

Taking Satan Seriously

by Wayne Goff

Tomorrow evening is Halloween and we expect to find a number of “trick-or-treaters” at our door. We enjoy watching the little children dress up in costumes, wander through the neighborhood, looking for candy treats. Personally, I would enjoy even more dressing up in a scary costume and hiding behind the bushes to frighten the *older* children -- but I always manage to refrain. Ghosts, goblins, witches, warlocks, etc. -- all in good fun, *just so long as we don't take them seriously*.

On the other hand, Satan himself should be taken very seriously. He is the “*god of this world*” (2 Cor. 4:4) who is intent on destroying as many souls as possible (1 Pet. 5:8). His appetite is insatiable. He never tires of disrupting the lives of people who try to live right and do right. **BEWARE!**

But I suppose what **amazes** me the most about the Devil is the fact that he can convince people that the worst of things are the things they should be doing! He is quite good at it. Revelation 12:9 says “*So the great dragon..., that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world;...*”

Now just think of some of the things he has accomplished. He convinces children to turn against their parents and hate them. He has convinced some parents to abort their unborn babies. He is constantly convincing others to kill themselves in suicide. He has persuaded others to worship him rather than God. There seems to be a large contingency who *openly affirm* the things of Satan. Those who unwittingly follow him think that evil is good, and good is evil. Yes, Satan is to be taken seriously because is quite good at what he does.

Jesus took Satan seriously (Matt. 4) when the Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil. But Jesus defeated Satan, his kingdom, and his power over mankind. Jesus freed those of us who were all our lifetimes subject to his bondage. But even for those of us who have been **saved**, deception is a dangerous tool of Satan against us! **Do not be deceived** (Matt. 24:4-5, 11; Rom. 7:11; 2 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:6; Col. 2:4; 2 Thess. 2:3; 1 Jn. 2:26; 3:7; etc.).

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