

The Devil's Influence

Ephesians 6:10-18 (King James)

INTRODUCTION: The Devils Influence.

What does the bible have to say?

In these modern times we live in, we are still living in an evil and wicked and immoral society just as it has been for at least six thousand years before. The only difference is, that we were not there to witness those evil times. But those evil times were there the same as they are here today and the bible is our witness.

There are virtually no places in the world today where morality is observed by the people or their governments. Any attempt for a righteous government is always opposed by the wicked majority. Countries that do enforce punishment through their own religion also continue to break the moral laws of God, which are the Ten Commandments. They for example are worshipping false gods in their own religion.

Then there are those countries or nations which call themselves a Christian nation or a Christian country which seek to pass laws to break the moral Laws of God. Such as abortion which is murder is legalized and also same gender marriages.

Even many of the churches, and main stream denominational churches have gone against the scriptures to ordain woman as their congregation leaders as pastors or preachers in the church, which is a clear violation of the scriptures.

❖ So how did this happen you might ask?

1. Righteousness has been “replaced” with “human rights”, which goes against every moral law that God has ordained.
2. What is busy happening to the world is the Devil's influence of self righteousness through which sin is enabled.
3. When we look to the scriptures for council we can see that the last days will just become more evil, but we ought not to forget that like the scripture in 2 Timothy 3:1-6 those people were also already living in the last days, but we are also living closer to the end of those last days. Let's look at that scripture.

2 Timothy 3:1-6 King James Version

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.⁶ For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

1. All these things mentioned here in the scripture which we know as sin we see them all taking place around us on an unprecedented worldwide scale.
2. All this can be summed up in two words. Human Rights.

And why is it happening because?

- It is happening because man has now been given human rights status to civil liberty where his freedom, and choice overrides what God says.
- 4. Adam and Eve in (**Genesis 2 and Genesis 3**) were both tempted in the Garden of Eden by the serpent. The Lord had warned Adam not to partake of the tree of the knowledge of good or evil, but yet he still disobeyed the Lord and accepted the offer of the Serpent and partook of the tree of knowledge of good and evil from his wife Eve.
- The serpent which is the devil and also called the dragon or Satan was the influence and still is an influence in our present time situation but many people don't consider that to be true today,

There are many names for Satan in the bible. He is called the Devil, Serpent, dragon and much more. The 2 verses from Revelation 12 and 20 are there to verify this statement.

Revelation 12:9 And the great **dragon** was cast out, that **old serpent**, called the **Devil**, and **Satan**, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 20:2 And he laid hold on the **dragon**, that **old serpent**, which is the **Devil**, and **Satan**, and bound him a thousand years,

There are many accounts in the bible which tells us that Satan is as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour just like he did with Job in the book of Job.

Job was a righteous man but still the devil came to his door to test him, and if it was not for Job's faith in God Job would not have been able to endure the trials the devil put him through. Even though Job was afflicted yet he remained faithful in calling upon God to help him.

- ✓ If Job could be put through that trial by the influence of the devil should we not realize that we should be turning to God continuously also.

- ✓ Job's trial of his faith was tested by the devil.

The devil is the tempter the great liar and deceiver of the whole world who also tried his deception on Jesus. The devil was trying to change the course of history.

So subtle is the devil that his action is so silent that it can almost be true. But he is a liar and a murderer.

The devil when trying to deceive Jesus quoted scripture, which was out of context, just like many people do today about the bible.

- Watch what the devil said to Jesus and how Jesus answered ?

Matthew 4:5-7 King James Version

⁵ **Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city,** and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, **cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.**

⁷ **Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.**

- Everyone is a born sinner and therefore it's very easy to motivate someone to sin. Even watching TV or a program or listening to sinful content appears subtle and harmless, yet it is sin.
 - However Jesus is perfect and holy and therefore cannot sin.
1. Society which calls evil good and good evil is thriving today.
 2. We only have to see what the majority of the world is involved in.
 3. The world is far away from God, and think that Jesus is not real.
 4. The world system hates the bible because it puts limits on their humanity, restricting their lifestyles.
- ✚ Any Preaching in the streets and you will be labeled for hate speech by those who pass you by. Even those who are far away will step near to where you are preaching so that they can voice their opinion and blaspheme Jesus.
 - ✚ But preaching in the church you will be loved by Gods people.
1. The world has always been sinful, and their sinful lifestyles have not changed.
 2. All that has happened is that; because of social media more people's lifestyles are exposed; and also now others are exposed to that sin on social media.

When the Lord in the Book of Job 2 asked the devil where he had come from, this is what the devil said to the Lord.....

Job 2:2 And the LORD said unto Satan, **From whence comest thou?**
And **Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth,
and from walking up and down in it.**

3. So Satan, who is also the devil, is influencing the world we live in going from place to place.
4. That's also what the NT says in 1 Peter 5:8.

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, **seeking whom he may devour:**

- ✓ So what's the answer.?

James 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- ✓ Most of the world is not seeking to resist the devil because they are already involved with him.
- ✓ They are not seeking Jesus, because his word has no place in them. They don't want to know who Jesus is.

✚ Listen to what Jesus said to those that do not "believe" in him.

John 8:37-44

³⁷ I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, **because my word hath no place in you.**

³⁸ I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

³⁹ They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, **If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.**

⁴⁰ But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

⁴¹ **Ye do the deeds of your father.** Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

⁴² **Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me:** for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, **but he sent me.**

⁴³ **Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.**

⁴⁴ **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.**

- ✚ An unbeliever is doing the deeds of his father the devil.
- ✚ An unbeliever's father whether he realizes or likes it or does not want to admit it that his father is the devil.

1 John 2:22

Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

1. So who is the antichrist according to Jesus?
 2. Well according to Jesus it is anyone who denies the Father and the Son
 3. So if a person does not believe in Jesus as God and does not believe in God the Father then they are unbelievers and antichrist.
- ✓ **Many religions fall into this antichrist definition, and they like the “unbeliever already fall into the devils influence, of being their father**

However

The Christian believer is warned to put on the armour of Christ to protect against the devils influence on a believer.

Ephesians 6:10-18 King James Version¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

- Here is your enemy. The devil
- Even as a believer we wrestle against the devil.
- So because as a believer we wrestle against spiritual wickedness and against the powers of darkness we are told to put on the armour of God.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

1. Whenever we see the word “wherefore” like we see in the above verse 11, we need to ask ourselves what is the word there for.
2. Well in this case it's easy to see because it lists the reason why.

3. And that reason is to resist the devil. To resist the evil snare.
4. And a believer does this by “putting on the whole armour of God”.
5. And that armour of God is listed below in verse 14 to verse 18.
6. Notice in verse 14 it says “stand” not run.
7. Because if you stand with the armour of God prepared and the sword of the Spirit which is God’s Word, the devil will flee.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ **And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**

¹⁸ **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**

- **Praying is God’s defence for us.**
- **Praying is when God hears your petition.**
- **Pray without ceasing we are told.**
- ✓ When a person believes in Jesus they are no longer the children of the world. No longer is the devil their father.
- ✓ They have been born again into a new man. They are adopted as sons of God and sealed with the Spirit of God.
- ✓ It’s the same question that Nicodemus ask Jesus in John 3, how can a man be born again.

The devil is still very much around today still seeking whom he may devour. If you don/t want him to have victory then its best to put on the whole armor of God and pray.

The devil is watching and I hope that we are watching with the sword of the Lord.

Remember we have victory in Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

PRAYER.....CLOSE