

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY INSTITUTE

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“THE PRETENDERS” PART 2

I JOHN 3:8-10

LAST WEEK JOHN GAVE US THE FIRST TWO OF THREE REASONS WHY WE SHOULD LIVE A HOLY LIFE:

- I. **GODS THE FATHER LOVES US** (3VS. 1-3)
- II. **GOD THE SON DIED FOR US** (3VS. 4-8) WE FOUND OUT THAT CHRIST APPEARED TO
 - A. **TO TAKE AWAY OUR SINS** (4-6)
 - B. **DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL** (7-8) THE LOGIC HERE IS CLEAR IF A MAN KNOW GOD, HE WILL OBEY GOD; IF HE BELONGS TO THE DEVIL, HE WILL OBEY THE DEVIL. JOHN ACCEPTED THE REALITY OF A PERSONAL DEVIL.

THE ENEMY HAS MANY DIFFERENT NAMES IN SCRIPTURE

1. **SATAN**
2. **ADVERSARY**
3. **ENEMY**
4. **DEVIL**
5. **ACCUSER**
6. **ABADDON**
7. **APOLLYON**
8. **PRICE OF THIS WORLD**
9. **THE DRAGON**

WHATEVER NAME YOU CALL HIM, KEEP IN MIND THAT HIS CHIEF ACTIVITY IS TO:

OPPOSE CHRIST AND GOD’S PEOPLE

THE CONTRAST HERE IS BETWEEN CHRIST (WHO HAS NO SIN- I JOHN 3VS. 5) AND THE DEVIL (WHO CAN DO NOTHING BUT SIN)

A FEW THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SATAN

1. **ORIGIN-** IS A MYSTERY. MANY SCHOLARS BELIEVE HE WAS ONCE ONE OF THE HIGHEST ANGELS, PLACED BY GOD OVER THE EARTH AND

OVER THE OTHER ANGELS, AND THAT HE SINNED AGAINST GOD AND WAS CAST DOWN (ISA 14 VS. 9-17; EZEK 28 VS. 12-14).

2. **SATAN IS NOT ETERNAL-** HE IS CREATED BEING, HE WAS NOT CREATED SINFUL. HIS PRESENT NATURE IS A RESULT OF HIS PAST REBELLION
3. **SATAN IS NOT LIKE GOD-** HE IS NOT
 - **ALL POWERFUL**
 - **ALL KNOWING**
 - **EVERYWHERE PRESENT-** HOWEVER HE IS ASSISTED BY AN ARMY OF SPIRITUAL CREATURES KNOWN AS DEMONS, WHO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO WORK IN MANY PLACES AT ONE TIME (EPH 6 VS. 10-12)

SATAN IS A REBEL, BUT CHRIST IS THE OBEDIENT SON OF GOD. CHRIST WAS OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH, EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS (PHIL 2 VS. 8)

THE CONTRAST BETWEEN CHRIST AND SATAN

CHRIST IS GOD BUT WAS WILLING TO BECOME A **SERVANT**

SATAN WAS A SERVANT AND WANTED TO BECOME **GOD**

FROM THE BEGINNING OF HIS CAREER, SATAN HAS BEEN A SINNER, AND CHRIST CAME TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL.

WHEN WE SAY **DESTROY-** (I JOHN 3 VS. 8) IT DOES NOT MEAN ANNIHILATE. SATAN IS STILL AT WORK TODAY! DESTROY HERE MEANS TO:

RENDER INOPERATIVE ROB OF POWER- SATAN HAS NOT BEEN ANNIHILATED BUT HIS POWER HAS BEEN REDUCED AND HIS WEAPONS HAVE BEEN IMPAIRED. HE IS STILL A MIGHTY FOE, BUT HE IS NO MATCH FOR THE POWER OF GOD.

EXAMPLE: LUKE 11 VS. 14-23

CHRISTIANS MAY REST IN TRUTH THAT SATAN IS A DEFEATED ENEMY- HE MAY STILL WIN A FEW BATTLES HERE AND THERE, BUT HE HAS ALREADY LOST THE WAR! SENTENCE HAS BEEN PRONOUNCES ON HIM, BUT IT WILL BE AWHILE BEFORE HIS PUNISHMENT IS SERVER OUT. A PERSON WHO HAS RECEIVED CHRIST, AND WHO HAS BEEN DELIVERED FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN THROUGH CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE CROSS, HAS NO DESIRE TO OBEY SATAN AND LIVE LIKE A REBEL.

- III. **GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES WITHIN US** (3 VS. 9-10) WHOSOEVER IS BORN OF GOD DOES NOT PRACTICE SIN WHY?

BECAUSE HE HAS A NEW NATURE – WHICH CANNOT SIN. JOHN CALLS IT:

GOD’S SEED

WHEN A PERSON RECEIVES CHRIST AS HIS SAVIOR, TREMENDOUS SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE IN HIM:

- A. **REGENERATION** “BORN AGAIN” INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD/ NEW NATURE/ GODS NATURE (2 PETER 1 VS. 4) RE- MEANS AGAIN – GENERATION MEANS BIRTH
- B. **JUSTIFICATION-** (STANDING BEFORE GOD) BEING EXCEPTED AS RIGHTEOUSNESS IN GODS SIGHT. THIS IS CALLED:
- C. **SANCTIFICATION-** TO BE SET APART TO GOD

THE ONLY WAY TO ENTER GODS FAMILY IS BY TRUSTING CHRIST AND EXPERIENCING THE NEW BITY WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST IS BORN OF GOD (I JOHN 5VS. 1).

NOTE: PHYSICAL LIFE PRODUCES ONLY PHYSICAL LIFE; SPIRITUAL LIFE PRODUCES SPIRITUAL LIFE. (JOHN 3 VS. 3)

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN BORN AGAIN? (I PETER 1 VS. 23)

WITH THIS BEING THE CASE THEN THE CHRISTIANS SPIRITUAL PARENTS ARE:

- 1. **WORD OF GOD** – WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH, (EPHE 2 VS. 8-9) AND FAITH COMETH BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD (ROM 10 VS.17)
- 2. **THE SPIRIT OF GOD-** IN THE MIRACLE OF THE NEW BIRTH, THE HOLY SPIRIT IMPARTS NEW LIFE- GODS LIFE- TO A BELIEVER SINNER, AND AS A RESULT THE INDIVIDUAL IS BORN INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD.

NOTE: JUST AS PHYSICAL CHILDREN BEAR THE NATURE OF THEIR PARENTS, SO GOD’S SPIRITUAL CHILDREN BEAR HIS NATURE. THE DIVINE ‘SEED’ IS IN THEM. A CHRISTIAN HAS AN OLD NATURE FROM HIS PHYSICAL BIRTH AND A NEW NATURE FROM HIS SPIRITUAL BIRTH.

CONTRAST BETWEEN THESE TWO NATURES

OLD NATURE

OUR OLD MEN (ROMANS 6 VS. 6)

THE FLESH (GAL 5 VS. 24)

CORRUPTIBLE SEED (I PETER 1 VS. 23)

NEW NATURE

THE NEW (COL 3 VS. 10)

THE SPIRIT (GAL 5 VS. 17)

GODS SEED (I JOHN 3 VS. 9)

THE OLD NATURE PRODUCES SIN, BUT THE NEW NATURE LEADS ONE INTO A HOLY LIFE. A CHRISTIANS RESPONSIBILITY IS TO LIVE ACCORDING TO HIS NEW NATURE, NOT THE OLD NATURE.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLORE THE SPIRIT OF GOD NEXT WEEK.