

# View

## How To Beat The Enemy

Here are seven suggestions for beating the devil:

1. **Don't get very far away from God.** Drifting is easy, takes no effort and no plan. All you have to do is just sit there. On the other hand, it's hard to keep on being close to God when there are all kinds of voices telling you you can't do it. Make up your mind to be in the presence of God as often as you can. It just makes good sense. "Draw nigh unto God and he will draw nigh unto you" (Jas. 4:8).

2. **Don't be bedazzled by the shiny trinkets of life.** Was it Shakespeare who first wrote that "all that glitters is not gold." There are lots of things that shine, glow, glitter and they are attractive. But they're fake; they're not real. Counterfeit joy is everywhere. Fake happiness—the kind that looks great and offers no longevity, is being promoted at every turn. True joy is found in peace, not trinkets. True blessedness is possible only in putting what you have—time, talent, even money—at the disposal of those who need you. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world..." (1 Jn. 2:15).

3. **Make that decision.** Indecision is used effectively by the devil. You see, he doesn't have to get you to make an immediate decision to do evil, all he has to do is get you to put off making a decision to do good. Indecision is the basis for indifference, the reason for procrastination, the first choice of the lazy person. You have to make up your mind if you're going to serve God. He doesn't have time for you to wait. You have to make that choice (Josh. 24:15).

4. **Be a part.** To be involved is equal to being intertwined with others. There is strength in being part of a greater whole. You can't draw strength from the rest of the body if you have only a slight connection to it. The closer your connection the greater your strength. The tighter your attachment, the stronger the relationship. Visit stronger members and you will become stronger. Lend your own strength to weaker members and you will lift them up to greater usefulness. Make yourself available and you will soon find your place (1 Cor. 12:25).

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#### Services

Sunday Morning Assembly  
9:30am  
Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Bible Study  
7:30 pm  
Classes for all ages.  
Private classes arranged  
at your convenience.

For more information,  
visit our web site at:  
[www.folsomchurch.com](http://www.folsomchurch.com)

5. **Look out.** Yes, look out. The world is dying in sin and the only hope they have is not to be found in new medications and new methods for health, or in new technology or greater scientific knowledge. You are the hope of the world. Salvation from sin is the hope of the world. Can we sit and let what we have never find its way? Can we fritter away the time while the world perishes? We must reach out to those who need us, care for those who are lost, provide for those who flounder in sin. Where there is opportunity there is responsibility (Gal. 6:10).

6. **Stay calm.** Over zealotness has always been a problem among restorationists. Being right is no good if it causes self-righteousness. We can get so carried away with our vision that we try and force people into our self-constructed molds and end up making the very creeds we're fighting. We can become so enamored with the party that we construct a party line. We need patience, understanding, kind dispositions, a compassionate spirit. Not compromise, mind you, but tolerance (they are not the same thing, you know). We can be right and still be wrong. We are to restore "in the spirit of meekness..." (Gal. 6:1).

7. **Get hope.** Hope is the anchor for the soul. It keeps us from drifting, from being too impressed by the present current. Get hope so that your soul can have some ease. Hope does that: it promotes self-confidence without arrogance, brings assurance without over-confidence. It produces quietude in the midst of turbulence and helps us look up when the world gets us down. Hope is a rock. It keeps us from moving away from the good. Get hope. It helps (Heb. 6:19).

Serious suggestion for conquering the evil one. Good wishes in your effort to do so.

Dee Bowman

## Behold Your God!

On the tableland of God's inspired volume, the Bible, there is one book that has always to this writer risen as a towering monument to the greatness of God – the great prophecy of Isaiah. It is there – lofty, majestic, issuing great promises to the remnant under the Messiah, and at the same time threatening judgments to the enemies of Jehovah. It was this great prophet who called upon Judah to "behold your God!" (Isa. 40:9). Yet an ungrateful nation had rejected God, even as the world by and large has today. It is high time that people, especially those that are His, again begin to "behold our God."

The prophet begins to show God's greatness by setting beside Him the universe which He created. This is the God that "measured the waters in the hollow of his hand" (v. 12). He is the one who "meted out the heaven with the span" (ibid.). Here is a picture of God, holding forth the "span," which was about nine inches, reaching from the tip of the thumb to the

tip of the little finger of out outspread hand. When God made this world, it was almost as if was saying, "here is my span; my world shall be as this to me." And so it was. He is pictured holding a vessel, and in it is the dust of the earth, and he knew every grain. The prophet shows us Judah's God with a scale in his hand, weighing the very mountains! Truly, we serve no puny God!

Isaiah then shows man's insignificance compared to this God. What man is there that is in a position to tell God anything (v. 13)? There is not a one! When God set about His great creative work, to whom did He have to go for advice? Who had knowledge about this process that God did not have? Not a one. Here is a God possessed of omnipotence and need not ask advice of any man.

Every nation is subject to the decrees of God (v. 15). All through Old Testament history the nations were moved at the decree of God. If he decided to use them to achieve his purpose, they achieved it. If, because of their wickedness, God destroyed them, they sat there – immobile and impotent while the stroke of his fury reduced them to nothing. Truly, the nations are "as a drop of a bucket" compared to him. All the earth and all that it contains is not sufficient to give Him what He truly deserves. "Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering" (v. 16). If every cedar was hewn down from Lebanon; if every beast was brought as a sacrifice, they would still far short of a truly sufficient sacrifice. And so in His mercy, God allows man to make the sacrifices that he can make – and God will accept them if they are what he has asked for.

God is far superior to the idol-gods of man (v. 18f). Their gods of sticks and stones, yea even of gold and silver, are nothing compared to Him. The workman may make them, but when they are finished, there they sit – they "shall not be moved" (v. 20). Whatever idol; whatever "god" a man may have will not benefit him. They are merely the work of men's hands and will be destroyed.

And so, "have ye not known? have ye not heard ...?" (vv. 21, 28). Here is a God that never wearies; never grows faint, and will bear those up who will worship and serve Him as the God of the universe. He "hath given power to the faint" (v. 29), to the extent that they "shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (v. 31). This is probably an allusion to the joyous times when the captive nation would return from bondage of Babylon. But can we not enjoy this promise today? As we seek to leave one day what Ronald Reagan once called "the surly bond of earth" and "touch the face of God," do we not realize what a God we have at our disposal?

Yes, "Judah, behold your God!" But also to God's people today, "behold your God!" Serve him; worship him and enjoy his blessings. Fail to recognize his greatness at your own risk and eternal peril.

Bill Moseley