

# FAIRVIEW MEMORIAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

## WINTER BIBLE STUDY

### "The Wiles Of The Devil"

By

Elder Billy Moran

FEBRUARY 8, 2016

#### Lesson Scripture - Ephesians 6:10-13

**Introduction** - In the Bible, there is a personality known as "The Devil"; his name means diabolical; he is called this, because of his evil nature. In fact, he is evil personified! One of his names is "Satan", which means, "The Hater, The Accuser, and Your Adversary." He is the enemy of God, and the adversary of God's people. **He opposes good and promotes evil.**

Jesus said, concerning the Devil "... *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.*" (John 8:44) The Scripture identifies him as, the old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, the one which "*deceiveth the whole world*" (Revelation 12:9).

The devil is not a nice person; yet he is said to be the "god of this world". (2 Corinthians 4:4) Three different times, Jesus referred to the Devil as... "the prince of this world" (John 12:31; 14:30 and 16:11).

In the lesson scripture the Apostle Paul instructs us, "Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil." (Ephesians 6:11)

My objective in this lessons is to "identify" the devil; talk about "how he became the devil", define the "wiles" of the devil". I want to do this, As Paul said, "*Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: For we are not ignorant of his devices.*" (2 Corinthians 2:11)

As Christians we know about the personal warfare with the Devil in religion, but I fear we are not aware of the scope of his warfare and the ways and the means of the battle, as we should be.

#### The Origin Of The Devil

Satan was created a "holy angel"! He was not created an evil being. Just as Adam was not created a sinner. Both the devil and Adam were created free moral creatures. Both had freedom will and freedom of choice, Adam chose to transgress and become a sinner, and the devil chose to lead a conspiracy against God, and by his own will and choice **he made himself the devil.**

The person known as the Devil, was created an angel, *"Thou art the anointed cherub... I have made the so."* (Ezk. 28:14) He was *"full of wisdom and perfect in beauty"*. In fact, *"thou was perfect in thy ways from the day thou wast created, till Iniquity was found in thee"* (Ezekiel 28:12-15). What was his iniquity? It was Pride! *His heart was lifted up because of his beauty, and he corrupted his wisdom by reason of his brightness.* (Ezekiel 28:17) *"Because thine heart was lifted up, and thou hast said, I am God, I sit in the seat of God....."*(Ez 28:2)".

*"Lucifer, son of the morning";* said, *"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the "Most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell..."* (Isaiah 14:12-15).

There is what I believe to be a metaphor found in Ezekiel, Chapter 28. The Lord spoke to Ezekiel about the prince of Tyrus. (The king of worldiness) But this scripture seems to go beyond the kingdoms of Tyre and Sidon, and their rulers. The description of the prince of Tyrus with out a doubt, refers to The Prince of the world, the Devil. He led one third of the angels in a conspiracy against God, but he lost the battle and he and his angels were cast out of heaven, and the earth became his domain (Revelation 12:7-12).

Because he was cast out God said, *".....Woe unto the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea : for the Devil is come down to you, having great wrath,...."* (Revelation 12:12) Notice, he has great wrath. Peter warned us, *"Be sober, be vigilant; (which means, take this warning seriously) because your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour;"* and he added: *"whom resist steadfast in the faith."* (1 Pet. 5:8-9)

It is no wonder that the Apostle Paul would write to the Corinthians and say, *"But I fear, lest by any (some) means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ"* (2 Corinthians 11:3).

Paul warned the church, *"For if any cometh preaching another Jesus, (greater savior) whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, (superior to the Holy Spirit) which ye have not received, or another gospel, (A better gospel) which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with them"* (2 Corinthians 11:4) There is no other Savior, no better gospel, and no superior Spirit! *"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers,, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. and no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."* (2 Corinthians 11:4, and 13-15)

In the realm of religion, the Devil himself works; he also has demon spirits at work, and he has ministers (Preachers) who work for him. The Devil counterfeits the gospel, with lies and schemes that seem almost identical to the real thing. Deception is his goal. He is the prince of darkness, but transforms himself so he appears as a angel of light. His ministers also with their diabolical schemes and fake emotional spirit of excitement, and enthusiasm, appear as ministers of righteousness.

We wrestle not against flesh and blood; This refers to contending or battling physically where there is bloodshed. Paul said, ***"For though we walk after the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God, to the pulling down of strongholds;)"*** (2 Corinthians 10:3-4) The weapons of our warfare are Word of God Prayer, Faith, and our testimony of salvation. These weapons are indeed **Mighty through God.**

### **BUT THERE ARE OTHER AREA'S WHERE SATAN IS ACTIVELY AT WORK**

By defining the words used in Ephesians 6:12 we learn what the wiles of the devil are; and the extreme length he will go in his anger against God.

#### **Definitions**

**WILES** - This word comes from the Greek word "Methodeia". This word means "methods" and refers to the devious and cunning strategies or schemes employed by the devil to lure, entice, manipulate, trick, and/or persuade.

The devil wasted no time, but went after Eve and then Adam; **the first family.** He had a strategy. By lying, he succeed in deceiving Eve. He actually made Eve believe that God was the liar, that he was withholding something better from them. You won't surly die. God knows, your eyes will be opened and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. **The Devil beguiled Eve.**

He is still trying to destroy the family. The sacred marriage union where a man and a woman become one, until the death of one or the other. For many years the Devil's plan was divorce. Turn the man and the wife against each other. Leave the children in a one parent home.

Then the devil came up with a **bigger, more wicked scheme.** Just live together as though you were married, commit fornication until you get tired of each other then split; the bi-product of this arrangement is illegitimate children, (Unauthorized and unsanctioned) which results many times in the state and federal government having to support and educate them.

Another of the Devil's deceptions is to **brain wash people;** make them think God some how got things all fouled up and put a male nature in a female body and a female nature in a male body, and a large different culture emerged. **What should we do when we are attracted to that which is forbidden?** You mortify the desire; Put it to death! (Colossians 3:5-60) God does not tempt with evil! (James 1:13)

#### **Another diabolical scheme is same sex marriage.**

Now Paul said, we wrestle against **Principalities and Powers** which I believe from my research of the words mean **"The power of Magistrates or Government enforced rule".** The Devil has enough people in government under his control that it doesn't matter what God says, or what the majority of the people say, an executive order can make what God calls an abomination "the law of the Land". **We wrestle (contend) with the rulers of the darkness of this world.**

It is no accident that atheist have infiltrated our educational system and changed curriculums to exclude the Bible account of creation. The origin of man, the sanctity of marriage, belief in Heaven and Hell, accountability to God, and a final judgment, have been eliminated from study material, as even a possibility. Teachers can't teach Christian doctrines and values; but the study of other religions are required. This is another of the Devil's diabolical schemes.

Laws are in place, upheld by Judges and courts, to prohibit students or teachers from reading the scripture; or praying, even a generic Prayer, because it may be offensive to someone.

We are told there are no absolutes; that truth is relevant, and; circumstances dictate right and wrong. I don't believe it. I hope you don't believe it.

Today, in our society, many things that are forbidden by the scripture are accepted, promoted and protected by the laws of our land, and upheld by judges and courts, at about all levels, including the Supreme Court.

I would remind all of us, God said ***"be not deceived; God is not mocked: For whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap"*** (Galatians 6:7).

Spiritual Wickedness in High Places. Many so called Churches are endorsing the before mentioned evils, abominations, and sins. Even churches known as mainline denominations.

The Church that Jesus started is the highest, most exalted spiritual institution in the universe. It's foundation is Jesus, it's creed is truth. in fact God's Word says, the church is ***"the Pillar and Ground of the truth"*** (2 Timothy 3:15).

Even among Missionary Baptist people, the Devil has convinced some that marriage is an option.; and living in a sinful relationship has become acceptable. For those who are married divorce is a quick remedy if you are unhappy. Many think there is nothing wrong with the Gay lifestyle, after all it has been sanctioned by the Law. However, God said in his word, ***"Woe unto them that call good evil and and evil good"*** (Please read Isaiah 5:18-24).

Many parents are setting poor examples for their children. Christian homes and the Sound Baptist Churches, have the responsibility to train children up in the way they should go.

Many parents have not taken their children to Sunday School and Church where the truth is taught, and the Devil has succeeded in brainwashing their children. For many, good times and sports activities have pulled young people and their parents away from church, and we are reaping a generation that sees nothing wrong with, denying God and his word.

We need to ***"Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil"*** (Ephesians 6:11).