Two Extreme Lies

(Selected Scriptures)
9/23/07

Introduction: The Devil does not care which lie people believe, just as long as they don't come to trust Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

**** Don't perish in your unbelief. Trust Christ today!***

I. LIE # 1: You are <u>TOO GOOD</u> to be saved
(Many people falsely believe that they <u>don't need</u> God's grace)

Illustration: The Pharisee and the Publican (Luke 18:10-f)

Multitudes of people have the attitude:
"I don't need it" (ignorance)
"I don't want it" (apathy)
"I can attain it myself" (arrogance)

Beware of The delusion of self-righteousness (Romans 10:3; John 9:41)

II. LIE # 2: You are <u>TOO BAD</u> to be saved
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"I have crossed over the line"
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I Peter 5:8

THE <u>DEVICES</u> OF SATAN

Paul wrote to the Corinthians: *"...For we are not ignorant of his devices"* (II Cor. 2:11).
"Devices" = Planned out schemes; the wicked plots of Satan.

What are Satan's devices?

His Devices Toward the <u>Unsaved</u>

1. Satan causes evil persons to pervert the Gospel of Christ.
   (Acts 13:10; Gal. 1:7)

2. Satan hinders the gospel from being understood and believed.
   (Mt. 13:19; II Cor. 4:4)

3. Satan puts thoughts of wickedness in the hearts of unbelievers to oppose Christ.
   (Jn. 13:2; Jn. 8:44; Acts 19:23-34; Jer. 17:9)

4. Satan actively energizes unbelievers to oppose Christ and Christians.
   (Eph. 2:2; Jn. 6:70; Jn. 13:27; Rev. 13:2)

5. Satan seeks to keep all men unconscious (blinded) to the truth.
   (II Cor. 4:3-4; II Tim. 2:25b-26; I Jn. 5:19; Lk. 11:21-22)

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Beware of:
Man-Made Righteousness (v. 3-5)

Romans 10:3

V. 3

Two things keep people from submitting themselves to God's righteousness:

1)Man's <u>ignorance</u> of God's perfect standard of righteousness

Men view God as having standards which fall far below that which he actually has.

God's righteousness demands:

a)a perfect substitutionary <u>sacrifice</u> (II Cor. 5:21 - "the righteousness of God in Him")

b)the shedding of <u>blood</u>

. . . Not man's works

NOTE: Ignorance is a <u>willful</u> ignorance.

2)Man's <u>substitution</u> for God's perfect standard of righteousness.

Ignorance of the truth leads of necessity to the need for people to find a substitute for it.

The question is often asked: "Why so many different religions in the world?"

Answer: There are so many different attempts by man to substitute their own ideas for God's righteousness.

"Their own" - emphatic in Greek.

"Going about to establish" = to make something stand. "It means to cause to stand erect as a monument raised, not to the glory of God, but to their own" (Godet, cited by Reinecker, p. 370).

ILLUS: The foolishness of owning a General Motors repair manual and insisting on repairing it "my way."

V. 4

"Christ is the end of the Law" = the goal or completion of the Law.

Christ fully satisfied the just demands of God's Law. He can therefore give His righteousness to all who believe.

Christ spells the end of all of man's vain efforts to save himself, by himself.

V. 5

The emphasis is on the word "doeth" (aorist participle).

The man who has (past tense) fully practiced the righteousness requirements of God's Law will live by them.

God's promise was: If you obey ALL, you will (in the future) live by the Law.

The problem is: No one has ever kept all of the Mosaic Law (Rom. 3:23); as a matter of fact, no one has kept any of it, in its truest sense (Mt. 5:27-32) - for to break one is to break all (Jms. 2:10).

The Law said, "Do and live." No one did; therefore, no one lived. Their graves are lasting reminders.

See: John 9:41

John 9:13-41

1. ***People remain spiritually blind due to:*** **LEGALISM (v.13-16)**
   (Many twist the purpose of God's Law by adding man-made rules & traditions)

2. ***People remain spiritually blind due to:*** **CLOSED-MINDEDNESS (v.17-20)**
   (Many are too stubborn to believe the clear & available evidence about Christ)

3. ***People remain spiritually blind due to:*** **THE FEAR OF MAN (v.21-23)**
   (Many are intimidated by others and therefore do not come to Christ)

4. ***People remain spiritually blind due to:*** **PRESUMPTION (v.24-25)**
   (Many jump to premature conclusions about Christ without honestly examining the facts about Him)

5. ***People remain spiritually blind due to:*** **STUBBORN PRIDE (v.26-34)**
   (Many smugly pride themselves in their associations to religious big shots and look down upon no-name disciples)

6. ***People remain spiritually blind due to:*** **SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS (v.39-41)**
   (Many assume that they are OK the way they are; They sense no spiritual sight problem)

Joh 9:41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

II. LIE # 2: You are <u>TOO BAD</u> to be saved

(Many people falsely believe that they <u>can't have</u> God's grace)

Multitudes of people have the attitude: "I have crossed over the line" "I'm too far gone" "God does not care about me"

Illustration: The Maniac of Gadara (Mark 5:1-15; Mt. 8:28-34)

"An unclean spirit**"** – this unclean spirit was actually a host of demons; His name was "Legion" because there were many demons who possessed these men (Mk. 5:9; Lk. 8:30). A "Legion" was the largest unit of the Roman army, 3000 - 6000 strong (Ryrie note)

"<u>Two</u> possessed" (Mt. 8:24) **-** "In their accounts of this incident, Mark (5:2) and Luke (8:27) mention only <u>one</u> demon-possessed man, but do not state that <u>only</u> one was present. For their particular purposes they chose to focus on the more dominant of the two men" (MacArthur, p. 41)

Marks of someone who is a Satanist or demon-possessed:

1. A pre-occupation with <u>death</u> (*"out of the tombs"*)

2. <u>Violent</u> behavior *("exceeding <u>fierce</u>")*

3. Super-human <u>strength</u> (*"<u>exceeding</u> fierce")*

   Cp. Luke 8:29 - *"He was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness"*

4. Anti-social <u>isolation</u> *("that no man might pass that way")*

5. An <u>abhorrence</u> for <u>Jesus Christ</u> *("what have we to do with thee"")*

6. Clairvoyant <u>knowledge</u> *("Jesus, thou Son of God")*

   There is no indication that these men knew Jesus; however, when someone is demon-possessed they can know things that they have never been taught; speak in languages they have never learned.

"Thou Son of God" - a reference to Christ's <u>deity</u>! Note: The demons have no choice but to fall down and worship Christ (Lk. 8:28)

7. Insanity, masochism, and immodesty

(Mk. 5:5 describes the demon-possessed person as *"crying"* and cutting/*"gashing himself with stones")*
Lk. 8:27 - This man *"ware no clothes"*

"Art thou come to torment us before the time?" (Mt. 8:29)- The demons indicate that:

---Jesus has the power to torment *("thou")*

---Jesus has power over demons (*"us")*

---Jesus will one day at a particular time judge demons (they along with Satan will be hurled down into the bottomless pit (*"into the deep"* - Lk. 8:31; cp. Rev. 20:1ff)

Note: demons fear Christ and rightly so.

A shocking statement: "If people feared Christ like demons do, we would see revival." They *"believe and tremble"* - James 2:19

As Warren Wiersbe has observed, we could almost construct a "statement of faith" from the word of demons (demons do have faith - James 2:19).

--They believe in the existence of God

--They believe in the deity of Christ

--They believe in the reality of future judgment

--They believe also in prayer (v. 12; Mt. 8:31)

v.12

The unclean swine would be a fitting abode for the unclean spirits.

"Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world" I Jn. 4:4

Demons (even a legion of them) are NO match for Jesus Christ.

NOTE: The demons' response to Jesus Christ shows:

**Demons fear Jesus Christ (v. 29)

a. They know His holiness

(*"What have we to do with Thee?"* - implied answer: Nothing!)

b. They know His deity

(*"Thou Son of God"*)

c. They know His power and judgeship

(*"Art Thou come to torment us before the time?"*)

d. They know His sovereignty (v. 31)

(*"Besought"* - They begged Jesus; *"If Thou"* - They know that whatever Jesus decides to do, He does it; *"Suffer us"* - they recognize that they can do nothing unless Jesus allows it)

A pig is an easily agitated creature to begin with; this demonic possession caused the pigs to desire nothing but death to seek to rid themselves of the evil demons.

To anyone (EX: animal rights activists) who would question why Jesus would do this to swine, the reply is: Jesus didn't do anything to the swine; the demons did.

God always gets blamed for man's or Satan's sin.

But why did Jesus allow it?
--*"God owns everything"* (Ps. 50:10-11) and can do with it as He pleases
--Jesus values men more than pigs or sheep (Mt. 12:12) (Wiersbe, p.34)

After the demons left the men, they drastically changed. Mark 5:15 describes them as:

1) Sitting (at the feet of Jesus)

2) Clothed

3) In his right mind

4) Testifying (Lk. 8:39)

Beware of the delusion of degrees of sin (Mt. 5:21-22; 28)

* God has already saved the “chief of sinners” (I Timothy 1:15); He can save you today!

I Timothy 1:15-17

V. 15

"This is a faithful saying" - Here is a trustworthy statement (lit. "word"). Here is a believable sentence. This is a declaration that is worthy of your full faith; your total confidence.

In contrast to the works of men, the historical writings of men - which many times are filled with error, interjected with flawed points of view, skeptical assertions to be read with a "grain of salt" ---- This statement in I Timothy 1:15 is inerrant and infallible (like the rest of Scripture).

The reason why the importance of this "saying" is emphasized is because the truth that is unfolded here is the <u>theme</u> of the entire Bible; it is the most important truth to ever fall upon the ears of mankind.

"Acceptation" = to accept into one's life; to gladly receive (Acts 2:41); or whole-heartedly welcome (cp. Rom. 16:2).

"Worthy of all acceptation" - a statement that deserves the attention and acceptance of everyone. The saying about to be made deserves that everyone, regardless of age, color, race, culture, class, and social status whole-heartedly welcome, receive or take it and make it their most treasured promise. Everyone should embrace this truth.

If Christmas is a time of <u>giving</u> and <u>accepting</u> - God has given to the world a truth. It is therefore up to the world to <u>accept</u> it.

The reason why this saying is worthy to be accepted by All, is because this saying is promised to All (no limited atonement).

*SEE: I Tim. 4:9-10

"Christ Jesus" -Christ = Anointed One; Messiah
Jesus =Jehovah is salvation; Savior (Mt.1:21)

"Came into the world" -

This phrase:

--points to Christ's pre-existence
(He existed before the world even existed. He created the universe.)

Jn. 6:51 - *". . . came down from Heaven"*

Col. 1:16-17a - *"For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him . . . And He is before all things."*

Heb. 1:2 - *"Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds."*

--points to Christ's humility
(That the Creator would stoop so low as to personally and visibly step into His creation.)

Phil. 2:6

John 1:10 - *"He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not."*

II Cor. 8:9 - *"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich."*

"Into the world" - Christ being the omnipresent God was in the world in His spiritual essence in the Old Testament, but did not come *"into the world"* in a physical sense until His incarnation! At that point, *"as the second Adam"* He entered the human race.

<u>WHY</u> did Christ <u>COME</u> into the world?
--<u>*TO SAVE*</u> (v. 15)

Jesus did <u>not</u> come into the world to:

1.Be <u>served</u> (Mk. 10:45), but to save

2.<u>Reign</u> as king (He will at His second coming), but to save

3.<u>Condemn</u> the world (Jn. 3:17), but to save

4.<u>Destroy</u> men's lives (Lk. 9:56) but to save

"To save" - to rescue; deliver

"To save" - Save from what?

--From <u>lostness</u> (spiritual blindness and bondage)
(Luke 19:10 - *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

--From <u>a ruined life</u>
(Jn. 10:10 - *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."*

--From <u>eternal death</u>
(II Cor. 1:10 - *"Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that He will yet deliver us."* Cp. Heb. 7:25)

SEE: Matthew 20:28 - *"A ransom for many"* -

"Ransom" = a <u>required price</u>
"For" - anti = means "in the place of" "in the stead of" as a substitute for

There is no question "why?" as to the purpose of Christ's coming:

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (I Jn. 4:9-10)

The believer's testimony is this: *"I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see."*
("Amazing Grace")

WHO did Christ come to SAVE?
--*SINNERS* (v. 15)

***"Sinners"* -** those who have missed God's mark or God's perfect standard of holiness.

Since all are sinners (Rom. 3:10, 23), all qualify for salvation.

Mark 2:17 - *"When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of a physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."*

WHAT type of SINNERS can Christ save?
--*THE CHIEFEST* (v. 15-16)

"Of whom I am chief" -

Of the sinners, I rank # 1, Paul says.

I was the premiere sinner, the height of sinners. Paul serves as an example of God's power and grace to save even the lowest of sinners (v. 16).

Although all people are totally depraved (*"dead in trespasses and sins")*, Paul's depravity was manifested against believers more than anyone else in his day. He went the extra mile to persecute, imprison, and torment God's people (Acts 9:1-4; 22:4 - *"And I persecuted this way unto death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.")*

"Of whom I am chief" - Not "was chief"; but even at the end of his life Paul recognized his unworthiness to be saved.

Paul's words are not pious rhetoric. He was keenly aware of his own wretchedness (Rom. 7:24).

"The fact is that it is always the characteristic of a true saint to feel himself a real sinner. The air in a room seems to be clear, but when it is penetrated by the sunlight, it is seen to be full of dust and other impurities; and so as men draw nearer to God, and are penetrated by the light of God (I Jn. 1:5), they see more clearly their own infirmities, and begin to feel for sin something of the hatred which God feels for it." (Brown, cited by Hiebert, p. 43).

"For this cause" - because Christ came into the world to save sinners--even the chiefest--Christ saved Paul for the explicit purpose of displaying His merciful patience and grace.

God either saved you or wants to save you so you too might be an example of His longsuffering.

"In me first" - *first* = the same word as *chief* (v. 15). Paul as the ranking # 1 sinner serves as a "pattern" (or example) of God's mercy and grace to save even the chiefest of sinners.

The goal of Christ's saving sinners is ***"unto eternal life."***