

Faith of our Youth

inside...

Do Not Be Deceived !

Dan Huff

The devil--is he fact or fiction? Most people in the world today say they believe in God and heaven. But the answers are different with regard to the devil and hell. The Bible teaches both, yet the world does not want to think about the devil and hell. The impression that most people have, whether at school, work, or other activities, is that the devil is a person in a red suit and cape with two horns, eyes black as coal, thin mustache curled on both ends, and a pitch fork in his hand.

Why do people think this is what the devil looks like? One reason is because they don't read and study



"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world".
 ---[Jn 4:]-

God's word. In **Jn. 14:30** Jesus said that the devil is the "prince of this world". The devil had nothing to do with Jesus, because the devils' kingdom is in this world, but Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. Also,

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Just the Gospel: Pursuing the Basics

Jeremy Morris

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world... " -Matt. 28: 19, 20-

Close to the end of His days on this earth, Christ issued this Great Commission to the apostles, propelling them to spread the good news of salvation. Christians from that point on have used these words to describe

a key element of their walk. My challenge to the youth of today is to examine whether or not we are upholding this directive.

In his epistle to the assembly at Rome, Paul congratulated them because their faith was spoken of "throughout the whole world". - Rom. 1: 8- The faithful in Rome were not content to only edify one

It's time that we, as Christians, take the reins like our forefathers and accept the full responsibility of being the "called of God".

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USING SPIRITUAL FUEL

Lonnie McClintock

Because I wanted everything to be perfect for my Senior Prom, I borrowed my brother's car. I washed it, waxed it, and filled it with gas. Nonetheless, on the night when I needed it the most, it stalled several times and thus contributed to a disastrous evening. I later discovered the problem: the gas. Although I expected peak performance out of the car, I had failed to fill it with the right substance.

Likewise, the full performance of God's will requires that we use the right type of fuel; such fuel comes from focusing on heavenly matters, not earthly pleasures.

Romans 12:2 states that in order to prove what the will of God is, we must be transformed by the renewing of our minds. In other words, if we are to live as Christians, we need to let our minds dwell on the right things. Put simply, as Christians, we are what we think. This concept should not be hard to grasp. If a football player watches television each night instead of studying the play book, he cannot expect to do well in the games. The same idea holds true for Christians. If our minds are conformed to this world, how can we expect to prove what the will of God is in our daily living?

Consequently, Colossians 3:1-2 directs that we keep seeking the things above, and set our minds on such things. After all, that is where Christ is! If we focus on man's interests, we run the risk of distorting God's will. Jesus emphasized this thought to Peter in Matthew 16: 21-23.

Philippians 4: 8 provides further guidance regarding those matters which we should think about. We should let our minds dwell on (i.e., seriously consider) what ever is honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, excellent and praiseworthy. This standard is broad and includes many things. For example, we are to seek God's kingdom and righteousness over food, clothing and drinks. See Matthew 6: 31-34. And we should fix our hope on grace, and

not the lusts of the flesh. See I Peter 1: 13-16. Of course, the Bible is full of other wonderful examples.

When focusing on the things above, we must also realize the importance of doing so. Romans 8: 5-8 provides the consequences that result from our thoughts. Namely, "the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace." (NASB)

In conclusion, then, just as a car can be filled with unleaded or leaded gasoline, our Christian minds can be filled with unholy or holy fuel. If we make the wrong choice by choosing the unholy, we may falter and stall during those times when we have the best opportunities to prove our love for Jesus Christ, through our words and our actions. If we choose the holy, though, we will be better able to serve God according to His will, whatever the circumstances.

David Lon McClintock is a member of the church at Hagerstown, Indiana. He is 25 years old, recently graduated from law school and is currently seeking a position in that field.

"My Father's Eyes"

Amy Duckstein

Some of you may have heard the song by Amy Grant called "My Father's Eyes". If you think about the words, the main point of the song is about being able to see good things when there doesn't seem to be any good in the situation. In this song you also hear about how she wants so badly to be seen as her father was often seen. She wants to be seen as a non-selfish, helpful, and caring person. This is a very encouraging song because we should try to be like our Father. Please listen carefully to the words of this song the next time you hear it.

Amy Duckstein is a member of the church at Vandalia, Iowa. She is 14 years old and a freshman in high school.

"Put simply, as Christians, we are what we think."

HERE & THERE

Topeka

Angie Meeks is Drum Major for the high school band, and her Mom just got out of the hospital and is doing fine. Christy Kuhn is in the band and also Cheer leading. Ryan Landes is looking forward to basketball season.

Ottawa

Kevin Morton plays the trumpet for the high school band. He's featured in a trio. Their football team got revenge on Seaman of Topeka recently for a loss delivered to them last year. He was up at the Des Moines meeting and thought it was very good.

Vandalia

Amy Duckstein tried out for a part in the school play and is eagerly waiting to here if she got the part.

Indianapolis

Mark Long is playing football. Their team is 2-0. He also goes to a small congregation once a month to help out. They had two baptisms recently, Jillian Craft and Teanna Byrnes. He sends an invitation to their meeting Oct. 15, 16.

Prince Road

Kelly Hartman is playing volleyball. Her JV is 2-2. Wendy Woody is running cross-country. Brad Tutterow is at a school of pharmacy, Brian Tutterow is at SIE and Jessica Thompson is at Lewis and Clark.

Ozark

Clayton Cooper says the college kids are back! They're busy working on the paper getting ready for the next publication. He was at the Des Moines meeting and felt like there were a lot of teens up there. A good time was had at the Brady's.

Nixa

John Lee had a meeting with them recently. Emily Rogers had been visiting relatives up in the Old Scotland area but now is busy with homework and volleyball. Chris Allen left for KU while the KU's came to Springfield!

Bolivar

Amy Thompson reports that Sarah Cummings and Thomas Lee are both busy with band now. Andrew Thompson gave up football season for hunting season this year. Jared Van Egdom is looking forward to basketball season.

Greg. Blvd.

Kristi Green is getting married to Greg Loszewski on Nov. 26.

GOODNEWS WORKSHOP PLANNED

Effective writing is an important tool in the communication of the Gospel message. Therefore, training in effective writing should be part of our Christian education.

A "Good News" writing workshop is being planned for the spring of 1995 in Ozark, MO. Bro. Tom Woody has agreed to conduct the one day seminar with the assistance of different brethren with expertise in various areas of writing, i.e., articles for books, publications, bulletins, tracts, or letters.

The workshop will be designed for mutual sharing of ideas and tips for becoming better communicators in the written medium.

If you have any suggestions or interest in sharing your expertise or just attending, contact Tom Woody or Dwain Stoops.

"God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

— 2 Tim. 1:7 —

IN HIS SERVICE

Greetings in the name of the Lord. As you can see a new service has been added. We desire this section to be fun and friendly. We hope to include updates from around the area. We also are open to what you might like to include that doesn't quite fit the intent of the rest of the paper, i.e., prayer request column, question and answer column, cartoons, jokes, inspirational thoughts, announcements, etc.

Dan Green

ANNOUNCEMENT

Greg. Blvd. Church of Christ is having a Ladies' Day on Oct. 29. It begins at 9 a.m. The theme is "What Does God Expect of His Women in Today's World." All ladies are invited.

If you have material or ideas send them to:

Dan Green
9701 E. 77th Terr.
Raytown, Mo. 64138.

Ten Commandments of Friendship

1. Speak to people -- there is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile at people -- it takes 72 muscles to frown, but only 14 to smile!
3. Call people by name -- the sweetest music to anyone's ear is the sound of their own name.
4. Be friendly and helpful -- if you would have friends, be friendly.
5. Be cordial -- speak and act as if everything you do were a real pleasure.
6. Be genuinely interested in people -- you can like everyone IF YOU TRY.
7. Be generous with praise; cautious with criticism.
8. Be considerate of the feelings of others -- it will be appreciated.
9. Be thoughtful of the opinions of others.
10. Be alert to give service -- what counts most in life is what we do for others!

-- Selected.

"Gospel" (Continued from page 1)

another, but they instead made an impression to the world around them. Christ put a more personal touch to this concept by instructing, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* -Matt. 5: 16-

Today's society pushes individuals to push beyond the basics and search common practices for newly found philosophies. Regrettably, I often find myself applying this idea to the pulpit, and, even worse, to my conversation with non-believers. Any person off the street is not going to be converted by a discussion of angels and demons.

It's time that we, as Christians, take the reins like our forefathers and accept the full responsibility of being the "called of God." We were saved because some one took the time to tell us about Christ. *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* -Acts 4:12- We must make our presence known. According to *2 Peter 3: 9*, God wants "everyone" to be saved. We, as sons of God, must adopt this concern for the unsaved, and earnestly try to beckon them back to Christ. The only way to do this is to teach them "about" Christ and salvation. Anything less is a falling short of our duties as Christians.

In my opening citation of *Matt. 28: 19, 20*, I left off the final word "A-men". I left it off because by stating, "a-men" we agree to follow that Great Commission and preach the gospel. My challenge to you, and to myself, is to stand up, accept our responsibility, and pursue the basics of preaching the gospel of Christ.

Jeremy Morris is a member of the Lee's Summit congregation. He meets with the family of God at Ozark during the school year. He is a freshman at Southwest Missouri State University

"A friend is one who walks in when others walk out."

—Walter Winchell

"Not Deceived" (Continued from page 1)

"He that is not with Me is against Me; and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad." - Mt. 12:30. Jesus did not suggest any middle ground.

"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold or hot, I will spew you out of My mouth." - Re. 3:15-16. Jesus re-emphasizes that there are no gray areas. Those who are not serving Jesus, "the Prince of life", are serving their master Satan.

Jesus told the Pharisees, *"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lust of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."* - **John 8:44** How was the devil a murderer from the beginning? He spiritually killed himself by separating himself from God, and attempting to exalt himself above The Almighty Jehovah, which the devil had no right to do. His rebellion severed him from the living God, the only giver of eternal life.

This world is the devil's kingdom. Those living for worldly things or the thrill of the moment, are serving their king, the devil. Do not be surprised if the world paints a rosy picture of the devil. If the world can get the Christian to believe that the devil is a fairy tale, is fiction, that the devil is non-existent, then the Christian will have his guard down and the devil will plunder him.

In **1 Pe. 5:8**, we are told to be alert and watching. Why? Because our arch enemy *"the devil walks around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour"*. Notice it says **"whom he may devour."** It's not **"can he devour us?"** Of course

he can, if we will let him. But the question is **"may he?"**. Will we allow the devil to destroy, or to shipwreck our faith? If our hearts are filled with love for the Lord and righteousness, then there will be no room for the devil.

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" - 1Jn. 5:4.

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

- **1 Cor. 15:55-57**

Glory be to God that Christ has won the victory! The devil has no power over the Christian because Jesus has won the war! But we must win the battles that wage within everyone of us. That battle is between the flesh and the spirit. May our spirit prevail! *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."*

- **Gal. 5:1**

I encourage all to be watching and praying that we be not deceived.

Dan Huff lives in Eldon, MO and works with the church in that locality. He is studying and training for the work of an evangelist under the supervision of the eldership of the Brookfield, MO congregation.

Don't walk in front of me. I may not follow.
Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Just walk beside me and be my friend.

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up
—Ecc. 4:9-10—

"If our hearts are filled with love for the Lord and righteousness then there will be no room for the devil."

EDITORIAL REFLECTIONS

The initial response to "Faith of our Youth" (FOOY) has been very favorable. We are encouraged to continue this effort. Articles continue to come in and others are promised for future issues. Short subjects, as "My Father's Eyes" in this issue, are welcomed and encouraged. They are an excellent medium for expressing ideas and reflections of truth from your study of God's Word.

The format and distribution of "FOOY" has changed since the first issue. A new section, "Here & There" has been added. It comprises news, announcements, and other items of interest to young Christians, as compiled and edited by Brother Dan Green of Gregory Blvd. congregation in KC, MO.

With this issue, we will begin mailing

"FOOY" to interested young people, as well as to each congregation. If you are a young person that would like to receive a copy of this publication, or if you know a young person who would benefit by receiving "FOOY", send names and addresses to the mailing address below.

We continue to encourage young Christians to write articles of faith for future issues. The benefits are twofold. Writing can unlock thoughts and reflections of truth that strengthen faith and perfect character of writer and reader alike.

A special thanks to those who have sent financial support for the publication and distribution of "FOOY". Your contributions are placed in the church treasury, since the congregation is providing the finances for printing and mailing.

DRS

Faith of our Youth

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In His Service

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