

Acts # 85 “Wolf Repellent”

Acts 20:25-38; Phil 3:7-10 ; Genesis 3:1-5

Paul’s headed for some vicious persecution and it’s not going to be pretty as they say.

It's horrific when your own reject you and your message as originating with Satan like the Jewish leaders did to our Lord. *Jesus’ true disciples choose to serve Him no matter what the cost but remember; We can only endure such opposition in the power of God the Holy Spirit through the application of God's Word.*

In other words, the pastor is the under-shepherd because the Chief Shepherd is God Himself.

When you believe in Jesus Christ, you became His sheep; the pastor didn’t purchase you; Jesus did and so, you belong to Him.

Therefore, it’s the responsibility of the pastor to communicate the Word to you but it’s not his responsibility to make you do these things; that’s between you and the Lord Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep.

In regard to these predators, God is the Exterminator; His Word is the repellent and God’s service techs are qualified pastor-teachers.

The wolves are Satan’s agents and their attack is subtle at first, often beginning with kind words of flattery and offers of something far better than what your crumby church is giving you.

They sell a much better environment where there’s always fair treatment, guaranteeing you a place where you’ll be loved and treated as you deserve; a place of true respect for the greater good for the greater number.

We all have three strikes against us: Adam’s Original Sin, Adam’s Sin Nature and as a result, our own personal sin.

The sin nature was acquired originally by Adam’s Fall and then it’s passed on through physical birth and it is the inner source of the human soul’s rebellion toward God.

Our sin nature has an area of weakness which produces personal sins and an area of strength which produces human good; as well as a lust pattern with trends toward legalism or lewdness.

A mental attitude of worldliness along with our sin natures are the two enemies within our souls.

And Satan’s wolves will always attempt to entice us to ignore God’s Word.

In Genesis 3, he led Eve astray from the Word of God by convincing her that the wages of sin is NOT death! *Satan is the designer of all religious systems and not all systems recognize God but many do and Satan has no problem promoting God as long as man’s works are included in connection with God.*

What Satan hates and cannot stand is when people make it personal by trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The woman recognizes God as Supreme Being but ignores any concept of relationship to man; so she’s in innocence and yet she adopts the principle of religion.

Why did the woman add to what God said; that is add to the very Word of God?

Because she did not interpret the Word of God properly.

Death did not lie in the tree; death was in the woman’s free-will decision against God’s instruction.

Eve can now only think in terms of the physical, that death is

in the tree but death isn't in the tree, death is in her decision.

So the entire issue in the Garden of Eden with this wonderful woman was, and remains for all of us also, 'Are you going to believe what God says or are you going to believe what Satan says?'

One of Satan's strongest devices is to persuade us to doubt the promises of God's Word.

The Bible contains approximately 7,000 promises belonging to us related to time only and they represent the application of some specific biblical truth and that doesn't include promises for eternity of which there are many more!

One of the main objectives of the Christian life is to learn God's promises and His doctrines that support them and then mix them with our faith to apply appropriate principles to each situation we face; Hebrews 4:1-2 "Therefore, since the promise of entering

His rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did but the message they heard was of no value to them because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed."

Perfect peace is the result of occupation with Jesus Christ and occupation with Christ is the by-product of biblical truth!

When we are afraid, we can remember Isaiah 41:10: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous Right Hand."

If we face an impossible situation, claim Luke 1:37: "For no word from God will ever fail; lit For with God nothing shall be impossible."

If we lack the necessities of life, claim the promise of Phil 4:19: "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

If we're trying to carry heavy anxieties, fears and worries by ourselves, we're out of touch with God's reality and sooner rather than later, we'll break down under the back-breaking load.