

The Mystery of Evil

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I John 3:8.

B. The business of preaching is largely to reveal how the conditions we face can only be understood through the word of God.

C. Education does not solve moral decay in our society.

II. The power behind this moral decay is beyond human control—it is a superhuman force.

III. Two important thoughts.

A. The devil has been sinning from the beginning.

1. God did not create the devil—he created the angel that became the devil.
2. The devil once stood in the truth but fell from it. The devil sought to take God's place disregarding His law. (Isaiah 12:14)
3. This was a sinful attitude in the heart.

B. Jesus came to destroy the devil's works.

1. The works of the devil are the acts that result from the attitude of sin. (Romans 8)
2. Among these are murder, lying and stealing, which inevitably follow the sin of rebellion.
3. The devil attacks men through sickness, violence and crime—he delights to destroy.
4. Committing sin makes one a slave to sin. (John 8)
5. We do not master sin—sin masters us.
6. Jesus frees us from these works.
 - a. Jesus loosens the bonds of the devil in human life.
 - b. Jesus does this by introducing us to the method He intends for life.
 - c. The resurrection of Christ is the pattern for life.
 - d. To be in Christ is the province of all Christian experience.

e. Christ in us is the power of the Christian experience—this is how God intended us to live.

f. The life of Satan is the pattern for all sin.

g. The world is the province of all sin.

7. Church is meant to introduce us to the work of the Son of God defeating the flesh and freeing us from the work of Satan.

Application questions:

1. What is the difference between the sin and the works of the devil according to the speaker?

2. How does Jesus provide a pattern for defeating the works of the devil in one's life?

3. Is your church active in defeating the works of the devil? What contribution can you make in this great battle against Satan?
