

THE FATHER OF LIES

Today, we have a vast array of tools to spread the message of Jesus. In the AELC, we have been using the internet to promote the Gospel, through www.aelc.org.au. This is a marvellous tool, much like the printing press that at the time of Luther was used to promote the Gospel, as tracts were able to be quickly printed and distributed.

But as we know, the devil can use something good for something bad. So, not only does the internet, and indeed the print media, contain much good information, but it also contains much bad.

In John 8:44, Jesus calls the devil a “liar” and the “father of lies.” Instead of presenting himself honestly and directly, Satan works through animals (Gen. 3ff) and also through people, such as when Peter tries to stop Jesus from going the way of the cross (Matt. 16:21-23).

Recently the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras was held in Sydney. It was reported on the national news of all mainstream media outlets both on the radio and television, and all reported it as something positive for the country. Again, doing a quick Google search on the Internet, one finds numerous articles written about the Mardi Gras, again, all positive.

Most authors of articles and websites, who write about the Mardi Gras, are openly hostile toward God and Christians in general. Often, they make Christians out as being some kind of hate filled people. Christians, indeed, anyone who objects to the Mardi Gras being held, are labelled as bigots and so forth. This is the work of the “father of lies” using the secular media as his tool.

But Satan, as the “father of lies,” has also penetrated the Church. 100 ministers of Christian denominations (mostly Uniting and Anglican) also marched in the parade in support of gays and lesbians. How Satan usually works in the Church is that he gets these false preachers to misquote the Word of God. He will get them to isolate one section or verse of God’s revelation from other relevant passages. This isolating of Scripture makes it appear that God says one thing when He actually is saying another. This corruption of Scripture is what the devil did when he tempted Jesus in the wilderness in Matthew 4.

As God’s children, we can expect to suffer whenever we speak out against an ever-increasing heathen world. We can expect to be called all sorts of things when we ask people to give up their wicked lifestyles and turn to the Lord in repentance. Jesus has paid for their sins as well, and He wants them to receive His forgiveness, but such people often reject this.

As Satan continues to lead more and more away to their destruction, we have a weapon that is more powerful in saving people. It is the sword of the living Word (Eph. 6:17). Living in a hostile world we are to be like the Bereans at the time of Paul who “*examined the Scriptures daily,*” (Acts 17:11). “*How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night,*” (Ps. 1:1)

Satan continues to “*prowl around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he can devour,*” (1 Peter 5:8). How many people does Satan find unarmed, without God’s Word? How many is he misleading to their eternal damnation? Millions upon millions. As the Bible says, in the last days Satan “*will come out and deceive the nations*” (Rev. 20:8)

So many are being deceived into thinking that what was once considered even to the secular world as unnatural is now natural. Society now almost universally

teaches that it is natural for men to love men and women to love women, in a sexual way. The devil, the “father of lies” will continue to use any means he can to promote this message, and that is why there is now even a push for same-sex marriage. It is not a matter of ‘if,’ but ‘when’ this happens.

Because of the increasing wickedness in our society, and in the world all over, it is so vitally important for us to protect ourselves with the Word of God. We all watch television, read the newspapers, listen to the radio, and so on, and the danger is there for us to, too begin to think less of God’s Word, and more of the world. We might not ever join in with such gay parades, but the devil will find something else appealing for us. Sin is crouching at the door, and its desire is for you (Gen. 4:7). We must continue to warn the world of its impending destruction, while at the same time preaching a Gospel of grace, and protecting ourselves by keeping Christ in our minds and everyday lives.

¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication, (Eph 6:16-18).