

THE WORD OF

TRUTH

Bible study Course

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

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SATAN WORKS, CHRIST WORKS

Since the fall of Lucifer there has been a raging controversy between Christ and Satan, a conflict in which the honour of God and the security of the universe are at stake. If Satan's accusations against God could be established and he take control of the universe, what would be the result? The work of Christ and of the Father is to prove the falsehood of Satan's claims and vindicate the name of God and His government.

What these accusations are and the result of a Luciferian rule, we shall discuss in this lesson. We shall also examine the counter work of God, for what Satan has destroyed, God will restore.

Rebellion against God was first found in the heart of Lucifer. More than any other created being, he was honoured in heaven. As the covering cherub, his place was next to the throne of God, yet in time he desired even greater honour.

1. What did Lucifer (Satan) desire above his already exalted position?

Isaiah 14:12-14 _____

Note: No longer contented with his position as the covering cherub, he wanted to sit on the throne of the universe -- he would be God!

The work of rebellion in the heart was a new and unexplainable element in the universe. At first, not even Lucifer recognized where it was leading, but failing to turn back he became settled in rebellion against the government of God.

2. To what did this rebellion lead?

Revelation 12:7 _____

3. Having lost the war, to where was Satan then cast?

Revelation 12:9 _____

Though Satan was defeated in heaven, he was not destroyed. Inherent in every rebellion against a government, is the idea that the rebel would establish a better kind of government, based on better laws. Satan, in rebellion against God, had charged that God's law was faulty, and if given a chance, he would establish a better government, based on better laws.

For God to have destroyed Lucifer at the time of his rebellion would not have resolved the charges that had been laid. God could only be vindicated as He allowed Satan to demonstrate the type of government that he would

establish and the outcome of what it means to rebel against the government of God. Without such clear exposure of Satan's intent, the universe would ever be wondering if Satan might have been right!

4. What did Satan promise Eve she could be?

Genesis 3:5

Note: The very same thing that Satan desired -- equality with God-- he placed before Eve to tempt her. As soon as she followed his suggestion to disbelieve and disobey God, she was in rebellion against God and His government. She received the mind of Satan, and joined him in his rebellion.

When Adam and Eve followed Satan in this rebellion, they had in essence voted with him, against God. It now appeared that the whole purpose in man's creation had been defeated. Man, who was to be in the image of God, and who was to reflect to the universe the wisdom and goodness of their Creator, had joined with Satan in rebelling against Him. The man created in the image of God, was now in the image of Satan.

5. What was God's solution to this dilemma?

Romans 8:3

Note: Jesus, as a man, demonstrated that the law of God could be kept in the midst of a sinful world and He did it in spite of all opposition, He could remain faithful to His heavenly Father and abide by every word of God. Christ's sinless life is a testimony against the claims of Satan, namely, that the law of God was unjust and could not be kept by the fallen race. For further notes on this subject see lesson 6.

6. In living a life of perfect obedience, what did Christ give to man?

1Peter 2:21

Note: While the life of Christ was a perfect example of what a man could do when empowered by the Spirit of God, another test for the power of God and the justice of His law, is, will man himself emulate the life of Christ and live without committing one known sin?

Just before the second coming of Jesus, God's saints will have a full knowledge of what is sin and what is righteousness (Hebrews 5:14) and will therefore live without committing any sin. They are still sinners from the past, but they have ceased from practising sin. This will be the testimony of the power of God to restore the image of God in man. Living up to all the light we now have, is our progression toward this state. Should we die before reaching it, God accepts this as our best work and Jesus makes up our shortfall. But do not be deceived, God will not accept a partial obedience, or the retention of one known sin (James 2:10).

7. How deeply does the Word (law) of God touch the life of the individual?

Hebrews 4:12 _____
 Compare Romans 7:7 _____

8. While the Word of God may convict the very heart of men, what else does it have the power to do?

2 Corinthians 10:4,5 _____
 Compare Romans 1:16 _____

Note: The law of God is not confined to outward behaviour, but reaches to the very thoughts, motives and intents of the heart. It follows that the power of the Gospel is able to bring even our thoughts and imaginations into conformity to God's law. It should be noted, that without love for God it is impossible to obey Him (1John 5:3; 2Cor.3:6). This is logical, as outward obedience from any motive, other than love, would be short-term and worthless. Lessons 4 and 5 explain how to fall in love with God.

9. How does God give an active knowledge of His Word, or law, to those who are willing?

Hebrews 8:10 _____

2Corinthians 3:3 _____

Ezekiel 36:25-27, compare Ephesians 5:26,27 _____

10. When the Word of God and His Spirit abide in the heart of the Christian, what will be the "fruit" of his life?

Matthew 5:16 _____

2Timothy 3:15-17 _____

Titus 2:14 _____

11. God has given us his word, but what else is required that the fruit of righteousness may appear?

John 15:3-5 _____

Note: The fruits of the Spirit of Christ are righteousness or righteous acts (John 15:2; Heb.12:11; Galatians 5:19-26). Only as Christ dwells in us and we in him, is such holy conduct possible. God can only be glorified as we reflect His character perfectly. When the world sees Christ in us, then the world will recognise the recreating power of God (Ezekiel 36:23; Col.1:27). It is the Spirit of Christ that does the works in us; we are unable to do any good works of ourselves (Titus 3:5,6; Philippians 2:13; Jer.13:23). Also, it is this renewing, or regeneration of the mind of man, from unholy to holy, that will prove the unmitigated falsehood of Satan's claim. As Christ lived the very essence of God's law, His indwelling and the living out of His life of obedience in our minds, is the writing of the law in our hearts (Hebrews 8:10).

It was initially Satan's ambition to have the position of God. Dissatisfied with his position as the highest created being, he wanted to *be* God. It has been shown that he will stop at nothing short of this, and anything that gets in his way must be put out of the way, even God Himself.

When Christ died on the cross, Satan stood unmasked before the universe. Satan had demonstrated himself to be a liar and a murderer, and that under his government everything good and honourable would be swept away. He had forever removed himself from the sympathy of the onlooking universe and he made certain his own destruction; yet his existence was continued. For what purpose? Because there was one thing more to be proved...

12. Having suffered defeat at Calvary, what did Satan prepare himself to do?

Revelation 12:17

Note: Not only was Satan filled with hatred for Christ, but also for all those who chose to follow Christ. Notwithstanding his defeat at Calvary, if Satan could overcome the followers of Jesus, he may yet have a chance. If he could keep the followers of Christ from making the victory of Jesus a reality in their own lives, he may yet still have a case to argue the injustice of God and remove valid cause for his own destruction.

In the following lesson we shall see that man can and will live without committing any known sin! It will be by the transformation of the mind from the carnal, to the mind of Christ. All of this will be achieved in this life, through the working of the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Every man who has not the faith to believe that Christ can keep him from sin, has not the faith to enter into heaven.