you Leviathan and behemoth.

And a revelation from other passages as well. Of our adversary the devil in that destroyed form or manifestation. Then on earth he's manifest as an angel of light.

A deceiving being. One that seems like he's good and righteous and godly. One of God's good angels you might think. But no he's transforming himself into that.

And we studied a little bit about angels. And they're mentioned in the Bible. And had some speculation about some of this stuff. About when maybe in the scriptures he appeared as an angel of light.

Perhaps it sure seems like it would have been Genesis 3. When he's speaking to the woman. It definitely was not a snake. There's no way that was a snake. It's not possible. So eliminate that.

[8 : 32] More likely he was an angel of light. More likely. I believe when he was speaking to Jesus Christ. In Matthew 4 and Luke 4. The temptations out in the wilderness. I don't think he showed up as some red dragon.

I suggest he was an angel of light. Polite. Cordial. Not demanding. Suggesting. Conversant. He also appears as devils.

And we studied that out. And saw that there's a spirit that is now working in the children of disobedience. And there's an awful lot of things about some spirits and devils. And unclean spirits. And spiritual beasts mentioned in the Bible.

All through the Bible. About spiritual beasts. And things that are just kind of over our heads. Literally. And I would say I don't have the answers to what all of that is. I don't understand a lot of that.

But what I do believe is that Satan has the ability to manifest himself by a spirit. In men. And possess them. And work in them. And through them. And influence them.

[9 : 33] And harm or destroy. And he does it in the form of devils. So that was his manifestations. Now his mission. Ultimately. In a short phrase. It was to oppose God.

Anything that God takes pleasure in. We studied a list of things God takes pleasure in. Every single time. There's scripture to show that Satan's opposing. What God is seeking to enjoy.

And then we also looked at a bunch of scriptures about the will of God. What it is that he's trying to accomplish. His will. And every single time. There's the adversary against God.

showing up to oppose what God's attempting to perform. Fifthly was his methods. Here's the highlights of that.

He uses deception. He uses temptation. He uses provocation. Perversion. Studied that for a while. And then the big one was imitation. He is a great imitator.

[10 : 28] And that is his methods of opposing God. And it's all over the book. We covered a lot of ground there. Finally these last few weeks was studying his ministers. And the Bible gives.

Uses that very phrase. His ministers. In 2nd Corinthians 11. And we studied their identity. We studied their fruit. We studied their speech. Their motivation.

And what I call their inspiration. That is a spirit. And there was some interesting thoughts there from that. And that's where we stopped last week. So today let's conclude all of this.

And you got 2nd Timothy chapter 2. So what are we going to do with all that information? All of that truth. All of that insight. All of that analysis of our enemy.

Of our adversary. We made application here and there throughout when we could. But a portion of that study. And some of it was just simply acquiring information.

[11 : 27] Simply gaining knowledge and gaining understanding of our enemy. What God has purposely revealed about him. So what are we going to do with it all? So look at 2nd Timothy 2.

And I'm going to give you a handful of things here. That the scripture lays out. I want you to notice in verse 26. Just this to start.

It says that they may recover themselves. Out of the snare of the devil. Who are taken captive by him at his will. So we've even covered some of this about his ministers.

And Paul's charging Timothy. The servant of the Lord is not to strive. In verse 24. And he's to avoid some things. In verse 23. And he's trying to sharpen Timothy up.

To have his eyes open to the adversary. To the snares that he lays for men. And that he has in fact. Taken some of them captive. Like for instance. Earlier in the passage.

[12 : 23] Look back to verse number 16. He says. But shun profane and vain babblings. For they will increase unto more ungodliness. And we don't need that. Right?

We don't need any more ungodliness. So there's some things to stay away from Timothy. And their word will eat as doth a canker. You know what a canker is? If you just cross reference that to James.

Their gold and silver is cankered. It's rusted. It's eating away. And deteriorating. And their word will eat as doth a canker.

Of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus. Who concerning the truth have erred. Saying that the resurrection is past already. And overthrow the faith of some. So there's men that are posing as ministers of righteousness.

And they're preaching. Something that sounds scriptural. The resurrection is past. And they're warning people. And declaring their doctrine. And in doing so they're overthrowing the faith of some.

[13 : 22] And in this passage Paul tells Timothy. To purge yourself from these vessels of dishonor. And stay away from them. And avoid that verse 23.

Foolish and unlearned questions. And they gender strifes. And all the way down to say that these are the kind of guys. That are taken captive by the devil at his will. They've fallen for a snare.

Now what is the point here? We don't want that to happen. Do you? We don't want to be taken captive by him at his will. So what's the answer? The answer is back in verse 15.

The charge and command to study. What? The word of God. Study the word of God. Study, Timothy.

Christian. To show thyself approved unto God. A workman that needeth not to be ashamed. Rightly dividing the word of truth. Studying the scriptures. Shunning things that are against the scriptures.

[14 : 21] Studying the scriptures is what gives you insight and enlightenment and truth. And then you won't fall into that snare. So point number one is to study the word of God.

And be familiar with what God has revealed. And search the scriptures daily. Whether these things are so. So spend time, real time in the book. Then you won't be ignorant of his devices like so many are.

The temptation, the snare of the devil probably in modern Christianity is just entertainment. It's probably not as much false doctrine as it is distraction by just stupid stuff that you won't remember ten minutes from now.

But you just, you gotta watch it. You gotta just keep it in your hands. Make yourself a disciple of the Bible. A discipline. The Bible in, I think it's in Isaiah.

He describes how you learn the Bible. Here a little. There a little. You just grow in knowledge. You pick it up. This is your sword, right? The sword of the spirit. And so if this is, if you're gonna be worried about this devil that's gonna try to take you captive and lay a snare for you.

[15 : 32] And if the solution is to know the scriptures and to study the scriptures. Then you ought to, as you might, the analogy, sharpen your sword. You might get familiar with your weapon. You might know that thing and carry that thing and not be ashamed of that thing.

In modern day and warfare and training, soldiers have a handgun issued to them. And one of the things they're supposed to be able to do is to be blindfolded and to take that handgun apart and to reassemble it.

Without their sight, just by hand, just by feel, just to be so familiar with that weapon. Because it's an important piece. Their life could depend on it.

And so could yours. You could be taken captive by him at his will when you're ignorant of the word of God. Because you don't know what it says. And some Jehovah's Witness comes spreading some cute little message.

Or some Mormon comes around and tells you something that sounds pretty good. Or somebody else, there's plenty of them, some backslidden Christian, wants to tell you why you don't have to be so gung-ho for the Lord.

[16 : 40] And why you don't have to attend church. Why that's not as important. You're a Pharisee. You're under the law thinking you have to observe that Sunday is the Sabbath day. And they'll tell you, you can just go enjoy all things and worship God some other way.

You better know your book. You better know what God tells you. Now, we've covered a lot of material over the course of this study. And so much of the work was done about our adversary and about studying him.

I think we've learned a lot of things. I think you've all learned a lot of things. Have a greater understanding. So if that's the case, then let's turn to the next thing. Look at 1 Peter chapter 5. 1 Peter chapter 5.

So if you've studied your enemy and you know your enemy, what he's capable of and what his tendencies are. If you're familiar with how he operates, then this ought to speak to you right here.

1 Peter 5 and verse number 8. Be sober. Be vigilant. Because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour.

[17 : 52] So their second thought here first was to study. To be familiar with the book and what the truth is and what it says about him. Then secondly, if you've learned anything, you've learned that he's powerful.

You've learned that he's capable. You've learned that he's very wise. And he's patient. And he's subtle. And he's got the big picture in view. And he'll use a little thing to get you off in one area with the big goal of getting you way down the road.

So be sober. Get your guard up. Have your eyes open. Be aware. The Bible says walk circumspectly. If you had to travel a path.

If you had to get from point A to point B. And I mean, it was something that's just in an illustration. You had to do it. Don't say, well, I wouldn't do it. No, let's just say you had to do it.

And you were warned that along the path is a real mature adult male lion. And he's seeking whom he may devour. He's been on that path for a long time taking people out.

[18 : 59] And you have to travel that path. But before you go, here's some gear. Here's some gear to fit you, to protect you, so you can defend yourself.

And this gear is proven. The people that wear this gear get through to the other side. The people that are armed and ready and are vigilant, they get through.

What would your decision be? Walking down that path. What would your decision be? Would you just say, oh, this stuff's not for me. I'll take my chances.

Will you walk that path being just loud and cutting up and boisterous and just, you know, laughing and carrying on and finding a crowd? Would that be your way through the path?

Making a lot of ruckus, just having a great time? Or would you be a little bit scared knowing that this adversary can take me down?

[19 : 55] Would you walk cautiously? Would you walk with your eyes open soberly? Would you be vigilant? If you knew that he was ready to come out and come after you, it makes sense to know what he's capable of.

And it makes sense for you as a believer to know how this lion attacks. It makes sense to know what to watch out for. So be sober. Be vigilant.

Now the next verse, look at the next verse, verse number 9. And here's a third thought here. Whom resist steadfast in the faith?

Not in the flesh, in the faith. So we're told to study. We're told to be sober and to be vigilant and to be aware.

And to have understanding and to realize he's there. Then thirdly, we're to resist him. When he does show up, we're to resist him. Steadfast in the faith.

[21 : 01] It doesn't say that we're to defeat him or harm him. It says we're to resist him, to take a stand against him or to defend yourself against him. The word steadfast implies a purpose and a determination.

It's not just like, oh, in the moment I'm going to make some decisions here. It's no, you're going to have this resolve already. This is how I'm going to react. This is how I'm going to handle myself. Steadfast in the faith.

Imagine you're a soldier. Okay? It's not such a strange thought here. Because that's what the scripture declares you are in Christ. A soldier. And imagine you're a soldier that has to face an enemy.

And let's say you're outnumbered by this enemy. Let's say it's just something like 12 to 1. You got 12 against you. And you have to face them.

Now, is it in your mind to say, bless God, I'm charged. Charging these 12 going in all out. Would that be wise?

[22 : 02] To be on the offensive. Don't give me some gas that somebody says, we're going to charge hell with a squirt gun or something. That's stupidity. Let's be realistic.

You're a soldier. You've got gear. The armor of God we'll look at in a moment. You've got that gear on for defensive purposes. And you're outnumbered.

And you're supposed to fight. Now, would it make sense for you to charge them and engage them head on, running right into the crowd? Or would it make a little more sense to retreat a little bit till you can find some ground that can help protect you and surround you some rocks that you can get in and get behind and tucked in to where they can't just come and surround you and take you out?

Would it make more sense for you to get yourself sheltered? Would it make more sense to build up some kind of bunker or some wall of resistance? You're told to resist the devil.

You're not told to charge him and start taking wax at his head because that's not going to happen. Somebody gets so full of zeal and so full of folly thinking they're going to take down the devil and defeat him and conquer this world for Jesus Christ, they're deceived.

[23 : 21] You're told to resist him. So it might be smart for you to get yourself in a fortified place, a place of security. The verse says, resist steadfast.

And it tells you where to do it. In the faith. There's already a place that is set up for you to resist the devil. So determined to get rooted and grounded in the faith.

Determined to know the word of God in order to resist the devil, you're going to need something bigger than yourself. And that's the faith. And by the way, it takes time to get rooted and grounded in the faith.

Now, along those thoughts, just turn to your left quickly, to James chapter number 4. And here's a very similar statement. James chapter 4.

You're told to resist him steadfast in the faith. James 4 and verse 7. And verse 8.

[24 : 29] Submit yourselves, therefore, to God. Resist the devil. Same statement, isn't it? And he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

So we're to submit to God first, verse 7. We're also to draw nigh to God. And again, we're told to resist the devil.

I want to point out that God is not going to chase you down. If you step away from him, he's not going to run to you to protect you.

In other words, one step away from God in attempting to resist the devil is one step too far. You know what that is? That's giving place to the devil, like you're told not to.

The Bible says to submit to God, to draw nigh to God. To stay, I'd say, as close as possible, like a little child holding on to their father's leg when they're in a crowd.

[25 : 28] Don't put yourself in a place where you cannot resist. Don't put yourself out in the open where you cannot win. And it's going to take real effort to draw nigh to God and to stay nigh to God.

And it's your life. That adversary is against God, and he's going to be against you if you're with God. If you go drifting away from the Lord, I'll say it like this. You take some steps away from God.

God's not going to chase you down, but the devil will. He'll chase you down and devour you. But if you stay close to the Lord, you'll be safe.

So resist the devil, and a good way to do that is by submitting to God, to staying close or drawing nigh to God as nigh as you possibly can. And we'll talk more about that here shortly.

Go to Ephesians chapter 4. So study to be aware and to understand and know. And then be sober.

[26 : 32] And apply that knowledge. Apply that wisdom that you've gained from the scripture to understanding how you are to react and what to be aware of, what to look for.

And thirdly, then resist him when he shows up. Resist him in the faith. So you're going to have to be in the faith. You're going to have to submit to the Lord and nigh to God. And now, fourth.

I mentioned this already. Look at verse 27. The verse says, Neither give place to the devil. 4.27. Neither give place to the devil.

Now, in the context, it's a description of putting on the new man, putting off the old man, verse 22, 23, 24. It's putting off the old man.

And that's where the devil works. He works in your flesh. Putting him off and putting on the spirit or the new man or put you on the Lord Jesus Christ. The devil cannot overcome the Lord Jesus Christ.

- [27 : 35] He cannot overcome the new man. If you're going to defeat and resist the devil, it's going to be in the new man because he is armed and he is protected.

And so look over at chapter number 6. Ephesians 6. The new man is your hiding place. The new man is your greatest defense because Satan cannot defeat Christ in you.

He can defeat your flesh, but he can't defeat the new man. So watch this analogy. We've studied this in Ephesians. I taught you that putting on the armor of God.

Let's start in verse 10. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against, there's resistance, the wiles of the devil.

Now, these aren't individual pieces that you put on. I have my salvation on, but I don't have my truth on. That's not really the case here. The case is that you're putting on the new man.

- [28 : 37] You're putting on the Lord Jesus Christ. And elements of that faith is described as salvation, as righteousness, as truth.

And it's described in kind of a broken down detail, but the entirety is always put on the whole armor, not just put on a piece, but put on the whole thing, and then you'll be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Putting on the armor of God is putting on the new man, is what I'm saying. And the adversary cannot overcome the sword of the spirit. He can't do anything against the word of God. He cannot penetrate the shield of faith, so put it on.

He cannot strip you of your breastplate of righteousness. And he can't snag away from you the helmet of salvation. So put that thing on and walk in the spirit.

Walk in the new man. He can't touch you in the new man. That should make sense to you. God has fitted you. He's fitted the believer and supplied the believer with a defense system that cannot be touched.

- [29 : 50] That cannot... It's correct. It's capable. It's effective. And you're a fool not to put it on. Put it on. Now there's one element here I've got to point out that cannot be dismissed in this.

And when you get down, let's read verse 17. He's going through this list. And at verse 17, take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God. And you have to notice that's a colon that ends verse 17.

There's no period. It's not finished with the whole armor of God. It's still continuing to the next word, praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit.

The whole armor of God, there's an element that commonly gets dismissed, but it's mandatory. And it's an action that is done in the new man and it's praying. Praying.

That's part of drawing nigh to God. That's part of putting on the new man. That's part of walking in the spirit. The prayer of the new man gives him strength, gives him awareness.

- [30 : 57] It gets you re-centered to who you are and what you're supposed to be doing. And when you eliminate prayer and think, well, I read my chapter of my Bible today, now I can go on through life, you're not being sober.

You're not vigilant at all. You've got to spend some time in prayer. That'll get your mind quickened. That'll get your eyes opened. There's something special about prayer.

And you won't understand it unless you do it. You'll feel it when you do it. When you pray that God strengthens you and Paul said that he was praying for these Ephesians.

Look back at chapter oh, no, chapter one. I think I missed it.

No, chapter three. Chapter three. And notice verse 14 that he's praying. I bow my knees. 314 unto the Father.

[32 : 01] What's he praying for? Verse 16 that he would grant you according to the riches of his glory to be strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man. You can get strength in the inside in the new man through prayer.

It's part of it. It's necessary. It gets you refocused on your objectives. It gets you refocused on reality as this is me and the Lord and I need to stay close to him.

And it opens your eyes as well to the distractions that otherwise you're blinded to and you're just sucking in and saying there's nothing wrong with it. There's nothing wrong with it. There's nothing wrong with it. It's fine.

It's okay. But when you get on your face before God all of a sudden you start to see those things are just wasted time, unnecessary. They're not helping me. They're bringing me down and I should be walking in the spirit.

So neither give place to the devil is what he said in Ephesians 4 and you do that by putting on the new man. Now just to conclude this little study here this morning every thought here is practical it's necessary but most importantly every single one is a command.

[33 : 15] Whether you caught that or not these are not suggestions. As a child of God you're commanded to study. As a child of God that's in the imperative to be sober and be vigilant and to resist the devil as well as draw nigh to God.

And then finally to put on the new man and pray and neither give place. Those are all commands. It's not a game. The Bible's giving you it's instructing you but commanding you this is the way you'll succeed.

This is the way you'll avoid the snares. This is the way that you can defeat such a powerful foe. And if you don't think he's powerful or you haven't been paying attention life is too short to spend it spiritually defeated and wasted and trapped in a snare that you can't get out of.

It's your life though in the end and it's your decision to whether you're going to take heed to this whether you're going to consider that this is real that it doesn't get any bigger than this stage here that you have a responsibility to be in prayer.

Now you don't hear this at your job. You don't hear this on TV. The only place you hear this is in church. This is the only place you hear somebody standing up and telling you to be sober the devil's real and he's coming for you and you need to stand up and resist him.

[34 : 45] You need to be sharpened in the word of God. You need to be on your knees in prayer and refocused every day so that you can stand that you can come out and please God.

Nobody else is telling you that. So am I just blowing hot air up here or are we in the Bible trying to help you? So this is where this thing comes to a conclusion and it's been months of study and I think these last thoughts are just practical commands that we need to we need to pick up.

We need to be realistic with this thing that it's it's all here if you believe this book then you better obey this book because it's your life. It's your life. All right. We'll be dismissed in prayer.

Aubrey