

Sermon

The Church & Spiritual Warfare
Ephesians 2:1-6, 6:10-13

Jeff Jackson

“Living For the One Who Branded Us...Jesus”

Introduction

The History of Halloween

The Irony of Halloween

We as children of the light masquerade as children of darkness on Holy Eve (Halloween) while the angel of darkness (the Satan) masquerades as an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15

But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. In the end they will get the punishment their wicked deeds deserve.

C.S. Lewis

There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.

Text:

Ephesians 2:1-6

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.

⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) ⁶ For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 6:10-13

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

I. The Reality of the Enemy

Name of the Enemy: Satan (the Adversary, Accuser, Attacker)

Lucifer

The History & Future of Satan:

1. Angel of Beauty

Ezekiel 28:11-19

¹¹ Then this further message came to me from the LORD: ¹² “Son of man, sing this funeral song for the king of Tyre. Give him this message from the Sovereign LORD:

“You were the model of perfection,
full of wisdom and exquisite in beauty.

¹³ You were in Eden,
the garden of God.

Your clothing was adorned with every precious stone—
red carnelian, pale-green peridot, white moonstone,
blue-green beryl, onyx, green jasper,
blue lapis lazuli, turquoise, and emerald—

all beautifully crafted for you
and set in the finest gold.

They were given to you
on the day you were created.

¹⁴ I ordained and anointed you
as the mighty angelic guardian.

You had access to the holy mountain of God
and walked among the stones of fire.

¹⁵ “You were blameless in all you did
from the day you were created
until the day evil was found in you.

¹⁶ Your rich commerce led you to violence,
and you sinned.

So I banished you in disgrace
from the mountain of God.

I expelled you, O mighty guardian,
from your place among the stones of fire.

¹⁷ Your heart was filled with pride
because of all your beauty.

Your wisdom was corrupted
by your love of splendor.

So I threw you to the ground
and exposed you to the curious gaze of kings.

¹⁸ You defiled your sanctuaries
with your many sins and your dishonest trade.
So I brought fire out from within you,
and it consumed you.
I reduced you to ashes on the ground
in the sight of all who were watching.
¹⁹ All who knew you are appalled at your fate.
You have come to a terrible end,
and you will exist no more.”

2. Fallen Angel of Heaven

Isaiah 14:12-16

¹² “How you are fallen from heaven,
O shining star, son of the morning!
You have been thrown down to the earth,
you who destroyed the nations of the world.
¹³ For you said to yourself,
‘I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God’s stars.
I will preside on the mountain of the gods
far away in the north.
¹⁴ I will climb to the highest heavens
and be like the Most High.’
¹⁵ Instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead,
down to its lowest depths.
¹⁶ Everyone there will stare at you and ask,
‘Can this be the one who shook the earth
and made the kingdoms of the world tremble?’

Luke 10:18

“Yes,” he told them, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning!”

Revelation 12:9

This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

II. The Wreckage of the Enemy

A.

John 8:42-44

Jesus told them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me. ⁴³ Why can't you understand what I am saying? It's because you can't even hear me! ⁴⁴ *For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

B.

C.

D.

John 10:10

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

Zac Poonen

"Jesus once said that Satan was a thief. Satan does not steal money, for he knows that money has no eternal value. He steals only what has eternal value - primarily the souls of men."

1 Peter 5:8

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

III. The Resources of the Enemy

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

George Herbert

"The devil divides the world between atheism and superstition."

Bob Sorge, Glory: When Heaven Invades Earth

"The nature of the enemy's warfare in your life is to cause you to become discouraged and to cast away your confidence. Not that you would necessarily discard your salvation, but you could give up your hope of God's deliverance. The enemy wants to numb you into a coping kind of Christianity that has given up hope of seeing God's resurrection power."

IV. The Resistance of the Enemy

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.

1 Peter 5:7-9

Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

⁸ Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.

V. The Reckoning of the Enemy

Revelation 20:7-10 (The Defeat of Satan)

When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. ⁸ He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore. ⁹ And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God's people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them.

¹⁰ Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

CONCLUSION:

C.S. Lewis

There is no neutral ground in the universe; every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counter-claimed by Satan.

Oswald Chambers

"We look upon the enemy of our souls as a conquered foe, so he is, but only to God, not to us."

THE GREATEST LIGHT TO LIVE IN IS THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS