

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

By Scott Parker

THE DEVIL IS BETTER THAN SOME “CHRISTIANS”

The devil is not some red-suited bumbler. The devil is not to be equated with some sort of cartoon character. Quite the contrary, the devil is a foe we need not, or rather must not, minimize! Read the following partial description of the devil.

“I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father” (1 Jn. 2:13).

“Ye are of your father the devil... 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” (Jn. 8:44).

“... Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night” (Rev. 12:10).

“... your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8).

“The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels” (Mt. 13:39).

Some laundry list, huh?! The really sad thing, though, is when you get to thinking about it in some ways the devil is much better than those who call themselves “Christians” (I am referring to those who claim to be part of the Lord’s church, not denominationalists). Think this through with me.

Unlike Some “Christians” The Devil Takes a Firm Position on Things

The devil is not wishy-washy. He is a sworn enemy. He does not try to ride the fence. He is dedicated to vehemently opposing all that is righteous and good through his various whiles (cf. Eph. 6:11). As one reads through scripture it is clearly evident that the devil is 100% consistent. Although he is on the wrong side – he never wavers in his mission. You know where he stands. This makes him so unlike so many go-along-to-get-along “brethren” amongst so-called churches of Christ, who think Jesus and Paul must have been joking (cf. Mt. 12:30; Eph. 5:11).

Unlike Some “Christians” The Devil is a Diligent Worker

The devil has been working since the beginning to destroy the souls of mankind (cf. Gen. 3:1-6; Rev. 12:9; Mt. 13:25, 28). He is not an excuse maker. Sure, he is diligent in evil works, but he is a diligent worker nonetheless. This makes him so unlike so many lazy “brethren” who seem to think that James and Paul were kidding around (cf. Eph. 2:10; Js. 2:20).

Unlike Some “Christians” The Devil is Well Acquainted with Scripture

In the wilderness the devil approached Jesus and, of all things, quoted scripture (Ps. 91:11-12 – see Mt. 4:6). Now, please understand that the devil was trying to manipulate the scriptures to serve his own fiendish devices (Mt. 4:7). Yet, the fact remains that the devil quoted scripture. This makes him so unlike so many “brethren” who can quote movie lines, sit-com lines and sports statistics, but likely do not even know how many Psalms there are in the Bible and who think Peter must have been horsing around when he penned 1 Pet. 3:15.

Unlike Some “Christians” The Devil Obeys Divine Commands

Mt. 4:10-11 reads this way: *“Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him”* (emphasis added). Jesus told him to leave, and the devil left. He obeyed a divine command. This makes him so unlike so many “brethren” who think that they can do and say just about anything they choose, spurning divine commands time after time.

Indeed, in some ways the devil is better than some Christians. Are you any better than the devil in the areas noted?