

Know Your Enemy

Introduction→ 2 Timothy 3:16, 17, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

James 1:22-25, “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Matthew 7:24-27, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."

We must realize the **horror** of sin→ James 1: 13-15. Sin is **truly our enemy**. However, there are **deceptive pleasures** in sin. See Hebrews 11:25 “Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season...” Proverbs 8:36 “But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.”

Satan shows us the **bait** but he hides the **hook!**

- 1 **Sin.**→ There are seven ways the Word of God should profit us as we deal with sin (I am indebted to A. W. Pink's *Profiting From the Word* for this section):
 - a An individual is spiritually profited when the Word *convicts him of sin*. When you are **convicted** of your sin, you are **convinced of it**. This is its first office: to reveal our depravity, to expose our vileness, to make known our wickedness. A man's moral life may be irreproachable, his dealings with his fellows faultless; but when the Holy Spirit applies the Word to his heart and conscience, opening his sin-blinded eyes to see his relation and attitude to God, he cries, "Woe is me, for I am undone." (Is. 6: 5). It is in this way that each truly saved soul is brought to realize his need of Christ. "They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick" (Luke 5:31). Yet it is not until the Spirit applies the Word in Divine power that any individual is made to feel that he is sick, sick unto death.

Another example of one being convicted of his sinfulness is Peter (Lk. 5: 8).

Don't try to put those convictions out of your mind as Felix did: Acts 24:25 “And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for

thee.” and Acts 26:28 “Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”

Proverbs 29:1 “He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”

Conviction is like the **red light** that goes off on the dashboard of your car. It is there for a **useful warning**.

Hebrews 3:13, “But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

- b An individual is spiritually profited when the Word makes him *sorrow over sin*. Does your study of the Word produce a broken heart and lead to a humbling of yourself before God? Does it convict you of your sins in such a way that you are brought to daily repentance before Him? See Matt. 5: 4; James 4: 9; 2 Cor. 7: 10; Jer. 31: 19; Luke 22: 62.
- c An individual is spiritually profited when the Word leads to *confession of sin*. Proverbs 28:13 “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” Psalm 32:5 “I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.”

There is no real peace for the conscience and no rest for the heart while we bury the burden of unconfessed sin. Relief comes when it is fully unbosomed to God. Mark well the experience of David, "When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer" (Ps. 32:3,4). Is this figurative but forcible language unintelligible unto you? Or does your own spiritual history explain it? There is many a verse of Scripture which no commentary save that of personal experience can satisfactorily interpret.

Some examples of **powerful confessions**→ Psalm 51; Luke 15: 18ff. If we have sinned against God, we need to confess to Him→1 John 1: 9. If we have wronged others, we need to confess to them→ James 5: 16.

"Confess" is 3 *homologeo* (*hom-ol-og-eh'-o*).

Usage in the KJV-confess 17, profess 3, promise 1, give thanks 1, confession is made 1, acknowledgeth 1; for a total of 24 .

" To say the same thing as another, i.e. to agree with, assent, concede, not to deny, declare, to admit or declare one's self guilty of what one is accused of."

- d. An individual is spiritually profited when the Word produces in him *a deeper hatred of sin*. Psalm 97:10 “Ye that love the LORD, hate evil...” Psalm 101:3 “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.” Psalm 119:104 “Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate

every false way.” Psalm 119:113 “I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love.” Psalm 119:128 “Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.”

Psalm 119:163 “I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love.” Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”

"Till sin be hated, it cannot be mortified; you will never cry against it, as the Jews did against Christ, Crucify it, Crucify it, till sin be really abhorred as He was" (Edward Reyner, 1635).

We should attempt to emulate the Lord Jesus Christ in our hatred of sin→ Hebrews 1:9 “Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.”

e. An individual is spiritually profited when the Word causes *a forsaking of sin*. "Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity" (2 Tim. 2: 19). Psalm 119:9 “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.” 2 Corinthians 7:1 “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

Look at all the things we are to **flee** from→ "*Flee* fornication" (1 Cor. 6:18), "*Flee* from idolatry" (1 Cor. 10:14). "*Flee* these things"—a covetous love for money (1 Tim. 6:11), "*Flee* also youthful lusts" (2 Tim. 2:22).

pheugo →flee 26, escape 3, flee away 2; 31; “to flee away, seek safety by flight.” to shun or avoid by flight something abhorrent, esp. vices.

Genesis 39:12 “And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.”

dioko→" to run swiftly in order to catch a person or thing, to run after."

Very urgently we need to flee from **peers** or **companions** or **friends** that hinder us from living for God→1 Corinthians 15:33 “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.” The idea is→ “Do not be deceived; evil company corrupts good habits.” Proverbs 13:20 “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” Psalm 1:1 “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”

f. An individual is spiritually profited when the Word *fortifies against sin*. Psalm 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

“It is particularly the commandments, the warnings, the exhortations, we need to make our own and to treasure; to memorize them, meditate upon them, pray over them, and put them into practice.”→A. W. Pink.

Romans 12:21 “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Romans 13:14 “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

“None of us knows when he may be tempted: therefore it is necessary to be prepared against it... Yes, we are to anticipate the future and be fortified against it, by storing up the Word in our hearts for coming emergencies.”→A. W. Pink.

Psalm 37:31 “The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.”

g. An individual is spiritually profited when the Word causes him to *practice the opposite of sin*.

“Now the opposite of sinning against God is submission to Him, as the opposite of lawlessness is subjection to the law. Thus, to practice the opposite of sin is to walk in the path of obedience.”→Pink.

There are **four elements** of true obedience:

- i. **Promptly**→ Gen. 6: 22; Isaiah 6: 8.
- ii. **Completely**→
 - 1. Positive example→ David→ Acts 13: 22.
 - 2. Negative example→Saul→1 Sam. 15.
- iii. **Cheerfully**→ Ps. 40: 8.
- iv. **From the heart**→ Rom. 6: 12; Prov. 4: 23.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 “Abstain from all appearance of evil.”

Some examples of practicing the opposite of sin: Eph. 4: 28, 29.

Sin is such a serious matter we should make it a matter of prayer. Here are some Scriptural prayers→ Ps. 19: 12-14; 119: 5, 36; 141: 4; Matt. 6: 13.

”Sin will always take you further than you want to go, make you stay longer than you want to stay and cost you more than you want to pay!” Herb Hatfield.

“Sin will get you into trouble, and pride will keep you there!”-Author Unknown

2. **Satan** (the second enemy).

a. His names

i. Satan→ Adversary

ii. Devil→ Accuser

b. Scriptures

i. James 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

ii. 1 Peter 5:8, 9 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

iii. Ephesians 6:11 “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. *methodeia*→ “cunning arts, deceit, craft, trickery” Ephesians 4:14 “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive...”

Geronimo, the Apache Indian, would stake out a ranch house and watch it for long hours. When the lights went out he would creep closer and closer. After several hours, when he was sure the occupants were asleep, he would make his attack. The Devil is trying to catch us napping so that he can **ambush** us. The Devil is very patient and watches us for long hours, ready to catch us unawares, when our guard is down.

iv. 2 Corinthians 2:11 “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

v. 2 Corinthians 11:3 “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

1. 1 John 2:16 “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

2. Gen. 3: 1-6. “subtle, shrewd, crafty, sly.”

3. Matt. 4: 1-11.

4. 2 Timothy 2:26 “And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.” “Recover” means to “to return to soberness.”

vi. The Devil also uses an army of “devils” or “demons.”

1. Scriptures

- a. Ephesians 6:12 “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”
- b. 1 Timothy 4:1 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils...”

- 3. **The World** (the third enemy). Our **intellectual** and **cultural** environment. Our **system of values**. The **prevailing ideology** of the age. The ideas of our **opinion makers [the media (newspapers, the internet, television and radio news, etc.) the entertainment industry (music, movies, sports stars etc.), the educational establishment; in many instance, even our government]**.

There seem to be at present at least three competing worldviews. One of them is **Islam**. It is very aggressive and evangelistic. Another is the **European/ secularist philosophy**. This is predominant in Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia, etc. It is also aggressive and evangelistic. The third worldview is the Judeo/Christian (Biblical) worldview. Almost exclusively about the only place in the world where this view is held is among certain elements in the United States. Those who hold this view are not being very aggressive and evangelistic.

There is possibly a fourth worldview. That is the one held by the **underground Christian movement** in China and in some other places. This movement may be more powerful than meets the eye.

There is also a false religious world!

- a. Scriptures
 - i. 1 John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”
 - ii. Romans 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
 - iii. 1 Chronicles 12:32 “And of the children of Issachar, [which were men] that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.”

- 4. **Our Flesh** (the fourth enemy). The “old man,” our “flesh,” our “sinful nature.” We will carry this with us as long as we live and we must continually battle against it.

- a. Scriptures

- i. Gal. 5: 16-25.
- ii. Rom. 7: 5-25.
- iii. Rom. 8: 1-14.
- iv. Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”
- v. Ephesians 4:22-24 “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

Know Your Weapons

Have confidence in them. They are powerful. God has not left us defenseless! God has well equipped us.

2 Corinthians 10:4, 5 “(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ...”

The strong holds of sin and Satan; such as unbelief, pride, hardness of heart, &c.→ Gill

It is important for all ministers to feel that their weapons are mighty ONLY through God. Conquerors and earthly warriors go into battle depending on the might of their own arm, and on the wisdom and skill which plans the battle. The Christian goes on his warfare, feeling that however well adapted the truths which he holds are to accomplish great purposes, and however wisely his plans are formed, yet that the efficacy of all depends on the agency of God. He has no hope of victory but in God. And if God does not attend him, he is sure of inevitable defeat.→ Barnes

“strongholds”→ The sins of his heart are fortified by long indulgence, and by the hold which they have on his soul. The wickedness of the world which he opposes is strongly fortified by the fact that it has seized on strong human passions; that one point strengthens another; that great numbers are united.→ Barnes

“bringing into captivity”→ All *doctrines* were to be in accordance with his will; philosophy should no longer control them, but they should be subject to the will of Christ. All the *plans of life* should be controlled by the will of Christ, and formed and executed under his control—as captives are led by a conqueror. All the *emotions and feelings of the heart* should be controlled by him, and led by him as a captive is led by a victor.→ Barnes

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