



**PEEPLS VALLEY
BAPTIST CHURCH**
Together we are becoming!
One Spirit



DOES THE DEVIL KNOW WHO YOU ARE?

OCTOBER 27, 2019 / 28 TISHRI 5780 SUNDAY MORNING

ACTS 19:13-20 KJV

13 Then certain of the **vagabond** Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. **14** And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. **15** And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but **who are ye?** **16** And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. **17** And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. **18** And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. **19** Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. **20** So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed. **KJV**

INTRODUCTION Last time preached was 14 years ago.

Today, I'm not necessarily interested in who you know, but rather in who knows you.

In **Acts 19** we find a story in which an interesting acknowledgement is made. We read about certain vagabond Jews which who had taken upon themselves the role of being exorcists or casting demons out of people.

The word "**vagabond**" means "wanderer" and speaks of those who wandered from place to place earning a living anyway they could.

In **verse 11** we read, "And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul." One of the special miracles Paul was doing was casting out devils. The chapter tells us about some of these **vagabonds**.

We read about the seven sons of a certain Jew named Sceva (**see vuh**). After watching Paul cast out demons, they decided to go into the exorcist business. It was something, as **verse 13** states, "they took upon them." In other words, they were not God-endorsed or God-equipped to perform such a work. They were neither God-anointed nor God-authorized as was Paul and the other Apostles, whom they were trying to imitate.

In **verse 15** we read about an interesting exchange between these seven sons and an evil spirit they were trying to cast out. The evil spirit said to them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?"

The demon said, "I know Jesus." The word "**know**" that the demon used in reference to Jesus means "to know by interaction and experience." The demon was saying that he **had**

encountered Jesus and knew all about Him. The word "**know**" used in reference to Paul means "to know about."

Apparently this particular demon had had no personal experience with Paul, but he had heard about him. But when it came to these seven sons of Sceva, (**see vuh**), he had no idea who they were. He had not had any personal dealings with them or heard about them.

We read in **verse 16** that "the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded." In everyday language, the demon jumped on them and beat the daylights out of them.

Now, the question I want to ask, using this story as my basis is, **does the devil know who you are? Is the devil acquainted with you or are you a complete stranger to him?** If you were looking eyeball to eyeball with the devil right now, would he say, "Jesus I know and Paul I know, but who are you?"

There are some Christians the devil has never heard of and there are some of which he is very familiar. Mention some Christians name to the devil and he has no idea who you are talking about.

He's never had any reason to become acquainted with them. But on the other hand, there are some who cause him concern all the time. **Which category do you fall in? Does the devil know who you are?**

Does the Devil Know Who You Are?

1. A _____ TESTIMONY FOR A CHRISTIAN
2. A _____ TESTIMONY FOR A CHRISTIAN
3. A _____ TESTIMONY FOR A CHRISTIAN

Conclusion

Living for Jesus is neither a part-time or full-time job. It is a life-time matter. As Christians, we ought to say, by the help and grace of God I will live for Jesus until the day God calls me home.

Like Paul may we be able to say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (**2 Tim. 4:7**).

Theodore Roosevelt said, "It is better to be faithful than famous."

I would rather be faithful than famous. Heaven's rewards are not dispensed to the famous, but to the faithful.

The writer of Hebrews said in **Hebrews 12:1**, "let us run with patience the race that is set before us." The ideal of "**patience**" is that of **perseverance**. The writer is encouraging us to stay in the race.

Some need to get in the race. **Once you are in the race make it a life-long dedication to run the race and run it well** until you cross heaven's finish line.

1. TARGETED 3. THRILLING 2. TRAGIC