



The Caller

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Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to look at a few thoughts regarding our opponent, the devil or Satan. Both of these names by which the enemy of God is known are significant.

The word devil indicates that he is a slanderer. Satan indicates that he is an adversary. We know he is an adversary against God and mankind. In the temptation of mankind, Satan always works by slandering the goodness and holiness of God by attacking what the Bible tells mankind about their relationship to God and His will.

When Satan came to earth after his rebellion in heaven, he sought to rule the earth that God had created for the dwelling of mankind. In seeking to oppose the will of God for mankind, Satan came as a deceiver intent on slandering God (His love and character) in order that he might turn Adam and Eve away from the will of God.

By use of the serpent, Satan, with subtle deceit asked a question, "Hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?". Satan used this question to discover how much Eve really knew about what God had said. In order to deceive Eve, Satan started with the knowledge that Eve had. So it stands to reason that if mankind is ignorant of God's Word, Satan can easily deceive.

As we pointed out this week in ladies class, it is so important we know Scripture and decide to follow God's will as we read it. If we know the Word of God and thus the holiness of God as well as our need to be holy like God who is holy, it is much more difficult for Satan to use his schemes against us. Study, learn and do what the Bible teaches. Know your opponent is powerful, but also remember we have One who has already defeated Satan and has left us a pattern to follow.

jfb

Solemn Words

This column has in times past, and Lord willing will be in the future, written by the man who fills the role of associate minister. In weeks past we have placed articles by guest writers and also announcements about upcoming events in this column. From time to time until we find a new associate minister, I would like to provide some thoughts for deep or solemn reflection. Solemn reflection is not easy or always pleasant. Solemn suggests an impressive or awe-inspiring seriousness. I hope each one of us approaches God's Revelation to us in this way.

In the inaugural article of this column, I simply want us to briefly consider the solemn thought found in the latter part of Psalm 50:21. In this psalm, the LORD is speaking. He says, "You thought I was altogether like you." God is long-suffering but His longsuffering nature is often interpreted as indifference to our sin...or worse acceptance. Because man did not view God properly and did not take sin seriously, the result was a sense of bringing God down to man's level. We often do not realize we too are bringing God down to man's level when instead of seeing Scripture as truth, we see our own human concepts as truths of God. When we start with man's ideas and then mold God's Word to fit those ideas, we also have lessened God by thinking He is altogether like us.

God is not altogether like mankind. We often fail to see the greatness of the majesty of God. Those who are wordsmiths realize what I have done in the last sentence. Majesty is from a Latin root which means "greatness." By repeating the concept of the greatness of our God in a couple of ways in the phrase "the greatness of the majesty of God, I am trying to highlight the greatness of His being. When we truly highlight and solemnly reflect on (the greatness of) the greatness of God, we become more in awe of who God is! Please never become guilty of making your thoughts of God too human.

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS FOR US
MICAH 7:14-17**

**P.M. — WONDERFUL COUNSELOR
ISAIAH 9:6**

KNOW YOUR OPPONENT

How important do you think it is to know your opponent? I think we all realize that it can be extremely helpful in many different facets of life to know our opponent. Before the girls became interested in sports, (Kayleigh has quietly been at different times in her short life concerned with running/walking and exercise for health...and she also is fond of watching her teams in football and basketball) I often would relay the importance of knowing your opponent when it involved education. I would encourage them to become familiar with their teachers and what they stressed in class because “knowing your opponent” who is administering a test can be quite helpful to your success on the test.

Those involved in a team or individual sport also know the importance of “knowing your opponent!” When Naomi Osaka defeated Serena Williams in the 2018 US Open much of the credit went to her coach who used to be a hitting partner and coach to Serena—he knew Naomi’s opponent. Spy-Gate is another example of how much emphasis the sports world will place on knowing an opponent. Why would a team risk their reputation in this way to win one game? The Patriots realized the importance of knowing their opponent so that knowledge would help them be victorious over the Jets.

How sad it is that in the secular world many people realize the need to know one’s opponent but in a more important realm, the spiritual, few take time to become knowledgeable of their opponent. No individual can be victorious against our opponent, Satan unless we take time to understand his philosophy, his methods of temptation (or method of operation). Since we most likely have not spent much personal study time learning about Satan, we can sometimes take lightly the truth about Satan’s existence. Our minds are ill-prepared when we meet his temptations. Because we do not know Satan’s being, plans, methods, programs, and devices we fall in defeat when he opposes us.

This article does not have the space to examine all of these elements regarding our opponent Satan. Because of this, I encourage you to spend the next few months in an examination of Satan and all his devices. Though we may never completely know everything God reveals to us about Satan, the more we prepare ourselves to face him, the greater we can anticipate success in this endeavor!

Until that time we must be thankful to know that we serve a Savior who has already defeated Satan and paved the way for our victory. We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 1 Corinthians 15 indicates that through His resurrection from the dead that Jesus overcame Satan’s last hold he had over mankind, death! Thanks be to God! Prepare yourself for the battle with your most important opponent.

*John F. Board
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