

# “Victory Over the Enemy—Part 2”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of March 1, 2025.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a series by giving a presentation titled “Victory Over the Enemy—Part 2.” (Much of this material was scheduled to be given in Part 1, but I ran out of time during that presentation.)

In this series, I have been planning to highlight two important concepts—do not underestimate the enemy and do not overestimate the enemy. Last Wednesday, we continued with the concept of not underestimating the enemy.

- In the Feb. 19 Bible study, I focused on the overt danger of the enemy.
- In the Feb. 26 Bible study, I focused on the subtle danger of the enemy.

The overt danger from the enemy is that he is extremely powerful. (But remember—the God of good is much stronger than the enemy who promotes evil.)

The subtle danger from the enemy is that he is sneaky and conniving.

## **Master salesman**

It is important to realize that the enemy is a master salesman.

- Exodus 20:17—Much of his strategy is to stir up covetousness and lust.
- Genesis 3:1—The cunning serpent asked a simple question—designed to lead into the direction of his negative plan.
- Genesis 3:4—After the serpent heard Eve’s response, he contradicted what God had said.
- Genesis 3:5—After the serpent contradicted what God had said, he directly projected a negative motive coming from God—seeking to create obvious doubt.
- Genesis 3:6—Did you notice the areas of desires (covetousness?) that motivated Eve?

Good for food. Pleasant to the eyes. Desirable to make one wise.

- Genesis 9:21—What desires did the serpent stir up to influence Noah to sin?
- Joshua 7:21—What desires did the serpent stir up to influence Achan to sin?
- 2 Samuel 11:2-24—What desires did the serpent stir up to influence David to sin?

### **Targeting the Son of God**

The master salesman tried to trick the Son of God with three different tests.

- Matthew 4:3—The devil tried to set the terms—offering food to a hungry man.
- Matthew 4:6—The devil tried a second time to set the terms—challenging Him to prove the Father’s love for Him by jumping off the pinnacle of the temple.
- Matthew 4:9—The devil tried a third time to set the terms—appealing to His love for mankind and to the alleged opportunity to speed up the plan of God.

### **Targeting perceived leaders**

The master salesman seeks to trick perceived leaders, knowing that they can fool many people.

- Matthew 23:4—The master salesman convinces leaders to be hard on people, while liking a double standard.
- Matthew 23:7-10—The master salesman convinces leaders to accept titles, which creates a class system.
- Matthew 23:11-12—The master salesman convinces leaders to behave with vanity instead of service.
- Matthew 23:13—The master salesman convinces leaders to behave like the Kingdom of Heaven goes through them.
- Matthew 23:15—The master salesman convinces leaders to seek proselytes unto themselves (instead of the Father and Son), who pass along their erroneous ideas to people.
- Luke 22:24-27—When the disciples were battling to be the top dog (the greatest among them), the Son of God reminded them about servant leadership.
- 2 Corinthians 11:13—Paul reminded disciples about religious leaders being deceitful workers projecting themselves as apostles of Christ.
- 2 Corinthians 11:14—Paul reminded disciples about Satan projecting himself as an angel of light.

■ 2 Corinthians 11:15—Paul reminded disciples about religious leaders projecting themselves as people of righteousness.

### **Feasting on followers**

While the master salesman seeks to trick perceived leaders, he also feasts directly on followers.

In 2 Corinthians 11:20, the apostle Paul warned about five mistakes that many disciples were making.

- The disciples “put up with” people taking them into bondage.
- The disciples “put up with” people devouring them.
- The disciples “put up with” people stealing from them.
- The disciples “put up with” people exalting themselves over them.
- The disciples “put up with” people hitting them in the face.

This verse needs quality evaluation by the children of God.

■ At some point, a disciple should evaluate how 2 Corinthians 11:20 squares with Isaiah 53:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:18-25.

■ But, until then, a disciple can see the connection between 2 Corinthians 11:20 and the Son of God’s physical behavior in John 2:14-16 and Matthew 21:12-13.

■ And, until then, a disciple can see the connection between 2 Corinthians 11:20 and the Son of God’s verbal confrontation in John 8:42-47.

### **The enemy seeks access**

We just talked about some important warnings about the enemy. The enemy is powerful (overt danger), and the enemy is sneaky and conniving (subtle danger).

Notice that the devil asked the Son of God if he could sift Peter.

- Luke 22:31—The Lord told Peter that Satan had specifically asked to have access to Peter with the goal of sifting him as wheat.
- Luke 22:32—Notice that the Lord prayed for Peter.
- The God of good is much stronger than the enemy who promotes evil.