

“Wrecked: In Need of Repair (Satan)”

For the week of April 10, 2016

Many of us have had the unpleasant experience of being in or witnessing an automobile accident. To see how significantly a car can be mangled when steel collides with steel at high speeds is frightening. And yet, the reality is that many of us have experienced similar kinds of wrecks in our personal lives. Since the fall of mankind, we live in fear of death, under the guilt and shame of sin, influenced by the evil around us and constantly disappointed by man-made religion that seeks a human solution to fix people. But we are so lacking in our attempts to fix the wreck that has been made of our lives. We need something or someone outside ourselves who is capable of wrecking those things that continue to wreck us.

1. What is he called? He is called Satan (Job 1:6-12), the devil (Matthew 4:1), the serpent (Genesis 3:1), Beelzebul (Matthew 10:25), the ruler of this world (John 12:31), the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2) or the evil one (Matthew 13:19). Looking at John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11, what does the Bible mean when it says that Satan is the ruler of this world? Does this mean that Satan has ultimate control of what goes on in the world?
2. Read Isaiah 14:12-15 which seems to describe how Satan was cast from the glory of God. Why was Satan cast out? Now read Jude 6 and 2 Peter 2:4. If God cast out the demons, including Satan, into chains of gloomy darkness in eternal chains, why is there still sin in this world? Why does Satan still have power here?
3. Satan's goals are clear: to oppose God. He uses lies (John 8:44), deception (Revelation 12:9), murder (Psalm 106:37) and any other means to stop God's will of men coming to Him for salvation. Yet his power is limited. Read Job 1:12, 2:1-6. If Satan's power is limited, are we to fear Satan (Matthew 28:18, Ephesians 1:21)? Are we to ignore Satan? Read Ephesians 6:10-18 and describe how this passage has equipped us to battle the evil one. Describe in your group how this equipping has helped you in your life.
4. What are Satan's weapons? What gives him the power to work as he does? What means does he employ?

Hint: According to Wayne Grudem in Systematic Theology: "...the emphasis is on the fact that they are removed from the glory of God's presence and their activity is restricted (metaphorically, they are in "eternal chains"), but the text does not imply either that the influence of demons has been removed from the world or that some demons are kept in a place of punishment apart from the world while others are able to influence it."

5. What is Satan's destiny (Genesis 3:15; John 16:11; Revelation 20:10-15)?

6. How does Satan seek to work in the life of a Christian (2 Corinthians 11:3, 1 Timothy 4:1-5)?

7. Finally, if you were discipling a new or newer believer, how would you counsel them on combatting Satan?

8. Below is a stark contrast between Satan and Jesus Christ. What Satan is, Jesus Christ is not. What Jesus is, Satan is not. Discuss in your group each contrast and describe in detail your understanding of each contrast given.

Satan

Everyone's Adversary

Exalted himself, resulting in man's ruin

Accuses us before God

Followers share in his ruin

Men become like him

A liar and a deceiver

Promises freedom, but makes men slaves

Turns men from the Father

Produces death

Resists the will of God

Cruel and sadistic

Jesus Christ

The sinner's Advocate

Humbled himself, resulting in redemption

Intercedes for us with God

Followers share in His reign

Men become like Christ

He is the truth

Takes slaves and gives them freedom

He is the only way to the Father

Delivers from death

Submits Himself to the will of God

Gracious and compassionate

Pray

Satan is living and active, but we can pray in Christ's name to send him away. When we struggle with sin, we can pray against Satan's lies that our sin will be better than following God. We can also pray for God to loosen Satan's grip on our loved ones. The spiritual and eternal reality is that our main enemy is Satan, so we must pray in faith that God would work in mighty ways for His glory, to get rid of the works of the deceiver.

"For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen"

Romans 11:36