

The Unseen Enemies Will Destroy Your Soul

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Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

1 Timothy 1:18-20 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

- I. Warfare involves enemies that are seen and those that are not seen.
 - A. It is not the enemy you see that is most likely to do you in, but the ones you do not see.
 - B. To survive we must be able to recognize the enemy, whether he is hiding, or out in the open.
 - C. In any war there are spies, double-agents, traitors, snipers, land mines, booby-traps, and infiltrators; there is a constant campaign to spread false information.
 - D. This is also very true in the matter of spiritual warfare.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

- E. Our adversary the devil is cunning when it comes to disguising himself as a messenger of truth and light.
- F. It is that skill with which he will overcome you if you are not willing to heed warnings and the wisdom of the watchmen God has put in your life.
- G. But we are at a great disadvantage in this generation because no one is disposed to take advice, or counsel, or instruction from old soldiers, or anyone else.
- H. Most people are eager to have their ears tickled with allegories, or teaching filled with emotional or witty illustrations that they can marvel in.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

- 1. Such as all the types and shadows of the Old Testament.
- 2. Such as Israel and Jewish history and culture.
- 3. Or any kind of methodical, orderly, plan, or system, or scheme to achieve certain goals, like a happy home, or a fairy tale marriage, or financial success.
- I. Many people even love to hear preaching on spiritual warfare and all the practical aspects as it applies to everyday life.
 - 1. But very, very few actually receive, believe, and apply the knowledge gained and actually resist the devil, and hold their ground against him, they simply marvel in how much they know about the subject.
- J. No advice is desired, solicited, received, or applied in the lives of the average professing Christian of this generation, in any matter of life.
- K. No warning is heeded, but is rejected out of hand, with eye-rolls and smirks, because that was just how the old people thought in their time, and it is out of date and does not apply now.

- L. This generation that is “pure in their own eyes” (Proverbs 30:12) has absolutely no respect for, or use for, the counsel of those who have learned through first hand experience the wiles of the enemy.
 - M. In earthly warfare the weapons may change and be improved, and more deadly, but the *strategy* of war never changes, and that is what this generation is ignorant about.
 - 1. They somehow think that they are better-equipped than all those who came before them, because of all the knowledge they have, and so they are more secure.
 - 2. And so, to them, all the warnings from those who have been in the battle for a lifetime seem like the rants and musing of old fools.
- II. The enemy you do not see is the one that is going to do you the greatest damage, or completely destroy you.
- A. Spies, double-agents, traitors, snipers, land mines, booby-traps, and infiltrators are never out in the open where you can readily see them.
 - B. False information is not labeled as such, but is presented as truth, with verification.
 - C. All these things are cleverly designed and prepared to escape your notice.
 - D. Many times they are accompanied by a distraction that will get your attention so you will not notice what you are about to step on, or fall into, or swallow.
 - E. The enemy will make you think you are about to trap *him* while he is leading you into his snare.
 - F. This is how things are working right now with all the information that is available online and in social media.
 - G. The enemy is everywhere, in everything, and even among those who profess to be Bible-believing Christians.
 - H. Remember, the battle is in the mind, and all this information is aimed at fascinating your mind, and therefore leading you into snares.
 - 1. Mental snares; logical snares; mixing lies and truth, until you don’t know the difference.
 - I. Everything starts off by denying established truths.
 - 1. “Newly discovered facts.” “What they have been hiding from you.” “What they don’t want you to know.”
 - 2. There are books that were left out of the Bible that were supposed to be in there.
 - 3. Flat earth; aliens; UFO’s, ancient giants, time travelers, etc.
 - J. There are people who are mixing the Bible with all this stuff, and claiming to be aliens, or the offspring of aliens, who have traveled to other planets, and they have a large audience among many who say they are Bible-believing Christians.
 - K. There is a large online community of apostates and reprobates who have banded together on social media to demonize everything about their upbringing as Christians.
 - 1. They are listened to and followed by many of the young people who are still in churches and trying to live for the Lord and raise their families.
 - L. These people, along with those in the media have allied themselves against God and his people by making movies that are nothing but hit pieces, like “Bright Shining People.”
 - M. This is all the work of Satan himself and it is working very well for him, because of the lack of discernment among those still trying to live a separated and holy life for God in this ungodly world.
 - N. These are the snipers, the double-agents, the land mines that are going to destroy and take out many because they will not heed the warning to avoid them.
 - O. All this, and much more, is absolutely unbiblical and ungodly by the most basic guidelines for right thinking given in the Word of God:

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

- P. What kind of mind would condemn the righteous with the wicked?
1. This is exactly what all this propaganda from hell on the Internet is about.
 2. There have always been tares among the wheat, and there always will be.
 3. But what about the wheat?
 4. What about the TRUE people of God who have lived godly and righteously in this present evil world and finished their course well?
 5. Why would anyone who claims to be a child of God want to allow God-haters, apostates, and reprobates fill their mind with all the filth and the rotten things that have happened in the past?
- Q. All that is the work of Satan, and they are his agents. Beware! You have been warned!
1. The Bible does not hide the wrong things done by people like Abraham, David, Moses, etc.
 2. But the Bible informs us about them without condemning the whole of the people of God in the process; that is quite a different approach.

III. There are some things that identify the enemy.

- A. His voice; his words; they are filled with violence, and so anyone under his influence will speak with his spirit of violence; destructive violence, with malice and hatred.
- B. Satan is a murderer and he is out to kill and to destroy and that spirit oozes out of his most cleverly disguised lies, if you are watching and listening for it.
- C. He is a destroyer, not a giver of life; he is an inciter of thoughts of malice, contempt, and hatred – not thoughts of mercy, forgiveness, or restoration.

Proverbs 10:6 Blessings are upon the head of the just: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

Proverbs 10:11 The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

VIOLENCE, v.t. To assault; to injure; also, to bring by violence.

- D. When you are reading, or watching, or listening, listen for that spirit of violence in the voice, in the music, in the message.
 1. That is your warning that it is the enemy, no matter what he is saying, or how much he is evoking God in his message.
- E. God will not deal with your mind that way to teach you something, and the Holy Spirit of God will not incite you to destructive violence and malice toward other people.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

1. Search for understanding and knowledge in the Scriptures and you will experience this gentle voice filled with love, patience, and gentleness without the violence and contempt you hear everywhere else.
- F. Dishonesty, lies, hypocrisy. The devil is a liar and the prince of all that lie and deceive. He is the master at it and very skilled in it.
 1. Anything that contradicts the Word of God is a lie and therefore is clearly the enemy of your soul, and your God. Pay attention! Know your Bible!
 2. Look for the lie, the deception, the guile, and when you spot it, flee, because it is the enemy in disguise trying to trap you in his snare.

- G. Accuser of the brethren.
1. In his message, be it ever so subtle, he will sow discord in your mind and your heart toward the people of God.
 2. His goal is to destroy your trust and confidence in anyone who claims to be a Christian.
 3. He means to separate you from the herd, so to speak, so he can take you on by yourself, alone, with no one to help you, protect you, or back you up.
 4. When you sense that you are being enticed to think evil of God's people, the church, the old ways, purity, righteousness, other people who live clean lives, you are under attack by the enemy.
 5. Run! Quickly! Escape for your life!
 6. You are in more danger than if you were in the crosshairs of a sniper.
 7. You are about to be deceived in a way that cannot be undone.
- H. Enticement to the world, it's ways, it's wisdom, it's praise and acceptance.
1. When you find yourself comparing yourself to people of the world the enemy is close enough for you to smell his odious stench.
 2. When you are being enticed to seek their wisdom concerning money and security and wealth, you better wake up and pay attention to who is talking to you.
 3. When you find yourself learning from and copying the world to make yourself attractive and beautiful you better realize who is leading your mind into those thoughts.
 4. Where is the wisdom coming from that commands you to abstain from meats and instructs you on how to take care of your body?

1 Timothy 4:1-5 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

5. What kind of a spirit is it that leads your mind into thinking there is a pill or an herb, or some witches brew for every ailment, or mood, or problem with your body? Would that be the Spirit of God? Of course it is not!
- I. Relaxation of moral standards, particularly concerning sex and the relationship between the genders, including man and wife.
1. That voice in your mind that wants to dismiss boundaries and standards because they are old-fashioned and belonged to another generation and another time, is the voice of the devil.
 2. The generations before us were not stupid and this generation is not the first to know about the birds and the bees, and they are not superior in their knowledge about the matter and have certainly not improved upon it with their promiscuous, ungodly ways.
 3. Do not be fooled by the subtle voice of Satan that speaks to your pride and deceives you and makes a fool of you.
 4. Build upon what is already known to be true, pure, right, and leads to holiness and happiness.
 5. Do not be a fool and believe the devil's lies and scrap it all to start over and make your own personalized moral code for living. That is idolatry – and you are not a true believer in Christ if you do that.