**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Satan’s Four Spiritual Flaws |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Genesis 3:1-5 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2153 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. The world’s biggest liar is Satan himself.
      1. John 8:44
         1. Satan’s motive is murder.
         2. Satan’s method is deception.
         3. John 10:10
      2. Satan wants to bring physical, spiritual and eternal death to life, love, beauty, joy and happiness.
      3. He wants to deceive, deprave and destroy.
   2. Genesis 3 records his first act of deception done on Earth
      1. A secession of four lies
      2. These lies sound a lot like the truth, because the cleverest lies have some truth to them.
   3. Not only is Satan the master liar; he lies about the biggest subject; God
      1. To be wrong about God makes you terribly, horribly wrong.
      2. Satan may not care about some lies; not every subject is important to him.
      3. If he can get you to believe the wrong thing, there’s no difficulty for him to get you to do the wrong thing.
      4. Thought is the father of deed.
         1. You sow a thought, you reap a deed. You sow a deed, you reap a habit. You sow a habit, you reap a character. You sow a character, you reap a destiny.
         2. A.W. Tozer: “No religion can rise higher than its concept of God.”
      5. This is not ancient history; this is not what Satan ‘has’ done, this is what Satan ‘is’ doing today.
   4. Satan, the serpent, was the first evangelist of his own gospel: the devil’s gospel.
      1. He told Eve how to be god-like.
      2. He was an evangelist and Eve was his first convert.
      3. In order to get Eve to believe this lie and corrupt her relationship with God, he had four spiritual flaws.
   5. The devil’s four spiritual flaws are the inversion of Bill Bright’s Four Spiritual Laws:
      1. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for you.
      2. Man is a sinner and he is separated from God, therefore he cannot know and experience God’s love and plan for his life.
      3. Jesus Christ is God’s provision for man’s sin, and Jesus died on the cross to take away our sin.
      4. We must personally and individually receive Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior; then we can know and experience God’s love and plan for our life.
   6. Revelation 12:9
   7. Genesis 3:1
      1. “Subtle” means “crafty,” “sly.”
2. to despise god’s goodness and to think negatively about god
   1. The devil wants us to think negatively about God.
   2. Genesis 3:1
      1. This question was an attempt to get Eve to doubt God’s goodness, love and amazing grace.
      2. This seemingly simply question was a slander of the character of God. It was Satan’s way of convincing Eve that God was not good.
      3. The idea that God told her she couldn’t eat from every tree was a deceptive, warped take on the actual instructions God had given them.
         1. Genesis 2:16
            1. God had allowed Adam and Eve to help themselves to every tree besides this one.
   3. God has said a resounding “Yes” to your pleasure.
      1. Don’t get the idea that being a Christian is some sort of penalty that you pay in order to get to Heaven. I would be a Christian if there were no Heaven. There is. I would be a Christian if there were no Hell, just to know the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.
   4. Adam and Eve were living in paradise: the Garden of Eden. God desired for them to enjoy the beauty and glory of His creation.
   5. Satan will put negative thoughts in our heart concerning the goodness of God.
      1. Psalm 37:4
      2. Psalm 84:11
      3. 1 Timothy 6:17
   6. God is good all of the time. Anything that causes pain and suffering is the fruit of sin; it is not because of God.
   7. It is foolish to think negatively about our great God, who has given us richly all things to enjoy.
   8. “When I invite you to Jesus Christ, I’m not inviting you to a funeral; I’m inviting you to a feast.”
3. to deny god’s truthfulness and to think skeptically about god
   1. Genesis 3:2-4
   2. In these verses, the devil made Eve a skeptic, causing her to doubt God’s truthfulness.
      1. Anybody who causes a question mark concerning the Word of God, or denies the truth of Scripture, is doing the work of Satan.
   3. We have many substitutes for the truth today:
      1. Relativism: the idea that there are no absolutes; that all truth is relative.
      2. Subjectivism: the idea that truth is personal and based on feelings.
         1. “This is what I feel is truth.”
         2. “This is what it means to me.”
         3. “What is true for me may not be true for you, but isn’t it wonderful that we all have our own truth?”
      3. Rationalism: the idea that all that is truth is empirical truth, scientific, manufactured in a lab by the mind of man.
      4. Pragmatism: the interest in results over the interest in truth.
      5. Post-modernism: the idea that there is no truth at all.
   4. There is a famine for the Word of God today.
      1. Our children do not know that there is a fixed standard for truth, because the devil has gotten people to think skeptically about God.
         1. “…because God says so.”
4. to defy god’s righteousness and to think carelessly about god
   1. Genesis 3:4
   2. When the serpent told Eve that she would not die for eating the fruit, he was insisting she not worry about God’s judgment.
      1. God is righteous and holy.
         1. God will punish sin.
   3. God had forbidden them to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
      1. Law without penalty is only advice. God wasn’t giving advice.
      2. In the devil’s gospel, God will not punish sin.
   4. If you disobey God by refusing the Gospel of Jesus, you will die and go to Hell.
      1. Our lack of belief in Hell does not make it unreal, or minimize God’s truth concerning the punishment of sin.
      2. Jesus Christ, our loving Savior, spoke more about Hell than any preacher in the Word of God.
   5. Satan knows that man fears death.
      1. New Ageism tries to deal with the fear of death with the idea of reincarnation.
         1. Reincarnation: the idea that our souls are recycled, that we get as many chances at perfection as we need.
         2. There is no judgment or personal God to hold us accountable.
         3. Karma: if your karma is good then you move up a level, if your karma is bad you move down.
   6. Satan does not want people to believe that there is a death, or a holy, righteous God to face, so he’s planted these New Age ideas in our minds to distract us from the truth.
5. to debase god’s greatness and to think suspiciously about god
   1. Genesis 3:5
   2. Satan tries to convince Eve that God cannot be trusted.
      1. Satan tells her that her eyes are not open to what is right and wrong.
      2. Today, we think that in order to find out if something is good or bad, we have to experience it.
      3. Today’s generation is ruining their lives through experimentation.
      4. When it comes to sin, experience is a very poor teacher.
      5. Those who know the least about sin are the deepest into it.
         1. The Bible warns us of the deceitfulness of sin.
         2. They cannot tell up from down, good for bad, bitter for sweet, light for darkness, good for evil.
         3. They try to make themselves the final decider of what is good or bad.
   3. The best lie sounds the most like the truth.
   4. Satan isn’t trying to get Eve to steal, kill or fornicate.
      1. He baits her with the idea of being God-like.
      2. There’s a big difference between being ‘as’ God and being ‘like’ God.
         1. Being ‘as’ God means to be your own God.
      3. Many Eastern and New Age religions teach that we are all our own gods and have authority over what is good and evil.
         1. Pantheism: everything is god.
         2. They say love is god; no, God is love.
   5. There is one God.
      1. He is distinct and different from everything else.
      2. He is the only one we worship.
      3. Many people see their god every morning in the mirror.
         1. They are going to die and be eternally lost because they are the devil’s converts.
      4. Believing that everything is god does not elevate you, it dehumanizes you.
      5. God’s plan is for us to be like Him, for He made us in His image.
         1. Even though we’re fallen, He will redeem us and raise us in His likeness.
            1. Psalm 17:15
6. conclusion
   1. There is good news for us who have believed the devil’s lies at some point of our lives.
   2. There are two books of the Bible the devil does not like:
      1. Genesis
         1. In Genesis Satan’s doom is announced.
      2. Revelation
         1. In Revelation Satan’s doom is carried out.
      3. There is no devil in the first two chapters nor the last two chapters of the Bible.
   3. Revelation 12:9-11
      1. The old serpent is cast out and his angels were cast out with him.
      2. The only way to overcome the old liar is through the blood of Jesus.
         1. Thank God that Jesus, the last Adam, undid what the first Adam did, when He died on the cross.
      3. The word of their testimony:
         1. They were not ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ.
         2. Luke 9:26
      4. “*They loved not their lives unto the death*.”
         1. This does not mean that they kept on loving Jesus until they died.
         2. They loved Jesus and would serve Him if they had to die for their faith.
   4. Would you die for your faith?
      1. Until you are no longer afraid to die you are not ready to live.
   5. It’s time we stop playing games and it’s time we stop listening to the devil’s lies.
   6. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   7. 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