



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

August 19, 2018

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Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

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IS SATAN ALL-KNOWING?

Omniscience, knowing all things, is something the Bible only attributes to God (**I Corinthians 4:5; Hebrews 4:13**). Since the Bible says that all things that exist were created by God (**Colossians 1:16-17**), it follows that Satan is a created being. God cannot sin or cause us to sin, so it is implied that Satan was created good and chose to do evil. Many have defined evil as simply the absence or opposite of good. The Bible says nothing specifically about how Satan became evil, but it must have happened at some point. Throughout the whole Bible, Satan is depicted as one who tempts man to sin. If Satan is not omniscient and cannot tell what we are thinking, how does he know how to operate in our individual lives? **Matthew 4** proves that he knows the Bible, and the Bible tells us the three major avenues of sin (**I John 2:15-17**). He has had the advantage of thousands of years of observation of human behavior. He knows mankind's basic weaknesses. He also has angels (**Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:9**) and who knows what role they play in his having privy to our personal lives and in observing lives and in observing what we are each prone to do?

Yet, Satan does not ever make us sin, despite what the old comic, Flip Wilson, jokingly contended. We choose to sin based on our own fleshly desires (**James 1:13-15**). We sin, not as the result of Satan manipulating the mind, but as the result of giving in to sinful lusts. Satan can no more make us do wrong than God will make us do right. We should simply remember that we never have to sin (**I Corinthians 10:13**). Satan does not whisper in our ears or play with our minds. However, he is actively seeking souls to devour (**I Peter 5:8**). The good news is that he cannot do anything unless we allow him. James says we can make him flee from us by resisting him (**James 4:7**). Satan cannot read your mind. He cannot manipulate your mind. He can only see what you reveal. Let us be careful to reveal the right sorts of things and thereby protect ourselves from this roaring lion.

Neal Pollard

CAVE COMPARISONS

Recently I had the pleasure of taking a couple of our youth into a local cave. I have been in this cave several times and had no concerns about our trek. Of course, it was very beautiful with the stalactites, stalagmites, and other formations. When it was time to turn back and start heading out, something unexpected happened. As we got closer and closer to the entrance, the sound of roaring and rushing water could be heard. Unbeknownst to us a torrential downpour on the surface had happened and the water was seeking the path of least resistance which was straight into the cave. There was only one way out and that was the entrance we came in. As we neared the entrance, we had to brace ourselves through three hard-pouring waterfalls and waist deep rushing water. The sound of the falling and gushing water was deafening. The volume of water that was entering into the cave was absolutely astounding. But we made it! It was great to be out and alive.

After reflecting on our cave adventure, a comparison of our lives upon the earth came to mind. Consider, for example...

...Things can change very quickly. What was a peaceful, serene environment in the cave almost instantly turned violent. It's that way with life as well. In a moment, without warning, our lives can be transformed from ones of peace to turmoil. There is no guarantee of what tomorrow holds upon the earth. See **James 4:13-15**.

...It can become very treacherous. The normally relatively easy passageways in the cave were made very difficult to navigate due to the extra water which made everything slick. Life on earth is treacherous, as well. Satan provides opportunities to slip and fall all along life's journey. We must step carefully. See **Psalm 31:9-10**.

...We have to know the way out. When you are in a cave, it is very important that you know how to get out – it is literally a matter of life and death. Knowing the location of the exit was vital, but we still had to crawl out. It is the same with our lives in this world. There is only one way out to safety – through the passageway Jesus provides. We must know it and follow it. See **John 14:1-6**.

...It always helps to pray. I'll be honest with you – with time being a critical factor, I did not stop to pray. But I can also tell you this: I did not stop praying until we were safe! Prayer is powerful and we need to always remember that it is a great aid when we are struggling through the issues of life upon this globe. See **Philippians 4:6-7**.

Through life's uncertainties, twists, and turns, know that Jesus provides a way of safety. When we come to Him in baptism, His help begins. And He continues to help through our journey, walking with us, and interceding for us as we pray along the way!

Edd Sterchi