

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Lessons From Demons

(Jerry Fite)

The unseen spiritual realm is difficult for us to fathom. There are spirit beings in league with the Devil called demons. Demons are “seducing spirits” enticing people to follow doctrinal error (*I Timothy 4:1*). Demons are the spiritual realities behind the idolatrous worship of false gods (*I Corinthians 10:20-21; Revelation 9:20*).

While demons are busy to destroy the souls of men, we do know that they do not have unlimited power. During the early, miraculous times of the New Testament, no person ever died due to demon possession. While demon possessed people were led in harm’s way, and were afflicted physically by demons who were out to destroy them (*Mark 9:17, 18, 22*), the demons did not have the permission from God to take a person’s life. While God restricted the Devil from taking Job’s life (*Job 2:4-6*), the demons were apparently likewise restricted.

We must remember that these “seducing spirits” succeed only in those who are” hypocrites”, and are willing to allow their own conscience to be hardened (*I Timothy 4:1-2*). When

keeping ourselves true and sensitive to God’s will, demons will not have a place in our lives to work their destructive purposes.

Why are these spiritual beings called “demons”? Some authorities trace the word to its root “da,” meaning “to know.” Therefore, the word denotes “a knowing one.” These evil spiritual beings know things that we need to know, that will help us in our lives.

Demons know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. “*And the unclean spirits, whensoever they beheld Him, and cried, saying, “Thou are the Son of God” (Mark 3:11)*. This knowledge is the key to saving faith. For if we do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God, we will die in our sins (*John 8:24*). While demons will work to seduce you to believe otherwise, they know Jesus is more than a mere man. He is the Son of God!

Demons know the authority of the Lord’s. When the Jewish exorcists tried to extract demons from the people, an evil spirit replied, “*...Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?*” (*Acts 19:15*). These exor-

cists painfully learned that the demons recognized the exclusive authority of the Lord, and His apostles over them. Casting out demons was not magic, but confirming evidence that the gospel of Jesus Christ preached by Paul was the saving message from God. This was powerfully communicated when those who practiced “magical arts” came “burning their books” (*Acts 19:19*). “*So mightily grew the word of the Lord and prevailed*” (*Acts 19:20*).

We need to acknowledge the authority of the Lord’s apostles in our lives. “*So then, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which were taught, whether by word, or by epistle of ours*” (*2 Thessalonians 2:15*).

Demons know their destiny. They know there will come the time of their torment. One asked Jesus, “*...art thou come hither to torment us before the time?*” (*Matthew 8:29*). Hell is the place for eternal torment for the Devil, his angels and all the unrighteous (*Revelation 20:10, Matthew 25:41*). Torment in hell is a reality the demons know. The Son of God is real; the authority of the apostles is real; and Hell is real. Do you believe in what the demons know?