



Chaplain's Notes

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"life is for us"

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DEVIL'S LIES & GOD'S TRUTH

Hi again!

How are you this month? I hope this newsletter finds you well, and that the football results have been pleasing for you! (well, if not pleasing, then bearable!! ☺)

Last month you may remember that I shared a few thoughts about rejection, and how our behaviour patterns in life are often a direct consequence of our being hurt physically or emotionally. We often try to do anything to cover up those hurts and make ourselves feel better.

But I wonder if you've ever thought about why it is that so many people choose destructive life patterns, such as violence, drug taking, sexual immorality, incest, rape, gambling, drunkenness, etc, instead of choosing God's ways, which are for our good?

Well, apart from our own pride and lack of wanting to submit to authority, the Bible tells us that we as human beings also have a spiritual enemy, called Satan or the devil. Yes, I believe the devil and demons exist. The Bible says the devil is the "prince of this world"¹, the "ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient"², the "god of this age"³. The Bible says that the devil is currently employing schemes & strategies to try and destroy the human race⁴. The Bible also says that when we choose to do wrong, we actually give the devil a foothold in our life⁵.

One of the chief ways the devil tries to destroy us is through lies. He tells us lies in our minds. The Bible says he is a liar and the father of lies⁶. What the devil always tries to do is get us to listen to a lie, to then believe it, and thus act upon it. But lies always lead to death. The Bible says the devil "was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him"⁷. The devil always tries to get us to believe that 'the grass is greener on the other side of the fence'. The table in the middle of this page gives a list of some of the devil's lies and God's truths.

| DEVIL'S LIES | GOD'S TRUTH |
|---|---|
| We can sin and get away with it. | "Be sure your sin will find you out". ¹³ |
| Trust in yourself; you know what's best. | "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. There is a way which seems right to a man, but it leads to death." ¹⁴ |
| "Stolen water is sweet" | The pleasures of sin are short-lived, leading to death. ¹⁵ |
| Greed is good. Get more and you will be happy. | "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, but lose his soul? You cannot serve God and money". ¹⁶ |
| "If you're sexy and you know it then you really ought to show it" | "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, but it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit." ¹⁷ |
| You are hopeless and worthless. | You are created in God's image, so are "very good" in essence (even though you don't do good all the time). ¹⁸ |
| You are what you are; you will never change. | "If anyone trusts in Jesus, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" ¹⁹ |
| No one loves you, so you might as well die. | God loves you unconditionally!, loving you so much He sent His own Son to die for you. ²⁰ |
| It doesn't matter what you believe - all faiths lead to God. | Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". ²¹ |

So, how do we conquer the devil, the father of lies? The Bible tells us what we must do. First, we must become a follower of Jesus. It is written: "Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he / she who believes that Jesus is the Son of God"⁸. If you are not committed to Jesus & His ways, you can never be free from Satan. Secondly, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"⁹. The Bible says that because the devil is a spirit and doesn't have flesh & blood, we must wage spiritual warfare against him, and one of the most important weapons we can have is "the sword of truth" - God's truth as found in the Bible¹⁰. We need to know God's truth, believe it, and act upon it.

When we listen to the devil's lies, we always end up sinning. And Jesus said "Whoever sins is a slave to sin"¹¹. Are you in slavery to some sin at present? Do you want to be free? For many people, the number one thing they really want is to be set free from some life-controlling habit. Jesus said "the truth shall set you free". Are you willing to open yourself up to God, & let His light shine into your life and expose the root causes of your problems, no matter how embarrassed or humiliated you might feel? Don't let your pride

get in the way. God wants you to be free, and nothing shocks God - He already knows all about you!

Jesus said "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"¹². Jesus tells us to turn from our sins, change our minds about them, confess them, make restitution where necessary, and put our trust in Him. Are you willing to do that?

I will be only most glad to help you in the process of getting free.

God bless you!

(1) John 12:31. (2) Ephesians 2:2. (3) 2 Corinthians 4:4. (4) Ephesians 6:11, John 10:10. (5) Ephesians 4:26,27. (6) John 8:44. (7) John 8:44. (8) 1 John 5:5. (9) John 8:31,32. (10) Ephesians 6:17. (11) John 8:34. (12) Matthew 11:28. (13) Numbers 32:23. (14) Proverbs 3:5; 16:25. (15) Hebrews 11:25. (16) Matthew 16:26; 6:24. (17) 1 Peter 3:3,4. (18) Genesis 1:26,31. (19) 2 Corinthians 5:17. (20) John 3:16. (21) John 14:6.