

Satan

Points to Remember:

The Bible spends very little time teaching about who Satan is.

Jesus spent very little time teaching who Satan is.

The major emphasis of the Bible and of Jesus' teachings is:

Gods work to save men.

Salvation through the Life, Death, Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Teaching Christians how they should live.

This will also be the emphasis our study, I will not teach that which is not clear.

It's very important for us to remember that the purpose of the Bible was not to teach us about Satan. That's the reason there are many questions we can ask about Satan that the Bible simply does not bother to answer. That creates a serious danger for us. You will find individuals who study and work and come up with some explanation about Satan. And while it might look good, and while it might sound good, the fact is that it cannot be accepted as truth. There is no place where God or Jesus sit down and say, let me teach you about Satan. When Satan is mentioned, it's always as a minor part about another subject that's being discussed. The fact that there is no serious explanation about Satan tells us that he is not what we need to be worrying about. If it was really important for us to know more about Satan, God would have told us. So the fact that he does not, indicates that it's not something we should worry about.

However, understanding our sin and God's offer of salvation is critically important. And so we find it discussed extensively in multiple places in the Bible. Understanding the importance of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is critically important. And so we find it the focus of New Testament teaching. It's very important for us to understand how we should live in relationship with each other as followers of God. And so this is extensively taught and studied in the Old Testament and New Testament.

God has given and preserved the Bible for us so that we will know everything we need to know to follow Him in a living relationship. So if something is not focused on in biblical teaching, that tells us it's not something we need to worry about.

Satan is one of those subjects that I do not need to worry about because the Bible did not focus on it. My focus needs to be on what God focused on in the Bible.

God's focus in the Bible was revealing to me that I am a Sinner. The Bible shows all the work of God that he does to provide salvation for us. The Bible shows us that Jesus Christ came, lived, died and resurrected for my salvation. And the Bible shows me how I should live in relationship with everyone else as a follower of God.

If that is God's focus, it should be my focus.

1. The Bible teaches that we are at war.
Eph. 6:12

The Bible makes it clear that in our culture and societies, there is a battle for men's souls.

2. The Enemy – Satan

The following three verses are verses that people have put together to try to explain the origin of Satan. I present it to you not because I believe it is a valid statement of the origin of Satan. I present it to you in case you hear it sometime in the future or have heard it in the past. People use these three verses to try to support some explanation they have created for themselves. When you read the three verses, you will find that none of them attempt to explain the origin of Satan. Each one of the verses is very clear when it is read in the context of the book where it is written. But stringing together three unrelated verses and taking them out of their context makes a very weak case for the origin of Satan. I include this for you here only so you will not be taken by surprise when you encounter it sometime in the future. We need to remember that if God thought we needed to know the origin of Satan, He would have made that very clear.

- A. Origin

Jude vs. 6

Luke 10:17-18

II Peter 2:4

- B. The Work of Satan

To tempt men to sin against God.

I Peter 5:8

The Bible does make it clear that Satan seeks to tempt us to sin against God. He encourages us with sinful ideas. He tempts us to do what we know is not right. We need to remember that the power of temptation is not a power at all. Satan can tempt us to do something. But he has absolutely no power to make us do anything. When we are angry or hurt, he can suggest to us that we respond in ways that will hurt other people or hurt ourselves. But he has no power over us whatsoever. He cannot make you do anything. When God created you in His image, He gave you power over your life. You have the power to decide if you will do right or you will do wrong. That power comes from God. God has given you that power. And in God's power you can say yes to sin or no to sin. God has given you the power.

So when I find myself in a difficult situation, what should I focus on? If I focus on hurting someone, that has hurt me. Then I am accepting Satan's temptation for me. If I spend my time thinking about something that I know I should not do. Then I am

accepting Satan's temptation for me to sin. What we need to think about in difficult situations is what would God have me to do in this situation? How does God want me to treat this person who has hurt me? What does God want me to do? Even if there is an opportunity for me to do something I know is wrong? Temptation is only temptation. Temptation is not power. Temptation only has power if I give it power.

Thinking about the things that I am tempted to do. Thinking about whether I think I could get away with it. Thinking about how I could make it happen. By thinking about temptation, I am giving it power in my life. So what should we do when we find ourselves tempted to do something we know we should not do? The first thing we should remember is that God has given us the power to decide not to sin. Instead of thinking about temptation, we should think about God and His Word. Studying how Jesus was tempted is important because it teaches what we need to know about temptation.

The temptations of Jesus teach us how Satan tempts man.

Read Matt. 4:1-11.

1. Comes when not expected.
2. Suggests sin where we have weakness.
3. Will use scripture but twist its meaning.
4. Temptation is as continual, as Satan is persistent.

There are several things we can learn by studying Matthew chapter four, when Jesus was tempted by Satan.

The first is that temptation often comes when we are not expecting it. Sometimes an opportunity to sin catches us by surprise. The temptation presents itself to us when we are not expecting it. This can happen by a situation that takes us by surprise. It can happen by someone doing something unexpected. It can happen when a situation prevents itself to us and then Satan says you could do this and get away with it. No one would ever know! Do not be surprised that Satan's temptation may be a surprise. Something that happens when you do not expect it.

So what should we do? Live your life expecting temptation. Don't be surprised when the opportunity to sin suddenly presents itself to you. Don't be surprised by the surprise.

The second thing we can learn about how Satan tempted Jesus is that temptations will always present themselves where we are weakest. Jesus was hungry, so he was offered bread. Having given up position in heaven, he is offered power. Temptations will always be related to where we have a weakness.

When you are tempted, stop and think about that temptation. In what area of your life are you being tempted? Am I being tempted to steal? Am I being tempted to lie? Am I being tempted by some sexual sin? By thinking about how I find myself repeatedly tempted. I can learn where I have a weakness to temptation. Now that I

know where I have a weakness. I know what I need to ask God to help me with. God help me not to take that thing that is not mine. God help me to speak the truth, even though people may not like it. God help me to say no to this sexual temptation.

The temptations we experience will help teach us about the weaknesses that we have. And as we learn about those areas of weakness, it tells us how to ask God to help us. Protect me from these situations, God. Give me strength to say no in these times of temptation. Help me not to be taken by surprise.

A third thing we can learn about the temptations of Jesus is that Satan or people may use scripture, but they twist it to have a different meaning than God's meaning. People have used verses from the Bible to justify racism. They do this by twisting the true meaning of the verses from the Bible. People have used verses from the Bible to justify murder and killing of multiple peoples. But they only accomplished this by twisting and distorting God's meaning of the verses from the Bible. When someone quotes a verse out of the Bible and then says that means it's okay to do something that does not seem right. You should stop and study those verses and see what they really say for yourself. Do not be surprised when you see people distort the truth of the Bible to justify their own sins. Do not be surprised if someone distorts verses in the Bible to attempt to get you to do something that is sinful. This is the reason it is important for you to know the Bible. You need to study God's word. So that you will know what God says. That way you cannot be deceived.

The final thing for us to notice about Jesus's temptations is that they never really ended. This event in Matthew chapter four ended. But that was not the last time Jesus was tempted. So we should not be surprised that temptation does not end in our lives. As long as I am alive and capable of sin, I will be tempted. Temptation in my life will only end when I am no longer alive. Temptation only ends when we are at home with Jesus in heaven.

3. Our hope against temptation is Jesus Christ
 - A. Receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

My hope in resisting temptation is not a hope in myself. My only hope against temptation is Jesus in me. My power to resist temptation is given to me by God. It is Jesus living in me, guiding me and teaching me how I should live. To resist temptation, hold on to God. To resist temptation, turn your eyes on Jesus. If with all my heart and all my mind I am thinking about how dearly God loves me and that He sent Jesus to save me from my sins, then I am too busy to sin. The most important thing we need to do is ask Jesus to come into our hearts and our lives. We need to confess our sins to God and ask Jesus to help us to live in relationship with him.

- B. Pray

I Thess. 5:16-18, Matt. 4:2, Eph. 6:18

If we find ourselves being tempted to sin, the best thing we can do is to pray. Your prayer does not need to be elaborate or lengthy. He can simply be oh God, Get Me Out of this mess. Help me to get away from this situation. When you find yourself being tempted, turn to God and ask for His help. Remember that if you have asked Jesus into your life, you do not live alone. He is with you and He wants to help you. God can give you the power to say no. He can give you the power to run away. He can give you the power to say I will not do this thing I know is wrong. Remember, you are not alone. If you find yourself being tempted, Call out to God.

C. Expect Temptation

I Peter 5:8, II Cor. 10:3-6, I John 4:1-3

Don't be surprised that you find yourself being tempted to do what you know is wrong. Remember that temptation is not sin. Sin is only when I choose to do what I know is wrong. So don't be surprised when you find yourself being tempted. And don't condemn yourself for being tempted. Temptation is not sin. It is only temptation. Do not be surprised if you find yourself being tempted. Satan and evil people in this world want you to sin. They will do everything they can to tempt you. But they cannot make you sin. If you find yourself being tempted, Call out to God. He will help you. Don't be surprised if you find yourself being surprised by temptation.

D. Read, study, and Use the Bible.

Psalms 119.9-12, Matt.4:1-11, Eph. 6:16-18

The most important thing we can do in our life is to read and study the Bible. If we know God's word in our heart, then we will know to call out to God in any time of temptation. If we have studied and know the truth of what the Bible teaches, then we will not be taken by surprise if people twist it and distort the truth of scripture. If we read and study the Bible, we will know that God will always be with us. If we read and study the Bible, he will strengthen us by the truth of His Word.

E. Follow the example of Jesus's life.

Heb. 12:1-3, I Pet. 2:21-22, Eph. 6:13, II Cor. 2:14

By reading and studying the Bible, we see the life of Jesus. We will know the truth of God that Jesus teaches us. By reading and studying the Bible, we see how Jesus loved people. By reading and studying the Bible, we see how Jesus spoke truth when people told lies. By reading and studying the Bible, we can use the life of Jesus as an example of how we should live with God and other people. Jesus is the living example that we have in the Bible of God's love.

Summary: Satan

The major emphasis of the Bible and of Jesus' teachings is:

1. Gods work to save men
2. Salvation through the Life, Death, Resurrection of Jesus Christ
3. Teaching Christians how they should live

Read II Cor. 2:14

It's very important for us to remember that the purpose of the Bible was not to teach us about Satan. That's the reason there are many questions we can ask about Satan that the Bible simply does not bother to answer. That creates a serious danger for us. You will find individuals who study and work and come up with some explanation about Satan. And while it might look good, and while it might sound good, the fact is that it cannot be accepted as truth. There is no place where God or Jesus sit down and say, let me teach you about Satan. When Satan is mentioned, it's always as a minor part about another subject that's being discussed. The fact that there is no serious explanation about Satan tells us that he is not what we need to be worrying about. If it was really important for us to know more about Satan, God would have told us. So the fact that he does not, indicates that it's not something we should worry about.