

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



John 8:32 and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

February

26

2023

ARE YOU BETTER THAN THE DEVIL?

Jim Sasser

Introduction: The Bible depicts the devil and his demon friends as the worst of the worst. I mean they are despicable...called in the Bible, liars, haters, murderers, and the like. They do terrible things to human beings... we see a child crying out loud, thrown into the fire and water in attempts to kill him, convulsing on the ground and foaming at the mouth like a rabid animal. We see a grown man walking around naked, living among the tombs, shrieking in the night. Satan worship has to be some of the most perverted thoughts a man can have. - With this in mind, I have a question for you. Are you better than the devil? Now, hold on, don't think I've blown a mental gasket...or that I am taking irrational thinking to a whole new level. Give me a chance. Stay with me a few minutes as I ask again, "Are you better than the devil?"

1. "Well, I believe in God." - I am so glad you do, but that doesn't make you better than Satan. He believes in God...and maybe more than you...since he has actually stood in His presence. In **Job 1:6** we see this...*Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.* - So, don't hang your hat on that. Don't give yourself a brownie point just for believing in God. If you do, you are no better than the devil...at least in that regard. It is foolish to not believe in God. Even if you are not going to obey him, at least believe God is real... otherwise, the devil has a leg up on you.

2. Do you fear God? I mean respect Him. Demons do. They fear God. They tremble. **James 2:19** reads this way...*You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe and tremble!* - While they do not obey God most of the time, they sure do respect Him and His power over them. How about you? Are you at least equal to the devil in this? Or better? Or worse?

It's startling to think that demons have some degree of belief and that many people don't. James' point is astounding...that sometimes people settle for non-saving, non-acting, non-obedient, non-working demon-like faith! Whoa!

3. Are you better than the devil? Not if you are a hypocrite. The devil is a hypocrite. How about you? How about me? Are we pretending to be a follower of Jesus or are we the genuine article? The scriptures say...**II Cor. 11:13-15**...*For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.* Talk about hypocrisy! The bad man, as my daughter, Whitney once called the devil in a prayer as a little girl...The bad man dresses himself up as an angel of light and righteous appearing Christians can actually be just that, too...Christians in appearance only. So don't go there with regard to thinking I'm better than the devil because I do Christian things. Just as the devil dresses up, so people can do the same...they can dress in their Sunday finest...put on the Jesus face when thought good or useful...but don't pat yourself on the back for that.

4. Satan quotes Scripture...do you? *Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, 'and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. - Matthew 4:6.* - Unreal! The devil quoting Bible to the author of it. But, my point is this...he is quoting scripture to make a point. Do you? And get this...by quoting it, he

is suggesting that it is from God and should make a difference—that it should matter to people who want to please God. Can you believe that? I think it's true. Are you better than the devil?

5. The Devil knows who Jesus is...Mark 1:34

reads...*Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.*" - Demons knew who he was. They knew where he came from. They knew him well. Do you? - And demons worshipped Him. Listen to this...**Mark 5:6-7...** *When he (demon) saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, 'What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.* - Do you worship Jesus? You do? Good, you are at least equal to the devil in so doing. And did you hear the confession made by the demon about Jesus? You are Jesus, Son of the Most High God. This is not what we'd expect from a demon, from the devil, the foremost enemy of God and Jesus! Why would a demon make this outrageous confession unless it was overwhelmingly evident and true? Are you better than the devil? Are you always confessing Jesus as Lord and do you worship Him as your savior? If not, let me urge you to hurry and get on the ball. The devil is ahead of you.

6. The Devil knows he is doomed to hell. Matthew 8:29 says...*And suddenly they cried out, saying, 'What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?'* -

Torment? Torment them? Where in the world did they get that idea? **Matthew 25:41** says hell is prepared for the devil and his angels, though men may end up joining them there. In **Revelation 20:10** we see the devil is thrown into the lake of fire where he will be tormented day and night forever and ever. And he knows it. Hell is not the dark realm of the underworld that he gleefully likes to live in awaiting souls to torment. He is tortured in flames, too. Are you better than the devil? If so, then it will be by you believing the gospel of Jesus, obeying it in baptism and faithfully walking in the Spirit until your earthly life is through... and thus being saved from that awful hell fire.

Conclusion: Are you better than the devil? I hope so.

BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD

PEOPLE

Samuel Matthews

Loved ones, some of the frequent questions we get are, "If there is a God, why is there so much evil in the world? Why do we have children starving in Africa? Why are women raped and murdered by marauding men? Why are innocent people mowed down by a deranged madman?" These are legitimate questions, and demand a thoughtful and reasoned answer.

My old car had more than 300,000 miles on it; however, it always obeyed me. It always turned left or stopped at my simple command. It didn't argue back or refuse to move. But it was a machine, a robot. It had no choice. It only did what it was programmed to do. It did not love me, and did not even know who I was.

I have been blessed with four children. When they were young, they usually obeyed, but not always. However, if I had to make a choice between my children and my car, it really wouldn't require any thought. I would choose my children. I had a relationship with my children. I loved them and they returned my love. The fact that they had a choice, and still responded to my directions is because they loved and respected me.

God could have created Adam and Eve as robots. He could have programmed into them whatever commands He wanted them to do, just as we may do a computer or some other machine. But God didn't want a bunch of robots running around performing His commands by the pushing of a button. He wanted a creation that He could love, and that would love and respect Him in return.

The only way God could have such a creation was for that creation to have free will—the freedom to choose. That was a risk we took when we brought children into the world. What would our children become? We had faith that they would make good choices through our guidance, but since they had freedom of choice, there was the risk they would go the other way. And thus it was with God's creation.

Sadly, through the centuries that have passed since Adam and Eve were created, and since Noah and Mrs. Noah started over, too many have made wrong choices. Please understand that the evil that is in the world is here because of Satan, not God. And we must suffer the consequences of the sin that is in the world. Yes, even the innocent suffer. One of the immutable laws in the universe is that of cause and effect, action, and consequences (**Galatians 6:7-8**). When we break the law, there are consequences to be borne. When a

drunk gets behind the wheel of a car and runs down a little girl on her tricycle, the innocent suffers. When a deranged young man seeks revenge for his supposed mistreatment and kills 32 others, the innocent suffer.

We understand the law of action and consequences in civil law. Rob a bank and go to jail. When you break the laws of God and nature, there are consequences. Our task is to teach as many as possible to make the right decisions in life, i.e., to obey the Prince of Peace and thus overcome Satan. And we must remember that evil in the world is caused by Satan and the bad decisions he tempts men to make. But we must also remember that no matter what evil comes upon us, God will give us the strength to endure. *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"* (Philippians 4:13).

FREDERICK LEE HARRIS

7/28/1944-2/18/2023

Frederick Lee Harris, PhD., MD, died on February 18, 2023, at the age of 78 years. He was born in Kansas City, Missouri on July 28, 1944, the fifth and youngest son of Edward and Victoria Harris. He attended Attucks Elementary School and Lincoln Junior High School. He graduated from Lincoln High School as the salutatorian of the Class of 1962. He married Eula Thompson in 1972. They celebrated 50 years of marriage in 2022.

Dr. Harris studied the Bible and worshiped God all through his life, starting with attending Sunday School and Vacation Bible School at Centennial Methodist Church and being an active member of the youth department and usher at Ebenezer AME Church. As an adult, he and his wife served faithfully at The Swope Parkway Church of Christ and the Lenexa Church of Christ.

Dr. Harris attended Scarritt College, then earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and a Master of Science degree in microbiology from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. He then earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in counseling from the University of South Florida at Sarasota. Later, he earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. He then completed residency training in anatomic and clinical pathology at the University of California-Irvine.

Service in the United States Army was sandwiched in between obtaining his academic and professional degrees. He served as a Specialist ES working in microbiology, as a tank driver, a commander, and a gunner. He was primarily stationed in Nuremberg, Germany.

Dr. Harris' professional career included working as a microbiologist and department head at the US Environmental Protection Agency in Kansas City, a surgical pathologist at FHP Hospital in Hawaiian Gardens, California, and as an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of California at Irvine. After returning to Kansas City, he served as a defense and plaintiff's expert medical witness.

Dr. Harris was extremely proud of having been involved in the pioneering research on the technique that is now being used for rapid Covid-19 testing. He was co-author of a study that was published in the Journal of Clinical Microbiology in July 1991 that proved that this technique was efficient and accurate. The research that was done at that time enabled manufacturers to produce reliable Covid-19 test kits quickly in response to the recent pandemic. His 1974 research on screening water for Salmonella was published in Environmental Letters. He was proud that both research projects have helped to save lives throughout the world.

Dr. Harris was preceded in death by his parents and four brothers: Warren Edward Harris, William DeWitt Harris, James Oliver Harris, and Ralph Edward Harris. He is survived by his beloved wife, Eula Thompson Harris, and his sister, Nevada Harris Lee.. He also leaves behind many devoted nieces and nephews as well as great and great-great nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

Funeral Service will be held Saturday, March 4, 2023, 11am at Watkins Heritage Chapel. Interment Monday, March 6, 2023, Leavenworth National Cemetery, LVNKS. Visitation will be from 10am-11am at the chapel. Service conducted by Watkins Heritage Chapel. Condolences may be shared on our website.

Many will miss Rick and the effect he had on us all, especially his earthly family and his spiritual family.

May we all be reminded of the words of Scripture:

***"They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."* (Revelation 7:16-17)**

"We offer either in home studies in person or by way of Correspondence Courses.

Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563, Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ

We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

OUR ADDRESS IS:

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Evangelist and Editor

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Deacons

Bill Miller

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NEWS AND NOTES:

THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

ALMA BAUMGARTNER, DENESE GORING, BROOKLYN BOYER, TRACY RICHARDSON, MATT BASSFORD, WAYNE MOODY, DAVID AND JOANNE BECKLEY, KEN KLING, MARK WALKER, PAT MCLLOUD, JAN PATRICK IS AT NOTTINGHAM IN OLATHE. JORDAN SHOUSE AND FREDA WALKER.

Bible Classes: Sunday Morning
James - Jim Stauffer

Wednesday Evening
Joshua, Judges, Ruth
Bill Miller

Sunday Sermon: **Attend the church of your choice?**



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10