

The Rock Church

... Loving God

... Loving People

Sunday February 28, 2010

DEALING WITH THE DEVIL

Thank God for our Great Shepherd, **JESUS!**

In Psalm 23:4, we read, *“though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff they comfort me.”*

This Psalm is often read at funeral services but it is God’s Promise to the **LIVING!** He is always with us and He has given us His Word (rod) and His Spirit (staff to guide us). The more I intimately **KNOW** Jesus and have a greater revelation of His Truth by the Holy Spirit, the greater threat and danger I am to the kingdom of darkness. The devil will only flee from me when he knows that I **KNOW** that I am a threat to him. Jesus has already defeated the devil and given us all authority over him and his kingdom (Matt. 28:18; Matt. 10:1). Now **WE** must deal with him and his evil works. This is where being a Christian is challenging to some but exciting to others. We cannot be *“more than conquerors* (Rom. 8:37) if we are not prepared to fight and conquer!

The Apostle Paul knew how to deal with the devil, (as did other apostles and believers) and he teaches us so well through his letters to the church. The familiar portion of Scripture for spiritual warfare is Eph. 6: 10-18. Being clothed with this armor is our responsibility. Each piece represents our relationship with Jesus. As we said earlier, His Word and His Spirit are so important to our being victorious over every enemy. If we compromise God’s Word by agreeing with the devil’s lies, the enemy will steal, kill and destroy. His plan is clear and simple to recognize – DECEIVE, DIVIDE, DESTROY. He does it in marriages, families, churches, businesses and in nations, In Eph. 4:27 we read, *“nor give place to the devil”*, which means we are not to give him any area or “territory” in our lives or in our relationships. It is interesting to note that this verse is found in the chapter where Paul is teaching the Church to work together in unity, be fitted together as one and to **GROW UP IN LOVE!**

Agreeing with the devil always causes hard-heartedness and a lack of sensitivity to hear our Shepherd’s voice. This is why many are hurt, abused, bitter and even destroyed. The most effective way to overcome the enemy’s lies and schemes is to be totally clothed in Jesus and in the power of His Spirit so that when we declare the Word of God against him, he KNOWS we are a threat and DANGEROUS. As many have already stated, we are to be the devil’s worst nightmare. Fear must flee from us!! Hearing and obeying God’s Voice daily will always bring His fresh, creative life, keep that life flowing in us and cause that life to be released through us.

I encourage you today to hear what Holy Spirit is saying to you, obey Him and enjoy life more abundantly!

~ Pastor Joe Moniz

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