

Satan's Temptation

The lust to be independent from God

- I.** Satan is a spiritual foe who should be taken seriously.
 - 1. "The devil" is his name that describes his relentless accusations against the saints to the Father (Rev. 12:10; devil means *slanderer, informer, traitor, false accuser, calumniator*).
 - 2. Satan is called the "evil one" which describes his uncontrollable "inner fire" that drives him to be the unceasing enemy of God (1 Jn. 5:19; Ez. 28:18, "evil" is a malignant evil, evil that spreads).
- II.** Satan's sows the lust to be independent of God.
 - 1. Independence was Satan's own undoing (Is. 14:13-14).
 - 2. The potential to independence in making decisions was Satan's temptation to Eve (Gen. 3:5, 22).
 - 3. Satan reason for persecuting Job was to get Job to denounce God and thus be independent from God (Job 2:4-5, 9-10)
- III.** God the Father wants all His children to keep His desires in mind during each activity of life.
 - 1. God the Father desires Christians to do good works that He designs (2 Pet. 1:4; Phil. 2:13; Eph. 2:10).
 - 2. No matter how menial the task, we are to account for the Father's opinion of what we should be (1 Cor. 10:31).
 - 3. The Holy Spirit is to be involved in determining one's lifestyle (Gal. 5:16, 25).
 - 4. Making major decisions without considering God's desire may result in sin (Jam. 4:13-17).
 - 1) Although there is nothing inherently wrong with moving to make money, in this example it was not based on God's desirous will (vv. 14-15).
 - 2) By not considering God's desire and acting upon this unrighteous thought, the person sinned (v. 17).
 - 3) Planning a lifestyle independent of God is malignantly evil (v. 16).
 - 4) Even if the Christian's choice seems innocuous, good works that were planned are not performed and it is sin (v. 17).
 - 5. Trying to workout one's own solutions apart from God, which is independence from God, may result in anxiety when we should "give our problems to Him" (Phil. 4:5-7).