

WHY DID JESUS COME?

An observation is that the modern Church is becoming more tolerant of sin and increasingly more ready to accept the trends of the world rather than remaining steadfast setting the benchmark of righteousness.

The modern Church is in danger of watering down its message of repentance! Thus, presenting a 'user friendly' message that makes us feel good, resulting in a consumer mentality creeping into the Church.

This mentality determines participation based on our 'likes' or 'dislikes.' This is certainly not the lifestyle Jesus presented when He came to earth.

In fact, Jesus came *...to destroy the works of the devil.* **1 John 3:8**

So... what is Satan's response to Jesus' challenge?

If I were the devil, I would know that my days are numbered if the Church was aggressive in its mandate to fulfil the Great commission.

Mark 13:10 (tlb) *And the Good News must first be known in every Nation before the end will come.*

- I would prevent missions being the priority of the Local Church.

I would see to it that Churches would focus on their facilities and feed the consumer demand of its members and not the sick, lost and the dying. To focus on everything except the main thing.

- I would get Christians to focus on this world not the next one.

To live for the temporal, simply feeding their fleshly appetites with sin and greediness and not focusing on the eternal by honouring God with how we live our lives now to receive our eternal reward.

- I would make sure the great commission became the great omission.

If I were the Devil, I would make sure that no-one would feel a sense of urgency for the lost and dying people in the world.

James 5:20 *Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.*

1 Corinthians 7:29 (tlb) *The important thing to remember is that our remaining time is very short, and so are our opportunities for doing the Lord's work...*

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- **I would teach Christians that the power of the Holy Spirit had been sent to bless them.** I would see to it there is a *'bless me'* attitude.

If this was the strategy of the devil how would we rate his performance as we look at the state of the modern church?

Let's face it, it is much more pleasing to think God reigns unchallenged, and that only His kingdom exists.

How easy it would be to agree with such a dismissal of the devil! But in the end I cannot. **Three things stand in the way: the Bible; Jesus and myself!**

1. The Bible

Evil is woven so deeply into Scripture it cannot be unthreaded without destroying the very fabric of our Salvation offered through Jesus.

Destroy the doctrine of Satan and we destroy the integrity of the Bible!

2. Jesus

Jesus gave clear teaching about Satan and his hordes of assistants. Jesus understood at a personal level that Satan was not fiction.

Jesus' teachings about the devil were an integral part of His message, and the core motivation of His mission. **Matthew 12:22-30**

(Matthew 13:19, 39; 25:4; Luke 10:17-20; John 8:44; 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)

3. Myself

I am personally driven by one compelling reason to accept the reality of the devil and his evil spirits. The alternative is too horrible to think about!

The universal occurrence of sin, the insane and unrestrained acts of violence, the cunningness of human wickedness and dishonesty, and all these things are too monstrous to admit they arise in man unaided.

The only message that shines with any hope for man is the Biblical one, which ultimately ascribes all evil to the Prince of Darkness, namely Satan!

Ephesians 6:11-12 *Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

1 John 3:8 *The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.*

Jesus' overthrow of Satan has created a way for men and women to emerge from sins corruption, and to be renewed as the rightful inheritors of the kingdom of God.

Jesus established the opening for fallen man to be in right standing with God which gave new hope and the basis for victory over evil.

Before we can examine what Jesus has achieved for us, it is necessary to understand what has **not** been achieved, that is **Satan is not destroyed!**

Jesus came to destroy the **works** of the devil; but Satan **himself** will not be destroyed until Jesus returns in power and glory.

Only then will the Satan finally be caught and bound in the bottomless pit.

Revelation 20:1-3 *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.*

Until then, Satan remains free to roam the earth "*seeking someone to devour*" (**1 Peter 5:8**)

However, the "*destruction*" Jesus has inflicted upon the works of Satan falls short of actually purging those works from the face of the earth.

Revelation 12:12 *Woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!*

In what sense, then, have the works of the devil been "*destroyed*"?

Jesus has achieved for **all** who accept His great salvation a marvellous release from Satan's grip of strength and authority.

Thus we declare that in Christ... **we are loosed from All bondage**

It is not so much that we ourselves are loosed from the works of Satan; rather, the thing that gave those works strength has been removed, so that we may throw them off.

Conclusion

Before an enemy can be overcome he must be identified.

The more we can learn about his weapons, his strategy, his location, and so on, the more likely your victory will be.

Whenever the powers of darkness wage war upon believers, they do so by attacking us on four major battle fronts...

- 1. Morally**
- 2. Physically**
- 3. Intellectually**
- 4. Spiritually**