

SERMON: Dangerous Devices of the Devil!

TEXT: Job 1:9-11; 2 Corinthians 2:11, "lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices." 2 Corinthians 11:3, "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." Satan is trying to...

1. **Deceive the mind** (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). Cf. 2 Corinthians 11:3. If people do not respond to the glorious gospel, it isn't Paul's fault, or the gospel's fault. Only those who are perishing miss the message. Satan's work upon them is another reason they are blinded. Cf. John 3:19. Though men love the darkness, and choose the darkness, Satan still works hard to keep them blinded to the glorious gospel of light and salvation in Jesus.
 2. **Distort the truth** (Romans 1:26). In every rebellion and disobedience against God we exchange the truth of God for the lie of our own choosing, and set the creature before the Creator. Paul uses the definite article; it is not a lie, but the lie. The lie is essentially idolatry – which puts us in the place of God; it is the lie you will be like God. (Gen. 3:5).
 3. **Divide the church** (1 Cor. 11:18). A large part of the problem with the gatherings of the Corinthian Christians was that there were divisions among them – something Paul had heard, and could believe, knowing their history and character. Paul had already dealt with the problem of divisions among the Corinthian Christians in 1 Corinthians 1:10-17.
 4. **Dominate the world** (Matthew 4:9). Satan invited Jesus to take a shortcut around the cross. Jesus came to win all the kingdoms of the world and their glory back from Satan's domain, and Satan offers them to Jesus, if He will only fall down and worship him. Jesus replied with Scripture and commanded the devil to leave. In the same way we can "resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). It worked for Jesus and it will work for us! Keep resisting and the Devil will flee!
 5. **Destroy the Soul** (Romans 6:23). When you work for sin, your wages are death. When we serve God we get no pay – but He freely and clearly gives us the best reward. Heaven is the reward for the faithful, committed, dedicated saved soul!
- Con:** We must focus on resisting the Devil with the full armor of God (Eph. 6:10-18).

SERMON: What to DO on the worst day of your life?

TEXT: Job 1:20

1. Stand-up: Don't sit around inactive.
2. Tore his robe: Don't worry about your fashion.
3. Shaved his head: Your hair-do is the least of your worries!
4. Fell on the ground: Job lost strength.
5. And worshipped: Worship was Job's first reaction to his crisis.

Pulpit Preview is sent for the purpose of sharing sermon ideas & useful illustrations. It is sent via email each month. Editor: Mark N. Posey D.D., preaching minister for the Austinville Church of Christ (2833 Danville Rd. SW Decatur, AL 35603) since 1994. Please send all comments to—pulpitpreview@austinvillecoc.org or address above. **Thanks, MNP.**



PULPIT PREVIEW

August 30, 2016 ● Vol. 8, No. 8



SERMON: What to SAY on the worst day of your life!

TEXT: Job 1:21

1. **First Life-Lesson**— "Naked I came from my mother's womb." All of us come into this world with the same number of possessions—NOTHING!
2. **Second Life-Lesson**— "Naked I shall return there." "How much did he leave?" asked one to another at the graveside. "He left it all," was the reply. Possessions end at the cemetery. Cf. Lk 12:16-21; Matt. 19:23-24.
3. **Third Life-Lesson**— "The Lord gave." The Lord can give because all belongs to Him (Psalm 50:9-12). We must overcome pride's right hand—selfishness. Do you daily acknowledge God's gifts to you? All that you have belongs to God and comes from God!
4. **Fourth Life-Lesson**— "The Lord has taken away." Often our favorite word is MINE. Only when we truly TRUST the Lord can we accept—"The Lord has taken away." We are clay in His hands (Rom. 9:20-21). The lump does not question the amount of clay the potter adds. We must not cry out at the carvings done on us. How dare we lift up clay hands to heaven & question His works. We must trust His omniscience, omnipotence & omnipresence.
5. **Fifth Life-Lesson**— "Blessed be the name of the Lord." We praise Him because He cares for us (1 Pet. 5:7) and has given us all good and perfect gifts (Jam. 1:17). We pour out our heart to Him in thanksgiving, love and praise. To God be the GLORY!

SERMON: Job, a Model Man!

TEXT: Job 1:1

Introduction: In a brief but amazing phrase, Job is described with a quartet of characteristics that deserve our attention: "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil" (Job 1:1).

1. **First, Job was described as "perfect."** This word does not imply sinless perfection but passionate desire to obey and please God. There is only one to please—GOD!
2. **Second, Job was described as "upright."** He had a good relationship with others, which was based on his right relationship with God. He was a man of exceptional goodness. He walked through life with his head held high, not in pride but in humility!
3. **Third, Job was a man who feared God.** In the Old Testament a man who had a reverent trust in the Lord coupled with a hatred for evil was one who feared God. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Ps. 111:10; Prov. 9:10). A healthy and faithful trust in God produced in Job a sensitivity to sin and a hatred for it. Job's priority was GOD!
4. **Fourth, Job was a man who eschewed evil** (i.e., he turned away from it). He abstained from evil & shunned it. His conduct & behavior corresponded to his relationship with God.

Conclusion: The Christian has been cleansed from sin in the Blood of Jesus (Rev. 1:5). Its guilt has been removed and counted righteous in God's eyes. Thus, our conduct in public and private must reflect our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Job conducted himself in a manner consistent with the words of Solomon: "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Eccl. 12:13). Thus, Job was a model man!

SERMON: Wisdom Literature!

TEXT: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastics & Song of Solomon.

1. Job - How to suffer.
2. Psalms - How to pray.
3. Proverbs - How to act.
4. Ecclesiastes - How to enjoy.
5. Song of Solomon - How to love.

SERMON: An Overview of Job (The man of Endurance)!

TEXT: Book of Job

1. Job was Righteous—1:1, 8; 2:3.
2. Job was Rich—1:3; 2:11.
3. Job was Religious—1:4-5.
4. Job was Robbed—1:13-17; 1:18-19; 2:7.
5. Job was Reprimanded—Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, Elihu & God.
6. Job Repented—42:1-6.
7. Job was Reconciled—42:7-9.
8. Job was Restored—42:10-15.

SERMON: Job's Distress!

TEXT: Job 1-3

1. Job's Prosperity (1:1-5).
2. Job's Adversity (1:6-2:13).
3. Job's Perplexity (3).

SERMON: The Scenes from the Life of Job!

TEXT: Job 1:1-2:13

1. Scene 1: The Land of Uz (1:1-5).
2. Scene 2: Heaven—the Lord's Presence (1:6-12).
3. Scene 3: The Land of Uz—Tragedy to Job's Property & Posterity (1:13-22).
4. Scene 4: Heaven—the Lord's Presence Again (2:1-6).
5. Scene 5: Uz—Calamity to Job's Person (2:7-13).

SERMON: Qualities That Please God!

TEXT: Job 1:1, "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil." Cf. 1:8; 2:3.

1. Job was BLAMELESS. This word does not refer to sinless perfection but to the fact that Job wholeheartedly wanted to please God.
2. Job was UPRIGHT. He had a good relationship with other human beings, which was due to his having a right relationship with God.
3. Job was one who FEARED GOD. In the OT context this refers to a man who had a reverential trust of God coupled with a hatred for evil.
4. Job was one who SHUNNED EVIL. He abstained from evil & shunned it. His manner of life agreed with his relationship with God.

SERMON: What a Man: Job's Life as Example!

TEXT: Job 1:1, "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil."

1. A good reputation: "blameless."
2. Integrity: "upright."
3. Close walk with God: "one who feared God."
4. Deliberately rejected evil: "shunned evil."

SERMON: Children are SO precious!

TEXT: Job 1:2. Cf. Psalm 127:3-5

1. Children are a True Blessing (Ps. 127:3). Cf. Gen. 33:5; Ps. 113:9. Heritage from the Lord—reward.
2. Children are like arrows (Ps. 127:4). Cf. 1 Sam. 1:11; 1:19-28. A warrior must be equipped for battle: A parent is blessed with children like a warrior with arrows. Parents, blessed with children, are equipped! Cf. Eph. 6:1-3.
3. Children bring joy to their parents (Ps. 127:5). A happy home does not just happen by accident, it takes hard work, much prayer and Biblical guidance. Faithful children defend their home with all they encounter!

SERMON: Living East of Eden!

TEXT: Job 1:3, "His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east."

Intro: In Genesis, when people go "east," they leave the land of blessing (Eden and the Promised Land) and go to a land where their greatest hopes turn to ruin (e.g., Babylon and Sodom); EXCEPT ONE—JOB!

Discussion: Living East of Eden is Paradise Lost and dreaming of regaining Paradise! There is one that is symbolic of hope – JOB is his name!

1. Adam and Eve are cast out of the Garden to the east (Gen. 3:24).
2. Cain is expelled from the presence of the Lord and goes east (Gen.4:16).
3. People move east in the direction of Babylon and build the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:2).
4. Lot divides from Abraham and takes the best lands toward the east (Genesis 13:11).
5. The Cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are in the east and Lot pitches his tent in their direction (Genesis 13:11-13).
6. Israel leaves Sinai and moves east (Num. 10:5) shortly to disobey God and wander in the wilderness for 40 years (Num. 13-14).
7. Job, however, is "the greatest of all the men of the east." He is a symbol of hope in God. He is a righteous man even though he lives in the east (Job 1:1-5). He suffers significantly and "maintains his integrity" (Job 2:3, 9). He's faithful to God regardless of the calamities heaped upon him by Satan.

Conclusion: Living East of Eden is an indication of sin; however, there is hope in the life of Job. He is the greatest man in the East!

SERMON: Satan has a Big Fat Nose!

TEXT: Job 1:6 (cf. 2:1), "and Satan also came among them."

Intro: This Hebrew phrase indicates that Satan was present but uninvited! There are many areas where Satan is present but has not been invited. He sticks his nose where it's not wanted or needed!

1. FAMILY: Satan is not invited in my marriage, home, family or children!
2. FAITH: Satan is not invited into my mind, heart or soul!
3. FELLOWSHIP: Satan is not invited into my congregation, worship, Bible class, devotional life, prayer meeting, gospel meeting, VBS, Summer Series, Lecture-ship, etc.!

4. FOUNDATION: Satan is not invited into my understanding, knowledge, study time, meditation, evangelism, edification or benevolence!

5. FUTURE: Satan is not invited into my walk, behavior, conduct, direction or destination!

SERMON: Satan, going here and there!

TEXT: Job 1:7 (cf. 2:2; 1 Peter 5:8).

Intro: Satan is a murderer, deserter and liar from his beginning (John 8:44).

1. Satan is cunning, more so than any other animal (Genesis 3:1).
2. Satan is deceiving, more so than any created being (2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:14).
3. Satan is dishonest, more so than any human (John 8:44).