

CHRIST CONQUERED THE DEVIL (Prince of this world)

By Kenneth W. Lent 8/4/12

Contrary to what church clergy have told their congregations for centuries, there is not one verse in the Scriptures that supports the teaching that a literal personal “spirit being” devil named Satan, ever existed. That is not to say that there is no satan in the Bible. There certainly is -- and the word satan is mentioned in several verses. But God’s Word clearly describes *that adversary* as two things. 1) Sin in our flesh. 2) Wicked people who oppose God’s righteous government.

As the fable goes, supposedly "The Devil" was once a high angel in heaven but he rebelled against God and was cast down to planet Earth. The plain truth is, this doctrine has been used for ages to frighten people into obeying the institutional churches and their priests --- "after all", we've been told, "it's only the priests or ministers who can teach us how to be protected from Satan's scheming spirit force". For this claimed guide to spiritual protection, generations of unsuspecting people have given their money, dedicated their lives, and pledged their property to the churches. The doctrine of a personal Devil and “his demons” is superstition rooted in Roman Catholic and Judaic ignorance of God's Word, and yet it has been passed onto, and still promoted by the Protestant churches as well. Euphemistically, “to have a devil” only meant that a person had an illness, in the New Testament application of that term, although some people by then were believing in the Jewish occult spiritism of demons.

The word “superstition” is used only once in the Scriptures at Acts 25:19. It is when Paul is contending with the chief priests and elders of the Jews, and those corrupt priests were interrogating Paul about “*certain questions against him of their own superstition* --” (see verses 2,5,15,25) In line with God’s truth taught by Paul, that word we see as *superstition* here is the Greek word *Dice-ee-daheee-mon-ee-ah*, Strong’s Greek dictionary reference # 1174, 1175 which specifically means “fear of demons” (at 1169, 1142). [“Superstitious” is used only once as well, Acts 17:22, from the same Greek root words at # 1169 (fearful) of #1142 (demons)] Are we then to believe in that jewish doctrine? And why does God’s Word in the original text refer to belief in “evil spirit being entities and their forces” as superstition?

For the truth seeking Christian, there is a great spiritual danger in letting one’s understanding succumb to this false judaic/papal teaching. That danger is a subtle but effective sabotage in one’s heart, of the true reason why Christ came in the flesh, and of knowing the purpose of His salvation for us. God's Word repeatedly tells us that Jesus Christ came to destroy SIN that reigned in our flesh; and not to destroy an imaginary "Devil" as many clergy insist.

In this spiritual fact of being saved from sin our salvation securely rests. When this is received, the door to defeat Christ’s *very real* adversaries who hate His government becomes unlocked as well. As the Scriptures teach, Jesus has enemies that actually are

living beings, but these are mortal people with wicked dispositions who can be dealt with appropriately by lawful means. They are not spirit beings with mysterious powers.

The Scriptures teach that the real conversion of a believer (and his coming out of the ways of the world) is that he is made alive to the understanding of Christ's salvation. This means to know with a heartfelt certainty *exactly what it was* that Christ destroyed so that we may be saved unto eternal life! Scriptural repentance is changing one's mind to admit that we can't save ourselves by our works, but are saved by God's *gift* of grace. (Eph.2:8,9; Jn.5:24). The fruit that results from this true repentance is obedience to God through spiritual love. (Jn.14:15; I Jn.5:3). Repentance is not deciding to fight a "cosmic Devil and his demons" in some frantic "spiritist battle" which Paul knew was superstition (*Dice-ee-daheee-mon-ee-ah*).

Believing that Christ came to destroy a personal Devil Being foe, and that our primary and present battle is against this being's supposed evil force, is a denial of the salvation wrought by our God. Why? Precisely because the Scriptures explain that the real Devil that Christ came to conquer is SIN in our mortal flesh, our worst enemy according to God. The secondary meaning of a "satan" is with this word being used to describe mere mortal people who are *adversaries* of The Everliving God and His laws. ["satan" merely means "opponent, adversary", Strong's Hebrew #7853, 7854. It was the translators of churches that inserted an upper case capital "S" to this regular noun in English Bibles whereby the personal "Satan" Devil was then promoted as a doctrine.]

The salvation truth. Scriptures lay it out concisely:

A very short review of exactly what "devil" it was that Christ destroyed by His crucifixion on the Cross, is as follows: (this is by no means a complete study)

Hebrews 2:14 *"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He (Jesus) also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might DESTROY HIM that had the power of death, that is, the devil;"*

Romans 6:6 *"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him (Jesus), that the body of SIN might be DESTROYED, that henceforth we should not serve sin."*

Furthermore, what does the Bible teach concerning that which is the cause of death, the "power of death", which entered into the world? A fallen angel devil or maybe a cosmic New Age Galactic Devil force? Not true.

It's none other than sin:

Romans 5:12 *"Wherefore, as by one man (Adam), SIN entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"*

Romans 6:23 *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Master."*

Plainly, as we see above, SIN (not an invisible Devil person) is the cause and power of death .

But "hold on" you might say, "my preacher says that The Devil is the Prince of this world".

And just what is the "prince of this world" that reigns in the evil of men's hearts? Is this prince a literal Devil called Satan as some teach? Again, No. God's Word itself explains it's own symbolism. It is sin which is "the prince who reigned" over the world:

John 12:27 (Jesus said) *"Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.*

28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

30 Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the PRINCE OF THIS WORLD be cast out."

Praise God, the Scriptures teach that Christ came to cast out this "reigning prince", however this "prince" is the same thing that we just read in the verses above where Christ destroyed the "devil", that is namely SIN at The Crucifixion.

Romans 5:21 *"That as SIN HATH REIGNED unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Master."*

Romans 6:16 *"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, HIS SERVANTS YE ARE to whom ye obey; WHETHER OF SIN unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"* (a really good example here of how the Bible personifies sin as a ruler, a reigning prince, and a "his")

Plus the Scriptures further explain that this "Devil" who was condemned by the Cross of Jesus Christ, by which cross that "Devil" was destroyed and taken away from "his" rule, *is actually sin itself*. This is the salvation of the sacrifice of Jesus -- His triumph over sin, personified by the term we know as "the Devil". Christ didn't condemn and destroy a "spirit Devil", rather He condemned and defeated sin for us.

Romans 8:3 *"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:"*

1 John 3:5 *"And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin."*

Yes, dear Christian brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ was manifest in the flesh for the purpose of providing His kinsmen with the greatest of salvations – the destruction of sin in our flesh (the "devil") - by which destruction we are made pure unto eternal life in the eyes of our loving Heavenly Father. In that true salvation Christ has conquered SIN (the

Prince of this world) for us, by which victory He has now set His servants free to teach His Kingdom government in the Earth with victory.

Adulterated doctrines about “satan” and wasting valuable time in fighting an imaginary “him/it” are obstructions in enforcing God’s Kingdom laws. The faithful ones in Christ have much to do at this time in history and need not be entangled with misdirecting influences of institutionalized church councils, rather “*but speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.*” (Titus 2:1) As the Scriptures tell us, Christ destroyed sin’s hold of death on us as He destroyed *sin itself* (“the devil prince that reigned”) on His cross for all those whom He has chosen. It is now our job to teach the Kingdom, God’s government for the family and nation.