

Satan - Alive & Well at Corinth

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Introduction

The two most common names of our spiritual adversary are “the devil” and “Satan.” The Greek word *diabolos*, translated “devil,” is descriptive of one who is slanderous and makes false accusations. The devil falsely accuses God to man (Gen. 3:1-5), and man to God (Rev. 12:9-10). The Greek word *Satanas* identifies our adversary, the Enemy (1 Thess. 2:18; 1 Pet. 5:8). In a very real sense, Satan is the enemy of God and all those who belong to Him.

The Corinthian epistles contain multiple references to the devil (1 Cor. 5:5; 7:5; 2 Cor. 2:11; 4:4; 11:3, 14; 12:7). Satan was alive and well at Corinth, threatening the saints in a variety of ways. In this lesson, let us consider Satan’s *modus operandi*, i.e., his methods of operation.

Corrupting Marriage

Satan operates through corrupting God’s pattern for marriage (1 Cor. 5:1-5; 6:12-20; 7:1-5).

Corrupting Forgiveness

Satan operates through corrupting God’s pattern for forgiveness (2 Cor. 2:1-11; 7:6-13; cf. 1 Cor. 13:4-7).

Corrupting Truth

Satan operates through corrupting God’s message of truth, i.e., the gospel (2 Cor. 4:1-6; 11:1-15; cf. 1 Cor. 2:1-5).

Conclusion

The tempter’s every act, large or small, is intended to harm and hurt, to damage and destroy; on the other hand, God would work through trials and temptations to make us stronger and better (2 Cor. 12:7-10). Accordingly, we must decide whether to cast our lot with the caring God of all grace, or the callous god of this world (1 Pet. 5:6-11).