

THE DEVIL'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED

Dear Friend:

Did you know that a very high percentage of Americans believe in heaven or someplace like heaven? On the other hand, only around 35% of people believe in a literal hell. The number isn't much different with those who profess to be Christians; only 40% believe in a literal hell. I have heard that these numbers are pretty close to what pastors in American churches believe. It should be no surprise that almost half the people in the church do not believe in a literal hell. So goes the pastor – so goes the people.

The Bible names a real and present foe of our faith: the devil. The Greek word for “devil” is diabolos, which means deceiver and “the one who splits”. One of the devil's chief aims is to split you from doing what is right and also to split you from God. I'm pretty sure you already know that. The devil is in the first chapter of the Bible, and he is in the third to last chapter, Revelation 20. It is here that his just punishment is delivered; he is thrown into the Lake of Burning Sulfur where his is eternally punished.

There are three things that you should know about the devil. First: Don't dismiss him. His is not a little man dressed in red with a pitchfork. He is extremely intelligent, knows how to entice and roams around like a roaring lion unseen to our eyes. Don't dismiss him. Second: The devil is a defeated foe – we should declare victory over him every time he tempts us. He was defeated in heaven before the creation of the world. As a Christian he has no power over us – unless we let him. Again, Revelation 20 says his defeat ends in the Lake of Burning Sulfur. The devil is defeated, let's live like it. Third: Be alert to the devil and do not be intimidated by him. If he intimidates you, he has won half the battle. Resist the devil and he will flee from you (James 4:7). The devil's days are numbered, next time he tempts you, remind him of that!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Events: Potluck dinner Sunday after church.

Prayers: Jimmy Barnes (blood clots in lungs), shut-ins, church renewal