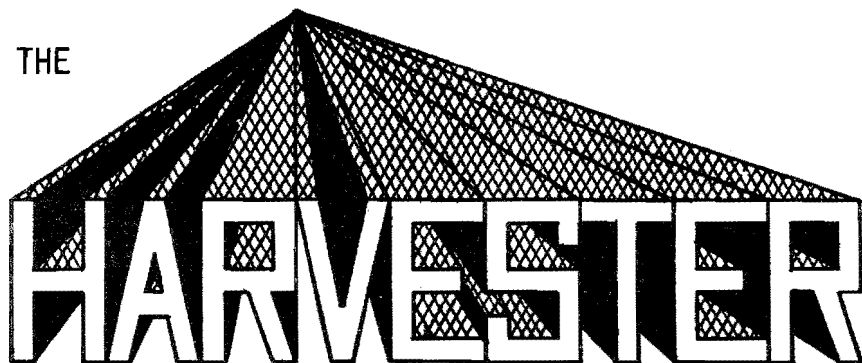


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*"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)*

May 1988

No. 029

## BEWARE THE TEMPTER!

To be accurate, we can find two kinds of temptations in the Bible. The first type is those hardships and adversities placed upon a person with the purpose of benefitting him. This type is alluded to by James. *"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."* (Jas. 1:2,3) Sometimes these temptations are called "character-builders" and are permitted by God, as in the wonderful story of Job.

The other type of temptation is trials that are definitely designed to lead a person to wrong doing. This may be in the form of a carefully baited trap. Nevertheless, God does not use

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this warning to write: *"For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labor be in vain."*(1 Thes. 3:5)

The devil's favorite weapons are things in the world. John tried to tell us with these words: *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."*(1 Jn. 2:15-16) All evil can be classified into one of these three groups: lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. The Tempter will always bait his trap with one, two or all three until his prey is caught. Let us now note a couple of examples where all three were used.

Satan's first attempt proved very successful. In Gen. 3:6 Eve was lured into disobeying her Creator. *"When the woman saw that the tree was good for food [lust of the flesh], and that it was pleasant to the eyes [lust of the eyes], and a tree to be desired to make one wise [pride of life], she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her: and he did eat."*

The second example involved Satan's encounter with the Son of God. This is recorded in Matt. 4 and in particular, Luke 4. First the Tempter tried to get Jesus to turn a stone into bread [lust of the flesh]. Next Satan displayed and offered the kingdoms of the world [lust of the eyes]. Finally, Jesus was tempted to show His greatness of power by casting Himself down from a high point [pride of life]. No wonder Matthew referred to the devil appropriately in Matt. 4:3 as *"the tempter"*!

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Did you notice how each attempt by Satan was countered by Jesus with the Word of God. All three times the Lord answered, *"It is written"*. That is exactly how we must combat the Tempter today. When we turn to the Scriptures and use it as a Sword against evil, then we will gain victory after victory over the devil. *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*(Heb. 4:12)

A closer examination of Luke 4:10-11 reveals another interesting point. As part of his tempting, the devil quoted Psalms 91:11,12. Just because someone uses the Word of God does not necessarily mean that person is making the right point. Here we have a prime example of "twisting the scriptures". That is a popular ploy of the Tempter nowadays. Many so-called "preachers" are misleading the people by *"hand-ling the word of God deceitfully"*(2 Cor. 4:2). People in the audience do HEAR the Word of God, but not the TRUE meanings! Thus, millions are easily tempted and ensnared to their eternal death, *"which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction"*(2 Pet. 3:16).

We have one final observation to make concerning Luke 4:13. It reads: *"And when the devil*

had ended all the temptation, he departed from him [Jesus] for a season." When the Tempter failed in his efforts with Jesus, he left but only for a while! In the same chapter, verse 28, Satan returned to fill certain men's hearts with wrath to the point of desiring to kill Jesus. Now if the Tempter should be so persistent against the Son of God, why should we expect any less?

Yet it seems that after people are baptized into Christ, they think they are immune from further temptations by the devil. Many new converts prefer to sit with their hands folded, looking forward to a life of ease. *"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."*(1 Cor. 10:12)

The Tempter will never quit doing his job -- tempting us to do evil. In fact, there will be more temptations directed toward a Christian than to one who is already of the world and a child of the devil. The Tempter wants every soul he can get his hands on. Only with the help of our Lord can we overcome such an adversary. *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."*(Jas. 4:7,8a) Why not come to Jesus today?

RAY McMANUS

There are three kinds of people in the world: the wills, the won'ts and the can'ts. The first accomplish everything; the second oppose everything; the third fail in everything.

## FROM THE SCRIPTURES ...

## SOME COMMON DELUSIONS

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her: and he did eat. (Gen. 3:5-6)

And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. (Matt. 3:9)

But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. (Matt. 6:7)

Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. (Matt. 26:33)

But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? (Luke 12:19)

Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. (Acts 17:29)

And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. (Acts 24:25)

Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. (Jas. 4:13-14)

## WHY BE BAPTIZED?

1. Because God commands it. (Acts 10:48)
2. To be a friend of Christ. (John 15:14)
3. Because we love God. (John 14:21, 23-31;  
1 John 5:3)
4. Because the command is from heaven and not  
from men. (Matt. 21:25)
5. Because Christ our exemplar was baptized.  
(Matt. 3:13-17)
6. To be born again. (John 3:3-5; 1 Pet. 1:21-  
23)
7. To enter the kingdom. (John 3:5)
8. It is made sacred by the name of the  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:  
18-20)
9. In order to be saved. (Mark 16:15-16)
10. For the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)
11. To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
(Acts 2:38)
12. To wash away our sins. (Acts 22:16)
13. To get into Christ. (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27)
14. To get "into his death". (Rom. 6:3) Blood  
was shed in His death. We must come into  
His death to reach the blood.
15. So as to scripturally rejoice. (Acts 8:35-  
39)
16. To be "buried with Him"--Christ. (Rom. 6:4-  
5; Col. 2:12)
17. To be raised with Christ. (Rom. 6:4-5; Col.  
2:12; Col. 3:1)
18. To walk in newness of life. (Rom. 6:4)
19. To be a new creature. (2 Cor. 5:17) To be  
"in Christ" we must be baptized into Him.
20. To be free from sin. (Rom. 6:17)
21. To obey the form of doctrine. (Rom. 6:17)
22. To get into the "one body". (1 Cor. 12:13)
23. Baptism doth now save us. (1 Pet. 3:21)
24. To have a good conscience toward God.  
(1 Pet. 3:21)

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## GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place &amp; Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
May 2-13 (M-F)	Mt. Zion Church Crab Orchard, KY [Series on Revelation]	Harry Cobb (Birmingham, AL)
May 14-15	Oak Grove Church Eubank, KY	Harry Cobb (Birmingham, AL)
May 15-21	Arcadia, NC 7:30 pm EST	Local brethren
May 27-29 (F-Su)	Freefield Church State Line, MS 7:30 pm	Chris Melton Bruce Kessler Paul Cobb
May 28-29	Purcell, OK	Curtis Stone
June 5-10	Thomaston, GA	Chris Melton (Valley, AL)
June 5-10	Hopkinsville, OH	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
June 6-12	Rich Hill Church Liberty, KY	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
June 12-18 (Su-Sa)	Pleasant Grove Church near Alex City, AL 7:00 each evening	Bill Prince Jr. (Oxford, AL)
June 19-24 (Su-F)	Moffat Road Church Mobile, AL 7:30 pm	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
June 20-24	Claud Church near Eclectic, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
June 26-29	Holdenville, OK	Lindeal Greer (Bogue Chitto, MS)
June 26- July 2	Red Hill Church near Woodbury, TN	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)