**SERMON OUTLINE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SERMON TITLE:** | Overcoming Satanic Deception |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Genesis 3:1-5 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1649 |
|  |  |
| We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.  In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers’ messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.  Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means —electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other— without the prior permission of the publisher.  Copyright ©2023 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc. | |

1. INTRODUCTION
   1. The Bible calls Satan the “Great Deceiver.”
      1. The biggest liar in the world is Satan.
   2. Jesus Christ told us about the nature of Satan in John 8:44.
      1. In this passage, Jesus was speaking to the liars of His day.
      2. Jesus Christ told us two things about Satan:
         1. He is a murderer.
         2. He is a liar.
   3. Satan’s motive is murder; his method is to lie.
      1. Our enemy (the devil) is a murderer.
      2. Satan wants to bring death to purity, love, joy, and happiness.
      3. He wants to bring physical, spiritual, and eternal death.
   4. Satan’s chief tool for murder is to destroy by deceiving.
      1. Jesus said that the devil is the father of all lies.
         1. John 8:44
         2. He is the master liar.
      2. Because he is the master liar, he is very clever.
         1. The Bible speaks of the wiles of the devil.
            1. Ephesians 6:11
         2. The cleverest lies sound the most like the truth.
            1. All lies have some truth in them.
      3. The devil is very subtle.
         1. 2 Corinthians 11:3
         2. His lies are very subtle.
            1. His lies sound like the truth.
            2. The lie that is closest to the truth is much more dangerous than a lie that is not close to the truth.
   5. When the devil wants to destroy someone, he begins by deceiving that person.
      1. He works first on that person’s mind, and then he works on the rest of him.
         1. The thought is the father of the deed.
         2. The devil had rather have us believe a wrong thing than to do a wrong thing.
            1. If he has us believing the wrong thing, then we will be doing the wrong thing.

We sow a thought; we reap a deed.

We sow a deed; we reap a habit.

We sow a habit; we reap a character.

It all begins with the thought life.

* + 1. Satan lies in order to get his work done.
       1. He is a clever liar.
       2. He lies to us because he wants to change our thought processes in order to deceive and destroy us.
  1. Not only is he the father of lies and the cleverest liar, but Satan also lies about the biggest subject: God.
     1. He wants to deceive us primarily about God.
        1. If he can get us to think wrongly about God, then he has us in everything else.
     2. A.W. Tozer once said that no religion can rise higher than its concept of God.
  2. Satan has distorted the idea of God in three basic ways.
     1. We find this in the threshold of human history, all the way back to the Garden of Eden.
        1. Satan is often deceptive.
        2. Satan is often duplicitous.
        3. But his methods are as old as Eden.
     2. Genesis 3:1-5
     3. Today’s message will look at these three lies from the master liar concerning the very nature and character of God.
        1. There are three ways that Satan wants us to think about God.
           1. If he can get us to think about God in these three ways, then he has us.

1. satan wants us to think severely about god (genesis 3:1)
   1. Satan does not deny the existence of God or the fact of God.
      1. That is too self-evident.
      2. Satan is too clever for that.
   2. Satan admits that God is there, but he wants us to think of God as being cruel, harsh, and severe.
      1. When we think of God, he wants our minds to be filled with negative thoughts.
         1. He doesn’t want us to think positively about God.
         2. He doesn’t want us to think kindly about God.
         3. He wants us to think severely about God.
   3. Genesis 3:1
      1. Satan said to Eve, “Did God make all of this beautiful Garden and then tell you not to touch it?”
         1. Of course, that was a lie.
            1. There was only one tree that Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat, and that was the tree in the midst of the garden.
            2. Genesis 2:16

The Lord God commanded that they could freely eat from every tree.

* + - 1. But Satan told Eve that God had said don’t eat of anything.
    1. Satan tried to get Eve to think negatively and severely about God.
       1. He tried to get her to think that God is so cruel that He has forbidden His creatures any legitimate joy or pleasure.
          1. Many people think that belonging to the Lord is like taking bad medicine in order to get well.

To them, the idea of serving God is painful.

* + - * 1. They think that the idea of being a Christian is negative and something to be endured.

But this is not the correct idea of God.

* 1. God is not a severe and cruel Deity sitting upon a throne hurling down thunder bolts of wrath.
     1. Imagine the glories of the Garden of Eden and how beautiful it must have been.
        1. God made the Garden of Eden.
        2. He put Adam and Eve there with a smile on His face.
           1. He made it for them.
  2. God put one tree in the middle of the Garden and told them not to eat of it.
     1. That was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
        1. They needed to know good and evil from what God said about it, not what they said about it or what they experienced.
     2. In order for mankind to have a choice, God had to make a choice possible.
        1. No man can be loyal unless he can be disloyal.
        2. No man can love unless he has an opportunity to dislove.
     3. The tree was there as a test.
        1. Genesis 2:17
           1. This wasn’t a threat; this was a warning.

Every time God says, “Thou shalt not,” He is saying, “Don’t hurt yourself.”

Every time God says, “Thou shalt,” He is saying, “Help yourself to happiness.”

* 1. God loves us; God is a good God.
     1. The devil doesn’t want us to know that.
     2. Psalm 37:4
     3. Psalm 84:11
     4. If something makes us healthy, happy, holy, or wholesome, then God says to help ourselves.
     5. 1 Timothy 6:17

1. satan wants us to think skeptically about god
   1. Genesis 3:2-4
      1. Satan put skepticism in Eve’s heart and mind.
         1. He made her think that God is cruel, that He withholds things, and that He is a negativist.
         2. Satan was saying that if God is not good, then He can’t be trusted.
   2. Anyone who puts a doubt concerning the authorship, accuracy, authority, and acceptability of the Bible is doing the work of the devil.
      1. It is the work of Satan to get people to think skeptically about God’s spoken Word.
      2. God spoke, and what God said is absolutely reliable and authoritative.
   3. Modern man has all kinds of substitutes for the Word of God:
      1. Relativism
         1. This is the idea that truth is always changing.
         2. What was true yesterday is not true today.
            1. But what is true is always true.

If it is new, then it is not true.

* + 1. Subjectivism
       1. This is when something “feels” true or “seems” true.
          1. But our feelings are not God.
       2. What is true for one person may not be true for another.
          1. But if it is true, then it is true no matter who it is for.
    2. Empiricism
       1. Truth is decided by measurement, testing, or obvious evidence.
          1. Empirical evidence.
       2. The scientist bows down to this standard for truth.
    3. Existentialism
       1. This is favored by liberal theologians.
          1. They don’t like to call the Bible the Word of God.

That offends them.

They say that it becomes the Word of God when we read it and have a relationship with it.

* + - 1. This idea says that truth is what we experience.
    1. Rationalism
       1. This is when the Word of God is paraded past the judgment bar of our minds and logic.
       2. “Thus saith the mind of man” is substituted for “Thus saith the Word of God.”
    2. Pragmatism
       1. This doesn’t ask, “Is it true?”
       2. It asks, “Does it work?”
    3. All of these philosophies come from the master liar himself.
       1. This kind of thinking leaves people with no fixed standard of truth.
  1. Americans used to live by the Word of God and run the government by the Constitution that came out of the Word of God.
     1. Today, we are just making up the rules as we go along.
  2. Satan has brought us away from a fixed standard of truth.
     1. It is wrong to steal because the Word of God says don’t steal.
        1. Exodus 20:15
     2. It is wrong to commit adultery because the Word of God says don’t commit adultery.
        1. Exodus 20:14
     3. Sodomy is a sin and an abomination because the Word of God says it is, not because of what we think.
        1. Leviticus 18:22
  3. When we get away from the fixed standard of right and wrong, then we get away from the idea of any judgment.
     1. Law without penalty is only advice.
        1. God was not giving advice when he told Adam and Eve, “In the day that you eat thereof, you will surely die.”
           1. Genesis 2:17
     2. It is the devil’s gospel that God does not punish sin.
        1. God is a good God, but God is also a holy God.
     3. The New Age is as old as the Garden of Eden.
        1. The New Age has tried to take away the fear of death from individuals through reincarnation.
           1. This is the belief that we keep going around and around until we get it right.

And that there is no judgment, no death, no Hell, and no personal God to whom we must give an account.

“You shall not surely die.”

Genesis 3:4

Satan is so clever.

* 1. Satan wants us to believe that we don’t have to worry about what God says; we don’t have to take God’s Word at face value.

1. satan wants us to think suspiciously about god
   1. This is a lie from Satan that sounds so much like the truth:
      1. Genisis 3:5
         1. “You shall be as gods,” here literally means, “as God, knowing good and evil.”
         2. Satan implied the following:
            1. God is unfair.
            2. God didn’t want Eve to reach her full potential.
            3. That Eve had the ability to be a god.
            4. God was trying to keep her from personal knowledge where she would just simply have to trust Him and His Word.

And Eve wouldn’t understand this unless she ate of the fruit.

* + 1. There is nothing in the world more deceiving than sin itself.
       1. Those who know the least about sin are those who are the deepest in it.
  1. In Genesis 3, we find the dawning of the New Age movement.
     1. New Ageism is Easten religion and Eastern mysticism that has come to the West.
     2. It is ancient Hinduism that teaches that all is God, God is all, and we ourselves become gods.
        1. Pantheism is rooted in Hinduism.
           1. “Pan” means “all.”
           2. “Theism” means “God.”
           3. This teaches that God is in all, all is in God, God is all, and all is God.

Therefore, we are God.

* + - * 1. This also teaches that there is no personal God, which contradicts the God of the Bible.
    1. God to the New Age is an impersonal force.
    2. Satan told Eve that she could be God.
       1. Genesis 3:5
       2. This was so subtle because the Bible wants us to be Godlike, not as God but like God.
          1. Other subtle differences include:

God is love.

This is correct.

Love is God.

This is not correct, but it sounds almost the same.

God is wisdom.

This is right.

Wisdom is God.

No, this is wrong.

* 1. Satan has deceived the whole world.
     1. He wants us to think severely about God, skeptically about God, and then suspiciously about God.
        1. Once he has done that, he then puts in his own lies.
        2. A man’s religion will rise no higher than his concept of God.
  2. Satan tried to tell Eve that God had kept her from reaching her potential.
     1. God does have a potential for us.
        1. 1 Corinthians 2:9
        2. Revelation 22:1-5
           1. This passage speaks of Heaven.
        3. God’s plan for us is to be one with Him and to be like Him.
           1. But not to be a cheap imitation of God.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. The devil is more subtle than any beast of the field.
      1. Genesis 3:1
   2. Why take Satan’s substitute when you can have God’s truth?
   3. Satan wants to deceive you that he might destroy you.
   4. Jesus said that Satan is a liar and a murderer.
      1. John 8:44
   5. Don’t think about God severely.
      1. God is a God of love, goodness, and grace.
   6. Don’t think of God skeptically.
      1. There is a God.
   7. God’s law stands.
      1. The soul that sins shall surely die.
         1. Ezekiel 18:20
   8. Don’t think of God suspiciously.
      1. The cross upon which Jesus died is a plus sign, not a negative sign.
   9. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   10. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
       1. Romans 3:23
       2. Romans 10:9-10
       3. Romans 10:13
       4. Acts 16:31
       5. John 3:16