

The School of Biblical Law

Introduction to Law and Grace

Lesson Twenty-Six: “The Devil’s Opposition to the Law of God”

The enemy of God’s people, of God’s purposes, and of the Triune Godhead is the devil. The devil sins or breaks God’s law. I John 3:8-10 (NLT) reads, “But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. Those who have been born into God’s family do not make a practice of sinning, because God’s life is in them. So they can’t keep on sinning, because they are children of God. So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.”

1. Satan is the enemy of righteousness.

Acts 13:9 – 10, “Then Saul, (who also is called Paul), filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, and said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, will thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?”

- Subtilty (#1388) *dolos* – craftiness, deceit, guile, decoy, trick, bait
- Mischief (#4468) *rhadiourgia* – recklessness, malignity, villainy (Vines), crime
- Devil (#1288) *diabolos* – slanderer, false accuser (*dia* – with or through; *ballo* – accuse)
- Enemy (#2190) *echthros* – hateful, hostile, foe
- Pervert (#1294) *diastrepho* – distort, misinterpret, corrupt, turn away

John 8:44, “You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is not truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own, for he is a liar and the father of it.”

2. Satan is an adversary.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about seeking whom he may devour” (I Peter 5:8).

- Sober (#3525) *nepho* – sober, abstain from wine, watchful, soberminded
- Vigilant (#1127) *gregoreo* – keep awake, watch (from base that means to rise out of slumber and collect one’s thoughts)
- Adversary (#476) *antidikos* – an opponent in a law suit (*anti* – opposite, contrast; *dike* – judgment, justice)
- Devil (#1288) *diabolos* – slanderer, false accuser (*dia* – with or through; *ballo* – accuse)
- Devour (#2666) *katapino* – swallow up, drink down, gulp entirely (*kata* – joined, alongside; *pino* – drink, imbibe)

3. Adam and Eve were appointed as rulers of the garden and were told to dress, keep, and subdue (Gen. 1:26-28; Gen. 2:15).

- Have dominion (#7287) *radah* – rule, reign, take over, subjugate
- Dress (#5647) *abad* – work, serve, till, husbandman
- Keep (#8104) *shamar* – hedge about, watch, guard
- Subdue (#3533) *kabash* – tread down, conquer, force, keep under, or bring into subjection

Had Adam and Eve aligned themselves with God’s command “Do not Eat” and used the knowledge and wisdom of that law in their dealings with the serpent, they would not have bitten into his deception and eaten of his delusion. Had they guarded their garden with the Word, they would have cast out the distorted and corrupted lie and, in effect, bound all forward progress of the enemy. They would have subjugated his word and his position to the Word of God. All believers are to deal with the devil as an opponent in a law suit and be prepared to stand on the holy Word of the Law-Giver.