

The Accuser of Our Brethren

www.ncvchurch.com

Introduction: As our opponent Satan is destined for complete defeat

A. Before Satan is destroyed, he is committed to destroying God's people. (1 Pt 5:8)

Satan: literally *Adversary*, the constant enemy of God and man, a supernatural evil being. – Frieberg

1. The power of Satan is found in his lies and deception. The defeat of Satan comes when truth is made know!
2. This is why light and darkness are a constant theme in the Bible.
(Lk 22:52-53; Jn 14:30)

B. What is the difference between how Satan speaks and acts and how Christians do?

1. In some ways I believe that darkness is around us in a powerful way right now.
2. Remember that darkness has no power over light! (ESV – “the darkness has not overcome it.” (Jn 1:4-5)
3. Now is the time to be reminded of the power of God's light manifested in His wisdom. This wisdom is very different from the ways of the world. (Jas 3:13)

I. Satan's history of making accusations against the people of God

A. Satan is the accuser of our brethren! (Rev 12:10)

1. He is filled with wrath and even accuses us before God! (Zach 3:1-4)
2. Satan did not anticipate forgiveness through the sacrifice of Christ.
3. God does not cast us away when we stumble or are weak!

B. Satan tried to destroy God's people through accusations! (Ezra 4:6)

1. How does Satan use accusations? He uses them to destroy! (Jn 10:10)
2. Satan does not care if accusations are true, but he wants to appeal to the fear and anger in men. He wants the accusation to work! (Ezra 4:12-13)
3. This is like a fire. How far does it spread? It depends on if it has fuel. Wise men with integrity will not be fuel for such a fire.

C. How were God's people instructed to respond? (Psa 109:2-4)

1. Is it weakness to respond to accusations with love and prayer? NO!
2. Satan wants you and I to take on personal vengeance and in that we will destroy ourselves! (Rom 12:19-21; 1 Pt 2:23)
3. When we refuse to do this we will become like our accusers. How? Poison will seep into our hearts!
4. When we refuse mercy we will be destroyed! This cancer will enter into our very “body” and “bones.” (Psa 109:16-18; 1 Jn 3:15)

II. Satan and the political culture of our times

A. In this culture, “ammunition” for the battle is seeking charges to attack another.

1. What did the Pharisees diligently pursue? (Lk 6:7; Mk 3:2)
2. If you want something bad enough you will find it. When love, justice and mercy are cast out, you can believe anything! (Mt 23:23; 2 Thess 2:11)

3. I am concerned that this kind of thinking can enter into our "bones" through the current political culture.
- B. This culture is very quick to accuse! (Jude 9)
1. The Romans had a process that when applied, would defeat slander. Righteousness takes time and effort! (Acts 25:16; Prov 18:17)
 2. When you blindly follow a party then when your "leader" makes an accusation then no further investigation is needed! (Jn 18:29-30)
- C. This culture is quick to incite "mob action!" (Ex 23:1-2; Acts 19:32)
1. We should not go "public" as a first act! This is how Satan tempts many people. "Why are you not doing something!"
 2. Even if legitimate problems are raised Satan's goal is the same, to destroy your enemy and enslave the victor! He conquers both!
 3. We must be very careful about our social media or discontinue it entirely.
 4. In the 1930's several articles warned against "petitions" and majority rule. I would add to that warning concerning "open letters" and the internet!
- D. All of this is contrary to the very foundation of God's wisdom. (Lev 19:18; Mt 22:37-40)

III. The blessings of being with the people of God

- A. When we are converted, we radically change how we view everything! (Lk 19:8-10)
1. God has now given us a different set of priorities! (Mt 6:33)
 2. I am not taking on burdens the world thrusts upon me. We need wisdom here!
 3. When we are "not of this world" we will be fighting for different things than political power. (Jn 18:36)
- B. When we are with Christians, we can trust one another. (1 Cor 13:4-6)
1. Trust is built on how we handle problems!
 2. I will close my heart to blunt, unprincipled force. God's love in a humble heart is the key to working together! (Jn 8:10-12)
 3. When I have a different opinion, I appreciate the one who puts others first. (James 3:17-18)
- C. What do we need the most to overcome these toxic times?
1. We must never forget how God has forgiven each of us. (Lk 7:42, 47)
 2. When I replace the current static with thanksgiving, I must start here!
 3. Do you remember your conversion? Do you know what it means to be lost?
 4. All of our current troubles are temporary. These weird times will not last! (Ex. Memory of Pandemic of 1918) (1 Cor 7:29-31)
- D. I am so thankful for my brethren who are full of thankfulness, mercy and love! (1 Thess 3:6-8)
1. Let us withdraw from the worldly static and become closer to one another.
 2. When we see things as God does, we learn what lasts! (Ex. New car in 2015)

Conclusion: God's wisdom will always overpower the darkness of this world!