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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

THE DEVIL'S EVIL MISSION

Does the devil exist? Many would deny that he does. Some believe the devil is only a symbol of evil and not an actual being. Others would have us believe that the devil is merely the invention of religious people who seek to control others, but the devil never really existed. However, those who believe the Bible will readily admit that not only is the devil real he is trying his best to bring you, me, and every other person into the bondage of sin.

The devil is first mentioned in the Bible record in Genesis chapter three. The text is very clear that the devil had the ability to speak, to lie and to deceive the first couple into transgressing God's spiritual law (Genesis 3:1ff). Jesus referred to the devil as "a murderer...a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44). Jesus Himself was tempted by the devil in a very personal attack. The devil spoke directly to Jesus in his futile effort to cause Jesus to sin and Jesus answered each temptation with scripture which he quoted to the devil (Matthew 4:1ff; Luke 4:3-13). The Bible warns "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11), and Ephesians 4:27 says, "nor give place to the devil." In 1 Peter 5:8 the Bible we read "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." These Bible descriptions and warnings concerning the devil cannot apply to a mere symbol or to one who does not exist but only to a real personal being. Yes, the devil is real and seeks our eternal punishment in hell where he and his angels will exist in eternity (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

The power of the devil over mankind is limited. The truth is that the devil only has as much power over us as we allow him to have. Each of us have it within our ability to resist the efforts of the devil. "Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). The key to resisting the devil is submitting to God's will and direction revealed in the New Testament. Will you allow the devil to control you and your eternal destination, or will you resist his efforts, submit to God's will and thereby escape the bondage of sin and the eternal punishment of hell? It's entirely up to you to make that decision. It is our hope and prayer that you choose to serve God, defeating the evil mission of the devil. Visit gbntv.org and greenplainchurchofchrist.org.