



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

The war that God provoked

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" Genesis 3:15.

What a wonderful gospel text this is.

It is the first gospel sermon and it was preached by the Lord Himself.

The mercy of the Lord is seen in how quickly the Lord utters this word of grace after the sin of Adam and Eve has been committed. Notice the words were directed against the devil. His rejoicing over his conquest of Adam and Eve was short lived. This word from the Lord ended such rejoicing the devil may have been deceived into engaging in. The pleasures of sin are but for a season says Paul when referring to Moses' decision to reject the throne of Egypt. "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season," Hebrews 11:25.

For Adam and Eve the words of God were welcome. There is promised to them victory over the one whose evil has plighted and destroyed their world. They would not have to live in subjection to him.

These words indicate that God is going to start a war between the devil and all believers and that for all of time.

Consider:—

I. SINNERS RECEIVE THE DEVIL AS A FRIEND

1. They have a common nature. "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do", John 8:44. Does this not indicate a very close relationship! The unbeliever and the devil have the same natures.

2. They both like darkness. "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil," John 3:19. Here is the Saviour's clear statement that unconverted men love darkness. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places," Ephesians 6:12. Here is the devil's domain. It is the dark places in this world.

3. The sinners believe the devil before God. "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness," 2 Thess 2:11-12.

Sinners "believe not the truth." This is why men are damned. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned," Mark 16:16. There is only two classes of individuals. The believer and the unbeliever. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him," John 3:36. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life," John 3:16.

Nothing can be plainer than these words. Sadly, men reject these plain statements and believe the devil's lie.

II. THAT FRIENDSHIP CONTINUES EVEN WHEN THE DEVIL IS DISCOVERED TO BE AN ENEMY

Eve had already discovered that, verse 13. "The serpent beguiled me." No enmity had sprung up, however, nor would it until God moved to do so. Men trust the devil again and again even when they know they are being deceived.

It is one of the most amazing things about the behaviour of men. Despite discovering the harm that sin



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brings upon them they continue on in sin! The poor wretch destroyed by alcohol continues to thirst after drink. The gambler, the drug-addict, the immoral - all who have suffered the consequences of sin in their mortal bodies still pursue it at all costs. The daily news reports confirm that men and women are prepared to sacrifice health, wealth, family and character in order to obtain that which their souls lust after.

III. IT IS SUCH AN ALLIANCE THAT ONLY GOD CAN BREAK

Men are blinded and deceived and only God has the power to deliver them. So says the gospel. "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me," Acts 26:18. Men need the eyes of their soul opened before they can understand the true nature of sin and the devil. "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, " 2 Corinthians 4:3-6.

IV. THE CLIMAX OF THE ENMITY WAS CALVARY

The Lord Jesus was the personification of that enmity. He came to destroy the devil and his works. "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil," I John 3:8.

V. THE ENMITY IS MAINTAINED IN THE BELIEVERS

1. Strivings to advance personal holiness is evidence of enmity. Paul's cry is echoed by all of God's saints. "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Romans 7:24.

2. Witnessing to sinners of Christ. "For necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" 1 Corinthians 9:16.

3. Praying. "Thy Kingdom come," Luke 11:2.

In this war all are involved. On which side are you?