

Satan's Demise / Our Victory

Romans 16:20-27

"Satan's only power—unlike his pretensions to power—comes from the character of God that declares that sin must be punished. His strength comes from working within the laws of that character. Satan reasoned that if he could get the man and woman to sin, which he did, the wrath of God against sin must inevitably come down on them. God's good designs would be thwarted. Satan failed to see that Jesus would take the place of sinners, bearing their punishment, and that he, Satan, would have his power broken in the process.

Paul wrote of this triumph more completely in his letter to the Colossians: "[God] forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross" (Col. 2:13-15). In view of this triumph, America's great theologian Jonathan Edwards was right to call Satan the greatest blockhead the world has ever known. For although Satan is exceedingly knowledgeable and cunning, he was also supremely stupid to suppose that he could out-think the all-wise God or overpower the almighty." Boice

- I. How can we even begin to summarize the book of Romans? It is a powerful letter written by Paul to a church commended for its faith to deepen a believer's understanding of salvation. It speaks of the power of the gospel and the need for a Savior. It speaks of sin, its origin, God's wrath against it, and our need to be saved from its eternal condemnation apart from Christ. It speaks of what occurs upon putting our faith in Jesus. It speaks of **Reconciliation**, the bringing about of peace between the sinner and God by being brought into a right relationship with him through the forgiveness of our sins. It speaks of **Propitiation**, having the wrath of God against us satisfied because of Jesus' sacrifice for our sins. It speaks of **Redemption**, the purchasing of our souls through the blood of Christ for the kingdom of God. It speaks of **Justification**, being declared not guilty for our sin. It speaks of **imputed righteousness**, the giving of the righteousness of Christ as our very own. It speaks of **sanctification**, being made holy and blameless before God through salvation. It speaks of our struggle with sin and the victory we have in Christ Jesus. It speaks of **adoption**, being adopted into the family of God with full inheritance rights to his kingdom. It speaks of the Holy Spirit's active role in our lives. It speaks of **election**, God choosing a people for himself whom he could call his very own. It speaks of the Gentiles being grafted into his kingdom. It speaks God turning to the nation of Israel once again to save them through Christ. It speaks of the **process of sanctification** (Romans 12 on), the Holy Spirit working in our hearts and minds to conform us more and more into the image of Christ. It speaks of **valuing the body of Christ with the agape love of Christ** and so much more. Maranatha, come Lord Jesus, we are diligently watching for your return!!!

- II. Satan has been God's number one nemesis from eternity past. Ever since he was thrown out of heaven, he has done everything in his power to thwart God's good, pleasing and perfect will. His main target was those created in God's image. He enticed Adam and Eve to sin with the hopes of destroying mankind. He worked to keep the rescuer from man's sin from being born, and he has worked to keep people from believing the gospel. He will never experience the victory he is hoping for, because God always wins his battles by crushing his enemies.

Rom. 16:20

- A. God is a God of peace who works to bring about reconciliation with men and women through belief in the gospel. He is also a warrior God who fights his enemies without mercy for the sake of his kingdom. Our God and Savior always wins his battles; therefore, we will forever share in his victories.

Isa. 40:6-8

Rom. 5:1-2

Ps. 144:1-2

- B. Satan is a wicked fallen angel of deception and hatred. He is very active in deceiving the world to put their faith in anything or anyone other than Christ. In fulfillment of **Gen. 3:14** he was defeated at the cross, and with the fulfillment of **Rom. 16:20** he is being defeated by the gospel and will be permanently defeated (crushed) at the end of the millennial reign of Christ when he will be thrown into hell for eternity.

Mark 4:13-15

Eph. 6:10-12

Rev. 20:10

- C. Believers have an active role in crushing the head of Satan under their feet by being wise about what is good and innocent about what is evil. When we hate what is evil and cling to what is good we are living the gospel in ways that glorify God instead of Satan. It is this kind of testimony that God uses to draw others into his kingdom. We must never underestimate the power we have over Satan's influence when we conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel (Phil. 1:27).

Rom. 16:19

Rom. 12:9

Rev. 12:10-11

- III. We have been established forever in God's kingdom through belief in the gospel. God did this for us by revealing to us the full proclamation of Jesus Christ. We are a unique people who have been chosen out of the world to believe and obey the only wise God. May he be forever praised!

Rom. 16:21-27; 1 Peter 1:10-11