

29th January 2017

## The nature of Satan – Pt 4 Satan perverts the right ways of the Lord

In our previous studies on this topic we established that Satan is a deceiver and a destroyer, and he tempts, provokes and stands up against God's children. In this study we learn that the devil perverts the right ways of the Lord, hinders and snares believers.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. The devil perverts the right ways of the Lord.

"And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?" (Acts 13: 10).

In the Old Testament judging righteous judgment and not being perverted was foundational, those who perverted judgment were cursed (Deut,27: 19). Those who purposefully (not in ignorance) pervert the the gospel of Christ today come under the same condemnation (Gal.1: 7, 8 & 9) and are likely to be a "child of the devil", an "enemy of all righteousness" because they "cease not to pervert the right ways of the Lord" (Acts 13: 10), which is a work of a child of the devil.

### 2. The devil hinders believers.

"Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us" (1Thes.2: 18).

Satan hinders and the Lord closes doors, so remember to discern who is doing what. In our example Paul desired to see the brethren at Thessalonica "with great desire" (verse 17) but "Satan hindered us". Whereas in other examples the Lord stands "in the way for an adversary against" Balaam (Num.22: 22), and in Acts a door shuts to Paul going into Bithynia and he discerns it was the Spirit (Acts 16: 7). How do we know the difference? Time with God in prayer and in His word.

### 3. The devil snares believers.

"Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil" (1Tim.3: 7).

See also 2Tim.2: 26.

Those who set snares for Israel and believers in the body of Christ today are children of the devil. Jeremiah the prophet records "For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men. As a cage is full of birds, so are their houses full of deceit...they overpass the deeds of the wicked" (Jer.5: 26-28).

Additional comments on our three points.

In our first two points the devil perverts and hinders, but in our third point it is the believer that **falls** (Rom.13: 14) before the devil snares them, before Satan can smother them with a net, that, like a bird caught in a trap they cannot get out without help. That is something to think about.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

I remember being at Somervell Presbyterian church where I used a Good News Bible and when I told my elder I was going to BCNZ full time he tried to hinder me, prevent me from going. After I left that church it dawned on me the significance of him being married to a Roman Catholic and so was manipulated, perverted, hindered and snared by the devil.

Question to think about.

Are the modern-day versions of the Bible devilish?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

Yes, they are a perversion of God's words. The men that authored these versions "have perverted the words of the living God" (Jer.23: 36), as preserved in the English text of the 1611AB. Amen!