

### Prayer Requests & Announcements

- April continues to recover from her fall
- Tom's brother in Colorado is fighting an infection
- Dave and Kathrine are in Georgia and plan to return next weekend
- The Christians in the Philippines.

### Assignments

#### Today

**Bible Study** – Tom Mitchell  
**Song Leader** – Tom Mitchell  
**Lord's Table** – Ross Ward  
**Sermon** – Ross Ward

#### Wednesday

**Bible Study** – Ross Ward  
**Song Leader** – Chad Mitchell  
**Invitation** – Ross Ward

#### Next Sunday

**Bible Study** – Tom Mitchell  
**Song Leader** – Chad Mitchell  
**Lord's Table** – David Porter  
**Sermon** – Ross Ward

#### Next Wednesday

**Bible Study** – Ross Ward  
**Song Leader** – Tom Mitchell  
**Invitation** – Ross Ward

Blackfoot church of Christ  
370 North Shilling Ave.  
Blackfoot Idaho, 83221

#### Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM  
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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## Satan – Father of Lies

By Ross Ward

Jesus, when speaking to pharisees, made this profound statement about our adversary, Satan:

*Joh 8:44, Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

Jesus is making a reference to Satan deceiving Eve in the Garden of Eden, bringing death into the world. We see Satan at his worst, telling Eve she would not die. This was a partial truth but a big lie. Now, it is true that Eve did not immediately die physically, but she immediately began dying and eventually left this earth. Eve did immediately die spiritually. She forsook God's command against eating from the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. This was sin, and sin produces spiritual death. Paul, after discussing how sin came into the world in Rom 5, tells us that sin produces death:

*Rom 6:16, Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

This was true for Adam and Eve because they both sinned. They immediately died spiritually and needed to be reconciled to God to restore their relationship with God. Satan had lied to Eve. He made the desire for the tree to be great and he enticed her to question the command given to them by God. She was enticed to believe Satan's lie rather than the truth of God's command. There

was what seemed to Eve to be a subtle difference, but it was not subtle, nor benign. She was deceived. Satan is behaving in a way Paul warned us about

*2 Cor 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*

We too are subject to being deceived by Satan. Satan is hard at work telling lies about the truths God has revealed. Let us consider some of the lies that Satan propagates today:

### **Satan Lies' about Salvation**

Jesus' command of Baptism is one of the simplest doctrines of the Bible, yet we find so many professing that a prayer, "The Sinner's Prayer", brings salvation. Baptism is so misrepresented that many will not follow Jesus' instruction. The biggest objection I hear has to do with meritorious works, yet the Bible is full of examples where God commanded and expects action on man's part in order to receive His grace. A few Old Testament examples: Naaman's healing, Israel conquering land of Canaan, the pattern of sacrifices under the Law of Moses, among many others; it should be no surprise that God would require action on man's part to receive salvation. We are told this salvation is access through the act of Baptism. Peter comes right out and states, Baptism saves us, 1 Pet 3:21. Yet among religions we find many professing a prayer, "The Sinner's Prayer", is the point in which salvation is attained. Just where in scripture was this commanded? Where do we find examples of this prayer? Where do we find forgiveness tied to stating this prayer? Nowhere in the Bible do we find a command or even an example where salvation comes from such a prayer. Yet these are the lies propagated throughout the religious world.

### **Satan Lies about the Source of Truth**

Many today believe that God has direct influence upon their heart, that God speaks His truth directly to them, so they look to their heart for what is right. We see explicit instructions by Paul that indicate how truth was revealed.

*1Co 2:9-10, But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

The Apostles received the truths directly from God. They preached this truth and wrote them down for all to have access to. God did not put these truths in the heart of any man seeking Him. God did not act directly upon man's heart. He revealed his truth to the Apostles and they preached salvation to man.

*1 Cor 1:21b, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*

We see in this passage that preaching the gospel saved man. It conveyed the truth of God. The words that the Apostles preached were the power of God. This is the way truth was conveyed to man. Man was not saved from a direct action upon his heart. Man was not saved nor guided in this manner. Any idea that is conceived in a man's heart, is not of God. God did not work that way with Christians in the Bible and does not work that way with us today. Any truth we find originating in man's heart is from Satan, not from God. God has revealed His truth and it stands true today as it did then, and it cannot change. Any man that would change this truth would fall into the condemnation of Paul in his letter to Galatia:

*Gal 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*

There is only one gospel, it is recorded for us by the Apostles. It is the Holy and Inspired word of God. It will stand for eternity as man's guide to truth, righteousness, and eventually Heaven if we are successful in following. Man looking to his heart for truth is not following God. He is following himself, more specifically, Satan. Once again we see how Satan changes the truth of God into a lie.

### **Concluding Thoughts:**

Was Eve aware of the choice she made; that she chose to follow Satan's lie rather than God's instructions that led to life? Maybe not, but we are well aware of this fact today and should be forewarned that Satan is actively deceiving man today. We must challenge every doctrine against the Bible to verify it is indeed the truth of God. Subtle twist can take a simple command by God and turn it into a lie promoted by Satan. Quoting Elmer Moore, "All false doctrine is based on the fallacy of partial truth". This was the case with Eve. This can be the case for us today. We have been forewarned by God's word.