

2. The Top 10 Lies of the Devil—Pt.2

(7/23/23)

We have put our study in Philippians on hold for a few weeks to present a series I'm calling, "*The Top 10 Lies of the Devil.*"

Jesus said of Satan that, "*He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.*" (John 8:44)

Paul admonished us to not be ignorant of Satan's '*devices*'—which includes not falling for his lies.

The only way we can be strong against the devil's *lies* is to know God's *truth* (His Word)—as Jesus said earlier in John 8, that if we would take the time to really know the truth it would set us free from the devil's lies.

Last week we started looking at some of Satan's favorite lies he constantly tries to get people to fall for—starting with number 10 and counting down to number 1:

10. Happiness will be yours when you own, achieve, or experience... (fill in the blank)

9. God can't exist because there is so much evil and suffering in the world.

8. There is no absolute truth—whatever a person believes is *their* truth.

7. You're so bad God can't love you

The world is full of wicked people—people who live such horrendously evil lives that others believe they are beyond the love and forgiveness of God.

Maybe, they are career criminals, drug dealers, pimps or prostitutes, child-traffickers, or even mass murderers.

And right now, as we speak, the Holy Spirit is drawing them to Jesus for forgiveness and salvation—but the devil is telling them that they are so bad that God wants nothing to do with them.

Satan has fed them the lie that they are a lost cause, a hopeless sinner—that not even God can stand to look at.

Now, you don't have to be one of the *worst* sinners in the world to feel your life is so bad that God can't love you and wants nothing to do with you.

And if that's how you're feeling, you need only look at the bulk of Jesus' followers—tax-collectors, prostitutes, and other assorted sinners and reprobates.

They were the social outcasts of their day, those that had been tossed onto the garbage heap of humanity and written off as worthless, irredeemable sinners.

These were the people the religious leaders of Israel (the scribes, Pharisees, chief priests) wanted nothing to do with, who had written these people off as those that God only created to fuel the fires of Hell!

The religious leaders of Israel hated these people and never had a kind word to say to any of them.

They never gave these people any hope that God could love them and would forgive them for their sins—because *they* didn't believe God could love and save them.

But then came Jesus! Who said things like:

Matthew 11:28–30 (NKJV)

²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

John 3:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

And Jesus didn’t just talk about loving and forgiving the most wretched sinners of His day—He reached out to them:

Mary Magdalene—

Luke 8:1–2 (NLT)

¹ Soon afterward Jesus began a tour of the nearby towns and villages, preaching and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He took his twelve disciples with him, ² along with some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases. Among them were Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons... (talk about Mary’s involvement in the occult).

Mary was the first-person Jesus appeared to after He rose from the dead (John 20:11-18).

Zacchaeus the Tax-collector—

Luke 19:1–10 (NLT)

¹ Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. ² There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. ³ He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.” ⁶ Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. ⁷ But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled. ⁸ Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!” ⁹ Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for

this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”

Matthew 21:31 (NASB95)

³¹ ...Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you...”

Paul would later say in Romans 5:20—“*Where sin abounds, grace abounded much more!*”
(Comment)

“Yea, but what about mass murderers? Certainly, they’re so bad God couldn’t forgive and save them?!”

→ Mention David Berkowitz (‘Son of Sam’)

7. You’re so bad God can’t love you (and wants nothing to do with you!)

6. Hell isn’t real

I’ve heard people say over the years that—“*Hell isn’t real it’s right here on earth—this is Hell!*”

The main reason that people have such a hard time dealing with the reality of Hell is because they can’t reconcile it with the concept of a loving God—even though Jesus said:

Matthew 25:41 (NKJV)

⁴¹ “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels... (Comment)

What is Hell?

Hell is a place of perpetual burning referred to as the ‘*Lake of Fire*’ in the New Testament located somewhere in the ‘*outer darkness*’. (Elaborate)

It is a place of separation from God where all unbelievers who refused to repent of their sins and receive Jesus Christ as their Savior during their life on earth will be cast into for eternity.

And as Jesus told us they will have no one to blame but themselves:

John 3:18–20 (NLT)

¹⁸ “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. ²⁰ All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed.

All sin is a crime against God and those crimes must be paid for—which means if a person won’t receive payment through Jesus Christ, then they will have to pay for their own sins/crimes for all eternity in Hell.

The idea of a literal place called Hell where there will be eternal torment is not very popular with people—they ask, “*How can a God of love allow people He created in His own image to suffer for all eternity in a place called Hell?*”

And so, because people can’t get their minds around this (it’s just too horrible to think about)—most people fall into one of three categories with regard to Hell:

- a) They ignore it by living in denial concerning the reality of Hell (76% of people believe in Heaven but only 6% believe in Hell).
- b) They try to get around it by embracing doctrines like: *Annihilationism* or *Universalism*. (Both of these are rooted in wishful thinking rather than in biblical truth)
- c) They make light of it (joke about it)—“*I’d rather be partying in Hell with all my friends than bored playing a harp in Heaven with all those hypocrites.*”

And again, the main reason that people have such a hard time dealing with the reality of Hell is because they can’t reconcile it with the concept of a loving God.

They reason that, *“If God does exist and if He is a God of love then Hell cannot exist because a loving God would never create a place like Hell much less send people there forever.”*

But more to the point—most people who reject the reality of Hell do so because—they want to go on living in rebellion against God’s righteous laws and commandments.

Their logic goes like this—*“If Hell doesn’t exist, then I have nothing to worry about and I can go on living the way I want without the fear of consequences.”*

Paul the apostle talked about those who, *‘suppress the truth of God because they want to live unrighteously.’* (Romans 1:18)

People can *joke* about Hell; they can *ignore* it or *dismiss* it or try to get *around* it by saying it isn’t really *hot* or that it isn’t *forever*—but none of that matters!

The only thing that matters is what God has to say about Hell!

Jesus talked about Hell more than anyone else—in fact, He talked about it more than He talked about Heaven or even love—and I believe He did that because He didn’t want anyone to go there!

As I just pointed out in a survey I read—most Americans believe in the reality of Heaven, but only a small percentage believe that Hell is a real place.

When a skeptic asks you if you believe in the reality of Hell—you tell them *“Yes”*, and when they ask you *“Why”*, tell them that you believe in Hell because—Jesus believed in Hell!

In fact, you can point them to Matthew 25:46 where Jesus talked about Heaven and Hell in the same sentence and said they were both—eternal!

I've been to many funerals in my life where someone who was an unbeliever died of cancer and their friends and family say, "*Well, George is in a better place—he's not suffering anymore!*"

But that is not what the Bible teaches—it is mere 'wishful' thinking rather than biblical truth.

The Bible tells us what happens to those who refuse to repent for their sins and receive Jesus as their Savior—

Revelation 14:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ “[They] ...shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night...”

So again, the Bible tells us that not only is Hell real—it is eternal!

No one taught the sobering truth of the eternity of Hell more clearly than did the Lord Jesus Christ.

He spoke of Hell as the place of “*eternal fire*” (Matt. 18:8; 25:41); where “*the fire is never quenched*” (Mark 9:48).

And again, in Matthew 25:46, Jesus clearly taught that the torment of the lost in Hell will last as long as the blessedness of the redeemed in Heaven—ETERNALLY!

“Yes, but I still can't get my mind around how a God of love could send people to a place like Hell.”

Look, God doesn't send anyone to hell—people *choose* to go there:

Romans 2:5, 8 (NLT2)

⁵ But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed... ⁸ ...he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness.

I came across this some time ago:

“Oh, you preachers make me sick!” a fellow said to a witnessing Christian on the train one day. The Christian assured him he was not a preacher. “I don't care what you are. You Christians are always talking about a man going to hell because Adam sinned.” “No,” the Christian said, “you need not go to hell because Adam sinned. You will go to hell because you refuse the remedy provided for Adam's sin. Don't keep complaining about something that has absolutely been taken care of. If you go to hell, you will go over the broken body of Jesus Christ, who died to keep you out!”

Nobody goes to hell by *chance*—they go to hell by choice!

“That's ridiculous—nobody would choose to go to Hell!”

Maybe not intentionally, but as Jesus said, *“If you're not for Me you are against Me.”* (Explain)

Remember, the Bible teaches that sin is a violation of God's laws which makes all sinners criminals in the eyes of God.

Those crimes must be paid for which is why Jesus died on the cross for us (to pay our debt)—but those who refuse to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, whose blood alone can pay their debt—they will spend eternity in Hell paying for their crimes against God.

However, that doesn't have to be because God sent His Son to die in our place (the innocent dying for the guilty) which allowed God to offer fallen sinners—a pardon!

But if a pardon is going to benefit a condemned criminal—it has to be accepted (received)!

Back in 1830 a man named George Wilson was convicted of robbing the United States mail and was sentenced to be hanged. President Andrew Jackson issued a pardon for Wilson—but he refused to accept it. Not knowing what to do, the matter went to the Supreme Court where Chief Justice Marshall concluded that Wilson would have to be executed. He said, “*A pardon is a slip of paper the value of which is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned. If it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must be hanged.*”

John the apostle said of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross—

1 John 2:2 (NLT)

² He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

When Jesus hung on that cross and said, “*It is finished,*” He was saying that the work of redemption had been completed—sin had been paid for!

And at that very moment God issued a pardon (a pardon that was retroactive—Rev.13:8) to every condemned sinner that would ever be born into this fallen world.

This pardon was a gift from God (definition of ‘grace’)—a gift that is received by faith—not a reward that must be earned thru works—

Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

²³ For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NLT)

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

So, man (mankind) has been declared guilty and condemned by God the Righteous Judge of all the earth.

The case is over, the verdict has been rendered and yet in His mercy God, through His Son Jesus Christ, is offering the human race a pardon—a pardon that was bought and paid for with the blood of Jesus Christ shed on Calvary’s Cross!

Receive God’s pardon in your life today remembering that—a pardon that will only benefit you if you *receive* it by receiving Jesus as your Savior!

Don’t put off making a decision to receive Jesus as your Savior to another day—that day may never come—“*Our life is like a vapor—here today and gone tomorrow...*”, “*Today is the day of salvation, if you hear His voice do not harden your hearts...*”

And yet this is where Satan’s next favorite lie comes into play—

5. It’s too late for you

The devil has told many people that they’re too old to become a born-again Christian—that they’re too old to change and start living a new life for God.

That is a bold-faced lie, and the devil knows it!!

The only time it’s too late for you to accept Jesus as you Savior and become a born-again Christian is when your dead—until then you still have time!

You’ve heard of ‘*deathbed conversions?*’

I’ve heard people over the years say that—“*It’s impossible for a person to get saved on their deathbed! At that point it’s just a hypocritical attempt to escape the consequences of their life of sin and debauchery! It’s nothing more than a ‘show’—they’re not really sorry for the life they lived.*”

With some people that is probably true—and God knows the heart (He knows if their profession of faith is truly *heartfelt* or empty *hypocrisy*).

But I know that's not the case for every sinner about to die—how can I be sure of that?

Because, God has included a '*deathbed*' conversion story in the Bible to give everyone else hope that it's never too late to receive Jesus as your Savior—as long as you're still breathing!

Luke 23:39–43 (NKJV)

³⁹ Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.” ⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” ⁴³ And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

(Talk about Bob Gert's father's conversion and death)