

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

March 3, 2019

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

10 THINGS SATAN LOVES AT YOUR CONGREGATION

Ben Giselbach

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize the devil is everywhere in this world. And he is trying his hardest to creep into the Lord's Church – the one place that should be a haven from his handiwork.

We are reminded to watch out for him: “Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8).

Satan specializes in wreaking havoc on the Church. And he's got his sights on your congregation.

Notice some of the things he loves:

APATHY. Satan loves taking away our passion for pleasing God. One of his favorite lines is, “What's the big deal?” Just look at all the indifference in your congregation right now. It's spiritual cancer.

SCANDAL. Satan loves a gossipy story about an affair, a conflict of interest, greed, or woeful mismanagement. If it could make one or two families leave, or even split the church, even better.

CONFLICT. Satan loves disagreements between members, and he loves leadership meetings that get out of hand. The more trivial the subject, the better the show is for him to watch.

BURNOUT. Satan loves to dishearten or exhaust a busy church member or leader. He tries to make them feel like they are no longer needed, appreciated, or capable.

RUMORS. Satan loves dividing people and disrupting relationships. He looks for opportunities to plant juicy little stories – true or not – about other members and sometimes even entire congregations. Once a rumor is started, he sits back and watches it spread and grow larger in the process.

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By the Numbers:

Week of 2/24/19

Contribution – \$2550

Attendance:

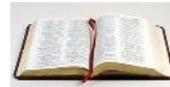
Sunday Bible Classes – 38

Sunday Worship* – 63

Wednesday Night – 16

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week's Answer: The spirit and the understanding (1 Cor. 14:15).

Q: How many words would Paul have rather spoken with understanding than 10,000 words in an unknown tongue?

Answer to be given next week!

Sermon Spotlight:

AM - “A” for Attitude — Our Attitude toward the Word of God

- 1) Do men handle swords carefully?
- 2) Do men handle Scripture carefully?

PM - Abide Among the Wise

- 1) What is the correlation between reproof and wisdom?
- 2) Do we choose to be around the people who in turn influence us to good or evil?

Schedule Of Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

Website

Beaconcofc.com (under construction)

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296
Tim Green 318-547-4026

Missions Supported

Ronnie Gootam - India
Marlon Retana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

BEACON CHURCH OF CHRIST
2326 JONESBORO ROAD
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WEST MONROE, LA 71294

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).
5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Mailing Address

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

NEWS AND NOTES
TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYER

Margie Tippen — Regina Simmons — Wanda Hendrix — Marcia Green — Jerry Tippen — Ruby Weaver — Wendy Traweek — Tim Green — Harold Myers — Joy Skipper — John & Ruth Coston — Stetson Ortega — Lindy Brown — Kaitlyn Wilson — Kathy Lawrence — Debbie Grice — John Motherspaugh — Virginia Wainwright — Jessica Hancock (recovering from surgery)

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Emily Green was baptized into Christ Monday, February 25th! Please be sure to pray for her and welcome her to the family as she begins her Christian walk!
- Chase will be starting a series today called: “A for Attitude.” He will announce the lesson titles in his sermon this morning. Please use these lessons to reflect upon your attitude towards the Lord and His church.
- Monthly Fellowship Meal — Every fourth Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.
- Youth & Young Adults — Be on the lookout for monthly get-togethers (If you would like to help with or host a get-together, please let Chase know)

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MARRIAGE AND FAMILY DESTRUCTION. Satan loves family problems, especially if it is a key leader’s family. He offers opportunities for an affair. He encourages prodigal children. He festers hurt feelings. He knows if he can destroy the home, he can destroy the congregation.

ERROR. Satan loves false doctrine (and even making the word ‘doctrine’ seem out-of-style). And a belief or teaching doesn’t have to be entirely false for it to be wrong – it can be partially, or even mostly, true. Truth that may only be imbalanced, or truth that has been watered down just a little bit, is still error. Whatever it takes to disguise a wolf and lead sheep away from their Shepherd.

IGNORNACE OF GOD’S WORD. Satan loves encouraging the pulpit to preach fluffy sermons, void of any real spiritual meat. He knows Scripture illuminates sin & error (cf. Psa. 119:105), and wants to keep things as dark as possible.

EGOS. Satan loves pride and arrogance. He whispers things like, “You’re too good to confess your sin,” or, “You’re too important to admit you were wrong.” While we need to be aware of Satan’s schemes, the real danger is that we won’t recognize his attacks. We accept these things as being “normal” for every church, and thus we lower our guard and drift away unknowingly. We need to see the spiritual war for our souls and for our congregations for what it is (cf. Eph. 6:12) and snap back to reality. Fight the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:12) against the Evil One. Be encouraged, because Jesus has “overcome the world” (John 16:33). Never forget the most encouraging news of all during this fight:

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

Be Wise As Serpents
Chase Green

Finish the verse. “... And harmless as doves” (Matt. 10:16). Perhaps this is a perplexing verse to many. The serpent, with his reputation of subtlety and deviousness (Gen. 3:1), may seem to be the least likely of candidates for our emulation. And yet Christ said, “Be ye therefore wise as serpents.” The key to understanding this verse is the end of the sentence: “and harmless as doves.” In other words, Christians are to embody the sharp wit of the serpent, but are not to use the sharp wit for evil, but for good, thus being harmless as doves.

This is a prime example of words having various connotations. The serpent typically has a bad connotation in Scripture (i.e. Gen. 3; 49:17; Exo. 4:3; Psa. 58:4; 2 Cor. 11:3; Rev. 12:9; etc.), but occasionally, such as here in Matthew 10:6, the Bible actually has something good to say about a serpent. Another passage that views a serpent in a positive light would be Numbers 21:8-9, when Moses made a fiery serpent of brass which offered physical (not spiritual) salvation to anyone who looked upon it.

In Matthew 10:6, Jesus is not condoning the serpent’s subtlety. He is not encouraging Christians to be devious. He is, however, pointing out that the serpent’s slyness could have been used for good if the serpent so chose. Christians would need to be of sharp wit. There would be times when Christians would be put in difficult situations because of their faith, and they needed to understand how to conduct themselves in such situations.

Again, this had nothing to do with being sneaky in the sense of using falsehoods or conniving their way out of trouble, but using *wisdom* to do so. Sometimes Christians need to use good ole’ fashioned common sense when dealing with enemies of the faith. Is so-and-so simply ignorant of God’s Word and needs further teaching? If so, then the Christian should spend further time with him. An example of such a scenario is found in Acts 18:26: “whom (that is, Apollos) when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.”

Is so-and-so simply refusing to heed God’s Word? Is he trying to cause division? The Bible teaches us how to deal with men such as these as well: “A man that is an heretick (divisive man, NKJV) after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself” (Titus 3:10-11). “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them” (Rom. 16:17).

It takes spiritual wisdom to be able to determine which kind of man we are dealing with. Thus, I must be wise as a serpent, but harmless as a dove. No matter my course of action (explaining the way of God more perfectly, OR rejecting a heretic), I must handle the situation delicately, such as to not hinder the cause of Christ. I must speak the Truth with LOVE (Eph. 4:15) so as to reflect the love of Christ. “The Lord knoweth them that are his” (2 Tim. 2:19). Sometimes those who WERE His need to be admonished as a brother (2 The. 3:15). Christians need to pray for wisdom to handle all such delicate situations with the right attitude, and the right intentions (winning them back to Christ). With love, Chase

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”
Php. 1:21

BE SURE TO TUNE INTO OUR RADIO STATION!
FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth
Available 24/7 on FM radio and at Beaconcofc.com