

The Devil and The Gospel

(Luke 8:1-12)

“Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, **lest they should believe and be saved**” (Luke 8:12). There are two things that the devil especially does not want people to do. He does not want them **to believe**, and he does not want them **to be saved**.

If you ask people what they must do to be saved, few will give you the correct answer. They are blind to the gospel. Yet, Satan knows God’s plan of salvation summarized in just four words: “**believe and be saved**.” The devil does not mind if people are religious. Indeed, he uses religion to keep people in the dark. Most religious people on our planet have no idea about God’s true gospel. They may say the Lord’s Prayer, recite the Golden Rule, read the Sermon on the Mount, and yet **they do not know the first thing about how to be born again**. There are religious people who seek to follow the sacraments, perform daily and weekly rituals, utter repetitious prayers, and yet their spiritual leaders never give them the true gospel of grace based upon the finished work of Christ. How tragic! “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom **the god of this world (Satan) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Cor. 4:3-4).

How wonderful to know that God is infinitely greater than Satan, and He, through the gospel, can “open their eyes, and turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins” (Acts 26:18). ***May we faithfully share God’s powerful gospel (Rom. 1:16)!***

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