



April 23, 2023

“Temptation and the Tempter”

SS 9:30, Service at 10:30 with King’s Kids.

News:

Wednesday Evening Classes 6:30-8:00
Church Workday Saturday, April 29th

330 N. Somers Rd. (Mail: PO Box 10626) Kalispell, MT 59904~ (406) 755-1776

Visit the website ~ www.myaletheia.com

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 Emails: pastor@myaletheia.com, stacey.sundt@myaletheia.com

Meaning and purpose entail _____.

Be a Christian by doing your Divine _____ - by living your life for Christ’s purpose, and at the end of your life, you’ll see the glorious meaning and purpose of your life.

What is more important to you...

- 1) Living your best, most successful, most enjoyable, most fulfilling, life now?
- 2) Acting as God’s agent regardless of the personal cost to you in this life?
- 3) Doing 1) while pretending to be doing 2)?

JOHN 12:27-33 ~

His soul was troubled. “Soul,” ψυχή (psū-χā), means His most essential core being. “Troubled,” ταρασσω (tä-räs-sō), means to agitate, or to stir up.

As fully man, Jesus was genuinely troubled, which means concerned, which, in-turn, means _____. As one scholar put it, “the Seed - to continue the earlier illustration - (was) tempted to love His life and not hate it.” Temptation comes, not from _____, but from the _____.

The Bible declares that Jesus was tempted in every way that we are tempted (Hebrews 2:18, 4:15). As fully God, He was able to overcome His very real fears perfectly and so remain _____ as was necessary for Lamb Who was the once and for all sacrifice.

Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.

God Bless You!

Rational fear is a _____ of probability and severity.

It comes down to what you _____.

The fear of God simply means that you care more about what God thinks than what you, or anyone else, thinks. You therefore _____ what He commands. His _____ is what enables us to care more about His purposes for our life, than we fear what might happen in this life if we don't work hard to preserve and advance it.

“Father, glorify Your name,” is the _____ as “Your Will be done on earth just as it is in Heaven.”

All the people there heard the audible voice, but none of them heard. It was a sign that indicated that _____ was upon the whole world and upon its _____.

It is easy to misinterpret God's Word when we fail to grasp the difference between God's _____ and man's _____.

Satan, and his demonic followers are _____ against those who resist in the power of Christ (Peter 5:8-11). The Christians were being persecuted and in the face of that they were doubting the _____ of Satan.

“Adversary” is your opponent in a court of law. The title “devil” is διάβολος (dē-ä-bö-lös), literally meaning accuser. Satan שָׂטָן (sä-tän) means the same thing in Hebrew. He is primarily the accuser. His other tactic is to _____.

Satan's argument was that no human was worthy. Revelation 12:9-11. That is until Christ paid the debt for all mankind (Luke 10:17–20).

Satan no longer _____ those who are in Christ because he can't, and he no longer _____ those who belong to Christ unto eternal death because we are sealed, but he still causes havoc in the church by simply _____. That power is given to him by _____ each time.

Jesus said that if He was lifted up in sacrificial death, He would draw all people to Himself. He provided Salvation for every person. The biggest area of concern to Satan since then is working to prevent people from _____ that Salvation is within their grasp.

Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

Name _____ Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____



Lêtheia

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



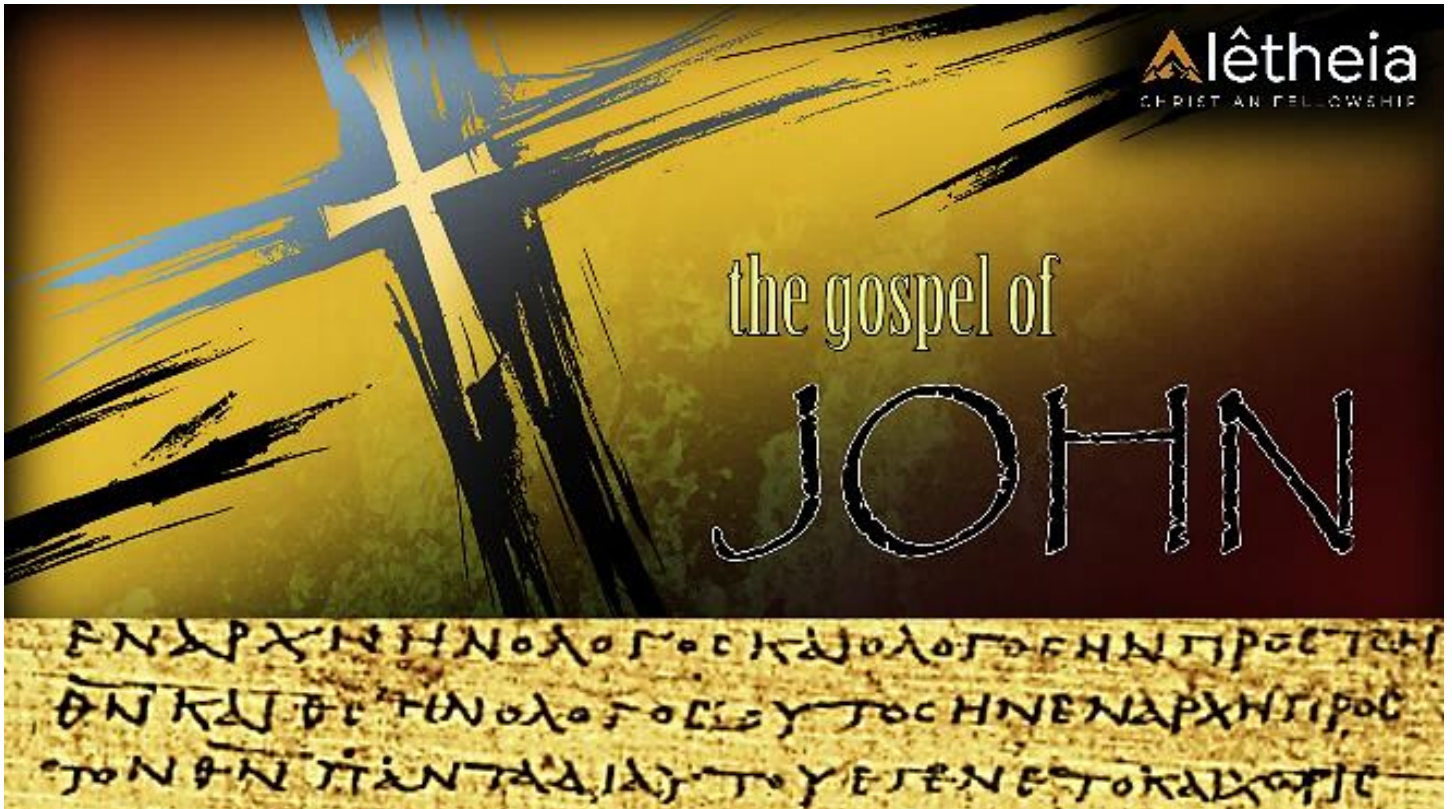
Saturday, April 29th

Lend a Helping Hand

Church

WORK DAY





Last week we talked about the first part of a three-part final public address by Jesus. You'll remember that the formal request by non-Jews to meet with Jesus was a sign that His time was up. Jesus had symbolically transitioned from the Jewish Messiah to the Savior of the world. As His enemies had just said, "Now the whole world has gone after Him."

He was sent to the Jews as a Jew, but as God among us, He was always meant to be the Savior of all.

Jesus seemingly ignored the Greek's request and instead declared His purpose, "by saying, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.'"

Meaning and purpose entail duty. People think that meaning and purpose simply exist, that you have this intrinsically and all you need to do is find it. All a person must do is discover themselves and their meaning and purpose will be revealed. Biblically, meaning and purpose are realized by faithfully discharging your duty. Jesus said, “unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. The one who loves his life loses it, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it to eternal life.”

Be a Christian by doing your Divine duty - by living your life for Christ's purpose, and at the end of your life you'll see the glorious meaning and purpose of your life. As Jesus said, “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”

Jesus said that it was time for His glorification which would entail Him giving up His life in order to give life to others and He said that His followers would actually follow Him. What Jesus meant was that His disciples would need to have the same commitment to the Divine cause that He had. Christians would have to be

as completely dedicated to Christ and His cause as Christ was to the Father and His Will.



Do you love your present life, or do you hate it? Which means, what is more important to you... 1) Living your best, most successful, most enjoyable, most fulfilling, life now, or 2) acting as God's agent regardless of the personal cost to you in this life?

Do you know what the difference really is? Do you know what it means to be 2) His agent as opposed to 1) living your life, your way...



1) LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE NOW.

2) ACTING AS GOD'S AGENT REGARDLESS OF THE PERSONAL COST.

3) PRETENDING TO DO 2), WHILE ACTUALLY DOING 1).

JESUS SAID, "YOU CANNOT SERVE TWO MASTERS."

Or doing what most Christians do, trying to play both sides against the middle? 1) pretending to be 2) Living for yourself as much as possible while still doing enough Jesus stuff to appease Him and secure your spot in Heaven? Well, if you're not sure what it means to "hate your life," we're about to find out... As Jesus continued in His second part...



John 12:27–33, 27“Now My soul has become troubled; and what am I to say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came out of heaven: “I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.” 29So the crowd who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, “An angel has spoken to Him!” 30Jesus responded and said, “This voice has not come for My sake, but for yours. 31Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself.” 33Now He was saying this to indicate what kind of death He was going to die.



Jesus just said that He was the Seed that must die in order to give life to others and so, the Seed must die. In addressing that reality Jesus was shaken to His core.

How anyone could look at verse 27 and not realize that Jesus was more than God wearing a human suit is beyond me. Look at the anguish He felt, look at the incredibly human response that He had to the duty that awaited Him.

We call the Bible false when we diminish the genuine feelings of inner turmoil that Jesus endured as a man

anticipating a brutal death. He was experiencing what any normal person would in such a case.

His soul was troubled. “Soul,” ψυχή (psü-ġā), giving us all our psych words. It means His most essential core being - His life - His person. “Troubled,” is ταρασσω (tä-řäs-sō), meaning to agitate, or to stir up, as in the water at the Pool of Bethesda. We’ve encountered the word elsewhere. It is usually translated as terrified, frightened, or in a state of dread, as when the Apostles saw Jesus, walking on the storm-tossed water of the Sea of Galilee. We saw it again when Jesus was moved by the incredible sorrow of Lazarus’ sister Mary, coupled with the unbelief of the Jews mourning her brother. There Jesus was “deeply moved in spirit and was (ταρασσω) - troubled.”

We rightly get nervous when we talk about Jesus’ human emotions. We do need to tread carefully, but the reality is, that Jesus controlling His human emotion and staying true to His purpose doesn’t mean much if there wasn’t much real emotion to overcome.



As fully man, Jesus was genuinely troubled, which means concerned, which, in-turn, means afraid. We have to grant that to honor the veracity of the Bible and to recognize what a true sacrifice Jesus actually made. As one scholar put it, “the Seed - to continue the earlier illustration - (was) tempted to love His life and not hate it.” Temptation comes, not from God, but the Tempter.

The Bible declares that Jesus was tempted in every way that we are tempted (Hebrews 2:18, 4:15). This revelation of Jesus’ inner turmoil demonstrates that when He asks us to trust Him, by laying our life on the line, it’s nothing that He wouldn’t do Himself. It is nothing that He hasn’t already done Himself.

Let's dig a little deeper here. As fully God, He was able to overcome His very real fears perfectly and so remain sinless as was necessary for Lamb Who was the once and for all sacrifice.

We have the power of God within us and through that power we should likewise live our Divine purpose. At the same time, none of us is actually God made flesh and so we do, inevitably, fall short. What's comforting is that Jesus knows exactly how hard it is to overcome fear.

That's ultimately what we're talking about - fear. Fear is as real a feeling as any, but it's not real at all, in the sense that it's entirely about an unknown future. Fear is like worry; both have to do with possible outcomes -

with what might, or might not, happen next.

Likelihood	Seriousness				
	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Certain <i>>90% chance</i>	High	High	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme
Likely <i>50% - 90% chance</i>	Moderate	High	High	Extreme	Extreme
Moderate <i>10% - 50% chance</i>	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme	Extreme
Unlikely <i>3% - 10% chance</i>	Low	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
Rare <i><3% chance</i>	Low	Low	Moderate	High	High

Rational fear is a ratio of probability and severity. The greater the certainty of a particular future the greater the fear and the greater the direness the greater the fear. Blowing a bubble with gum is almost certainly going to result in a pop, but it's not a real dire outcome, whereas the catastrophic eruption of the Yellowstone caldera would be dire, it's highly unlikely. Jump off Dragon's Tail in Glacier Park without a parachute and the future is both quite certain and quite dire, ergo the most fear producing activity of the three.

Jesus knew with absolute certainty what His mission duty was about to require of Him and He knew that it

was going to be horrifically unpleasant, ergo, maximum fear.



One of my all-time favorite philosophers, John Wayne, said that “Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyway.” Jesus looked fear in the face and saddled up. He basically said, I’ve come to My purpose, and it is incredibly difficult to push through, but what am I do? Am I to try to get out of my mission, am I to beg for an easier mission, am I to fear the physical possibilities or God?

You see that’s what “the whole duty of man is to fear God and obey His commands,” means. It comes down to what you fear most. Do you fear men, what they will

think of you, what they will say behind your back, what they will do to you? Do you fear the effect of not honoring the fertility gods and goddesses and thereby having a less prosperous future? Do you fear what will happen in retirement if you don't put your extra money in your IRA? Do you fear what life will be like if you don't buy that new gadget, that new car, that new exercise program, that new vacation? Do you fear illness, disease, pestilence, poverty, and death, or, my friends, or do you fear God? That's the question.



The fear of God simply means that you care more about what God thinks than what you, or anyone else, thinks. That you care more, believe more, and work more, to please Him than you do to please yourself. It

means that you recognize that your short sojourn on planet earth is far less important than eternity and that your opinion is far less valid than God's opinion.

Therefore, you obey what He commands, instead of yielding to your own desires. That's what it means that perfect love - Agapê love - God's love - drives out fear. His love is what enables us to care more about His purposes for our life, than we fear what might happen in this life if we don't work hard to preserve and advance it.

Jesus showed that He cared far less for His physical comfort, prosperity, success, and life than He cared about pleasing the Father by obeying His Will and accomplishing His purpose for Him. Jesus said it as plainly as it could possibly be said, "for this purpose I came to this hour.

So, instead of Him doing what is right in His own eyes, He said "Father, glorify Your name." It's the same as "Your Will be done on earth just as it is in Heaven."



The Father spoke audibly to Jesus, confirming His identity and purpose, for the third time. The first, at His Baptism, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17). The second at His Transfiguration, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!” (Matthew 17:5). And the third here “I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

Again, going back to last week, the most glory worthy act of all time was God, at maximum personal cost, unilaterally Saving us, while we were still His enemies. The Father had glorified His Name when He conceived the plan of Salvation, when the Word of God was

conceived in a human, when Jesus began His ministry and all the more as Jesus finished His ministry, but just as much throughout time to today and forever.

Technically, the Greek construction is called a gnomic aorist, but what it means is that God glorifying His Name is not something that did happen, but something that is happening. You could say, it is the ongoing result, which will never end.

All the people there heard the audible voice, but none of them heard what He said and so, none of them understood. It was a sign for them which will be expanded upon in the third and final part where Jesus will talk about blinded eyes, and hardened hearts.

What it means for now, was that judgment was upon them, and if upon them, then certainly upon the whole world to include the supernatural influencer of the world. It was time for the “ruler of this world” to be, emphatically, cast out. The prince of the darkness of this world system, Beelzebub, Lucifer, Satan, the Devil.



This is an area of Biblical theology that confuses a whole lot of people. Jesus very clearly said that “Now judgment is upon the world.” That was followed by Him saying, “Now, the ruler of this world will be cast out.” “Now,” yet it certainly hasn’t seemed so over the last 2,000 years.

When talking about eschatology - the end of the world stuff - particularly in the Book of Revelation, it is easy to misinterpret God’s Word when we fail to grasp a very basic concept some people call “a now, not yet paradigm.”

It's much the same when talking about God's sovereignty and man's free will. The problem is God's Word speaks both from His perspective as well as from man's perspective.

The moment, so to speak, that God came up with the plan to create the physical universe and breathe life into Adam, He already had the plan to Save Adam's progeny, which means that He already had the plan to judge the world and cast out the ruler of the darkness of the world. It's been a done deal from God's perspective from before He spoke light into existence.

From our perspective... Well, it doesn't seem so over and done with. There is a common belief among Christians that we are living in the Millennium now. Other Christians object pointing to all the evil running rampant all around us and say that there's no way that we're living in a time where Christ reigns on earth.

It depends on perspective. As far as Jesus was concerned His face was set for what came next and so it was as good as done and once done, His death would destroy sin, death, and the grave, as well as break the stranglehold on mankind that Satan enjoyed.

From a certain perspective it was done before it was started.

We live in a time, ever since the Day of Pentecost after Jesus' Ascension into Heaven, where it is possible to be eternally Saved and filled with God's Holy Spirit. For such people, the defeat of sin is complete. Even though, from an earthbound viewpoint, we still commit sins daily, we are reckoned by Almighty God as perfectly sinless as we stand in the Blood of the Lamb. Even though, from an outlook mired in the mundane, we still get sick, suffer, and die, we are numbered by the Ancient of Days as being forever alive in Christ.

It's about perspective. From the moment God planned to create, the pinnacle of His creation, you, and me, and all our fellow human becomings, were Judged and we were therefore, doomed. At the same time though we who were to accept Jesus were already Saved. The plan was in effect and with God's plans there is no deviation (that's sovereignty). Salvation would be made available and certain people, for whatever reason you want to believe, would embrace that Salvation and others would reject it (Free Will). God not only knew all of that before He started, it was, from His perspective, already set in stone.

From our perspective, it is little more than a constant parade of choices where we use our God given free will, countless times a day. For God, "It is finished." It's all about perspective.



Satan
Cast Down to Earth

Gustave Doré
c. 1850

Satan, and his demonic followers are powerless against those who resist in the power of Christ. The Apostle Peter wrote that our "adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." That sounds bad, so what are we to do? Peter went on, "So resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brothers and sisters who are in the world. 10After you have suffered for a little while,

the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen” (Peter 5:8-11). That’s pretty good, except the suffering for a while part. What does it mean? The Christians were being persecuted and in the face of that they were doubting the defeat of Satan. Sound familiar? Peter assured them that the “adversary, the devil,” simply had to be resisted through faith. Good, but what does that mean?

Let’s start with this... “Adversary” doesn’t mean enemy in the way we typically use the word - it has to do with your opponent in a court of law. The title devil is actually the Greek word διάβολος (dē-ä-bö-lös), literally meaning accuser. Satan ἑβραϊστικῶς (sä-tän) means the same thing in Hebrew. The point of getting that is to know that the work of Satan against us is primarily that of an accuser. His other tactic is to be a tempter, which is to say a deceiver.

Being the father of all deceivers is not a superpower. All he and his buddies need to do is whisper what we either already want to hear, or what will work on our insecurities and then they just sit back and enjoy the whole dumb show as we react.

Peter started out this section by saying “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert.” As Christians with God’s Holy Spirit that’s all that we need to do to resist or stand against the devil’s schemes trying to deceive us.

It’s about being smarter than the one trying to get a rise out of us, trying to manipulate us into being just as angry, just as rude, just as vindictive as a non-Christian. It’s about being wise enough to remember who you are in Christ, rather than being tempted to run after all the things of this life. It’s about having enough faith in Jesus that you are in Jesus rather than of this world.

Jesus is recorded in both Matthew and Mark as saying that forces, both supernatural and natural, would attempt to lead true Christians away. The implication is that evil would successfully do so, if that were possible, but that it is not (Matthew 24:24, Mark 13:22). We have the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9) and God will not allow us to be tempted beyond His ability to keep us (I Corinthians 10:13).



What Peter then addressed was the role of Satan as our accuser in the Court of Heaven. His primary role after his defeat and fall leading to his deception and our Fall, was to accuse us before God. We get this a bit wrong when we think more in terms of Satan making us feel guilty... That's actually the deception role. Like Satan, we're experts at making everything about us. This is Satan standing in God's presence and making a legal argument against mankind and so, against God Himself.

Satan's argument was that no human was worthy of anything other than eternal death, yet God was still working with us and promising a way out of the

judgment that we had earned. Satan, for millennia, was accusing God of unrighteousness because He wouldn't do what obviously needed doing. The only fair, just, and proper thing to do was to utterly destroy mankind for good.

Peter's encouragement was to not lose faith in the victory of Christ over Satan. From their perspective it would take a little bit of time and suffering to fully see it, but it was already a done deal. What part was done? This part that Jesus talked about in John chapter 12. To show that better let me read a bit from John's Book of Revelation chapter 12. We'll start in verse 9, "And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down, the one who accuses them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death." Satan and his demonic horde were defeated and cast

out of Heaven, before Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden, but Satan still retained the privilege of accusing man and, in so doing, accusing God. We see that in Job's trials.

That is until Christ paid the debt for all mankind. Once Jesus paid, Satan no longer had a case. It isn't like Satan accuses each person individually and Jesus mounts a defense for them. Jesus paid, once and for all, and Satan's legal argument is invalidated forever. Satan was thrown out of Heaven a second time - the time discussed by Jesus in John 12:31 - the time John recorded in Revelation 12:10. That's what Jesus was talking about when the disciples He sent out returned to Him rejoicing. Luke 10:17–20, 17Now the seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name!" 18And He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like lightning. 19Behold, I have given you authority to walk on snakes and scorpions, and authority over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. 20Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven." Technically, the fall of Satan Jesus saw here, and the full authority of Jesus given to His church, and the disciples names recorded in Heaven had not yet

happened from a human perspective... But from God's perspective it was finished. And... Praise be to God, from our human perspective today, all of that has been accomplished.

Satan no longer accuses you, if you are covered by the Lamb's blood and your name is recorded in Heaven. Something that from God's perspective happened before He created the universe. Certainly, something that happened when Christ paid your debt, thousands of years before you were born. Most assuredly, something that happened when you fully embraced Jesus as your Lord and Savior. And it will be literally consummated when Christ returns and takes you home. Do you believe that?

Perhaps the reason we doubt at times is the middle bit the verse 19 bit, the "Behold, I have given you authority to walk on snakes and scorpions, and authority over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you," bit. From a spiritual, supernatural, and eternal perspective this is already accomplished too. You have nothing at all to fear from Satan or his horde. You, as a Christian already have "authority over all the power of the enemy," but "don't rejoice at that, rejoice that you

name is recorded in Heaven.” That’s what it means that “nothing will injure you.”

So, the ruler of this world has now been thrown down and cast out a second time. He no longer accuses those who are in Christ because he can’t, and he no longer deceives those who belong to Christ unto eternal death, but he still causes havoc in the church by simply whispering. That power is given to him by us each time.

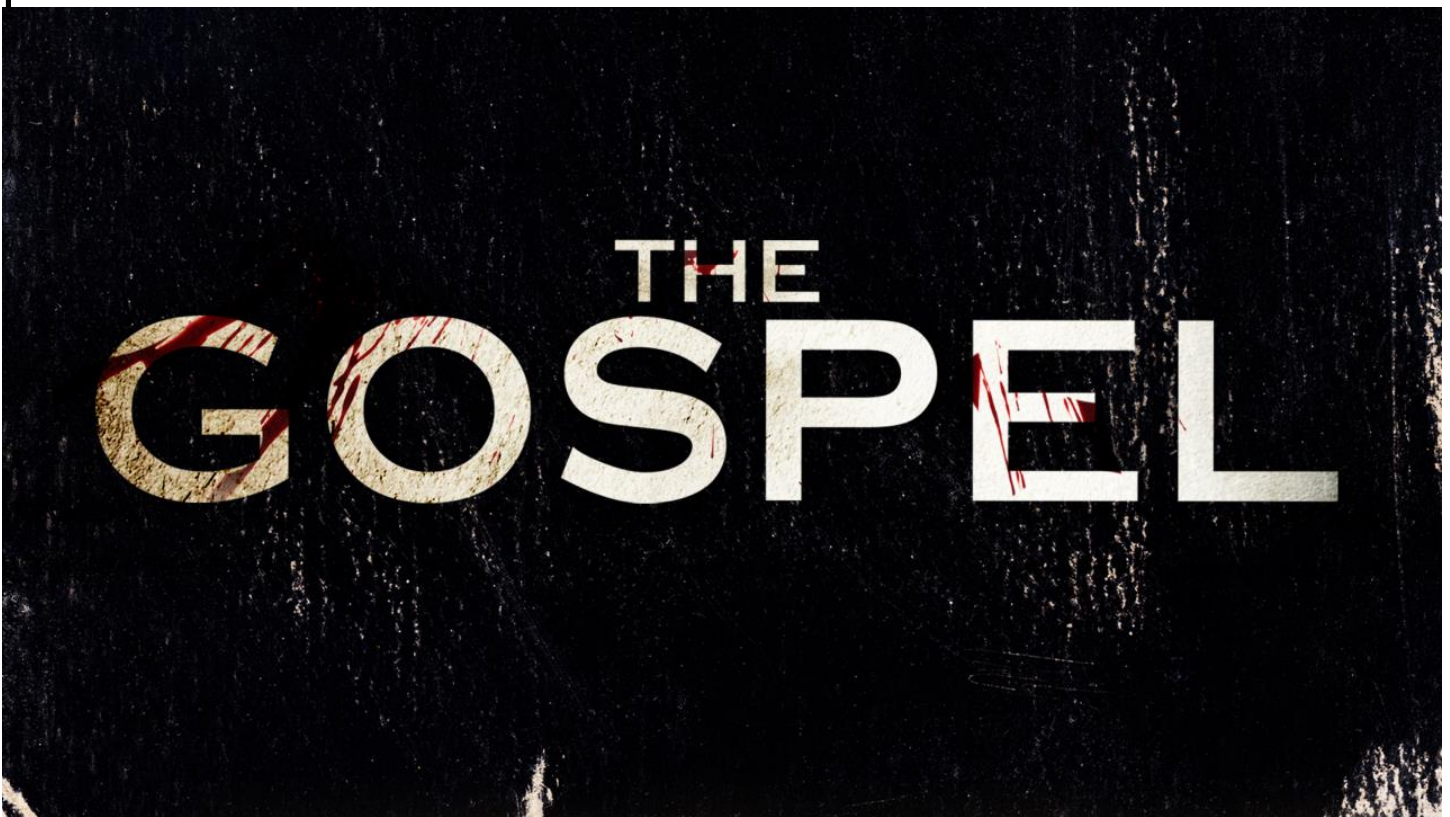
Think about that. Every time that there is division in the Body of Christ it is because Christian people filled with the Holy Spirit gave Satan the power to influence them for evil. Resist him.

I find that the best way to give up one thing is to substitute it with something else. The best way to stand against the schemes of the devil is to focus on the purposes of Christ.

He said that if He was lifted up in sacrificial death, He would draw all people to Himself. We know that He hasn’t ever drawn every person to Himself so what does that mean? It means that His perfect sacrifice,

now finished even from our perspective, provided Salvation for every person.

The biggest area of concern to Satan since Jesus paid is working to prevent people from realizing that Salvation is within their grasp. He helps his cause by stirring up trouble in the church and by stirring up trouble in world, but mostly he's interested in keeping non-Christians distracted from the fact that Jesus has paid for the sins of the whole world.



People must turn and be healed by His touch. Pride prevents them. We must help them overcome their pride and we'll never do that by attacking them. Never. Let us be salt and light as we humbly share the Gospel

of Grace to them. Let us be a blessing, rather than a curse. Let Christ build His Kingdom through us, now.



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