

*Submit therefore to God.
Resist the devil and he will
flee from you.*

James 4:7

Store In My Heart Zephaniah 2:3

Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord.

Zephaniah was a prophet during the reign of Judah's King Josiah. Though Josiah brought a return to God among the people, God's judgment for their wickedness during the reign of Manasseh was certain. Zephaniah spoke of God's judgment on the wicked and His plan to restore a remnant of the faithful. Such warnings are found all through the book.

The "day of the Lord" is a common phrase to speak of God's judgment of both Israel and all mankind at the end of time. We need to give earnest heed to the words of the prophet. We live in our own time of difficulty, but his warning and instruction can certainly help us be prepared for our "Day of the Lord."



The Devil And His Hey-Day

Dee Bowman

Have you noticed how our society just accepts sin as an ordinary occurrence? It's astounding how television is running commercial announcements that consider single parents as one of the normal things in life, how the sitcoms openly accept homosexuality as common, and how the cartoons depict lying when necessary, as a customary action of life.

Seems to me the devil is winning in our culture today. And mostly by default. Nobody much opposes him. Politics plays right into his hands in most instances. Religion has absorbed into its doctrines and worship every kind of compromise imaginable -- from rap music to staged productions of mostly false doctrine. Benny Hinn, noted televangelist, recent petitioned his followers to donate funds to make a down-payment on a multimillion-dollar aircraft so he can fly to his world-wide events (and the Lord had no place to lay His head?).

The family has been decimated by the devil. He has run rough-shod over the husband's role in the family, promoted wives to roles not approved by Scripture, and made children as much controllers as controlled in most households.

And have you noticed how sexual sins have proliferated? Even among small children. I saw a report recently where an 11-year-old boy was arrested for molesting young girls (I think we still had flaps on the back of our overalls when I was eleven). A report in the Houston Chronicle (December 20, 2006) tells that over 90% of people surveyed had engaged in sexual activity before marriage. And no wonder -- television, magazines, and other media accept the fact of promiscuous sex as if it were normal. The devil is having a hey-day, folks.

Is there no such thing as immodest apparel in this age? Does anybody even remember what modest means? There seems to me to be no standard for ascertaining what is modest and what is not -- except one: if it is acceptable to most of the people, it's modest. The doctrine of "everybody's doing it" is flourishing in this age, and with a sort of reckless abandonment of any sort of restraint. How long since you saw

somebody blush? A while, I suspect. I tell you, the devil is having a hey-day.

The business world is not immune to the devil's ploys, either. The business lie is common today -- especially if it means a promotion. Advertising is filled with deception. So much so that nobody really believes what it says. Deception is not even restricted to the fine print anymore, it's just sort of expected. Warrantees don't mean what they say, products don't do what they claim, the cost is always more than what is advertised, and when consulted about such matters, the answer is, "well why are you picking on me?" "After all, I have to make a living."

Even the Lord's people have succumbed to this tenacious but subtle invasion by the devil. For instance, the Richland Hills congregation in the Metroplex area has announced recently that they will now have instrumental music in their worship services. In a recent statement to the congregation, the preacher said that while they were not trying to get all churches to follow their examples, their decision might, "inspire many other churches of Christ to be courageous in their kingdom efforts, and it could help stem the tide of gifted young leaders who are leaving" (Christian Chronicle, Dec. 12, 2006). I noted that not one passage of Scripture was cited to justify the instrument in the whole story -- not one. And you think the devil is not having a hey-day?

Max Lucado, minister of the Oak Hills Church in San Antonio now openly states that baptism is not necessary to the salvation of the sinner but is merely a "demonstration of devotion." Again, no scripture to show such is forthcoming. What ever happened to "book, chapter, and verse" preaching among churches of Christ? Is it not relevant to this age? If not, when was the change authorized, and by whom?

Take time, just here, to read Eph. 5:1-16. Yes, the devil is winning in far too many cases in our day and time. Not just winning but have a hey-day in doing so. What about you? Who's going to win in your life? Well, it's up to you. You can win or you can lose. It's up to you.

(Brother Bowman wrote this article over a decade ago so his examples are from that time. I am sure most of us could think of similar examples from the past couple of years as this sort of thing has increased since then. Our society, and the church, is following after the lies of the devil. We need to be diligent in guarding ourselves against his temptations. Our eternal destiny depends on it! DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Paula Laubach's is back to keeping weight off her foot.

Jim Soliday is feeling better following his medication change.

Sue Soliday has had several chiropractor visits.

Jack Brooks will have sinus surgery in mid-November.

Deberah Brooks is having some knee trouble.

Brandy Tolleson has a neurologist appointment in March.

Leta Rivera is having trouble walking but is breathing better.

JoBeth Henderson is waiting for an appointment to talk with a surgeon about the cancer found in her biopsies.

Sunday Evening - **Isaiah 34** Wednesday - **Revelation 3**