

Enemy in Disguise!

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Everything in this life is *temporary* but the next is *infinite, endless, and immeasurable*. We all face a very *long* eternity—and Jesus will make the judgment on our destination. We know the Bible is true, and the love of God in our heart compels us to live in a way that conveys God’s Truth, so that others can find the path to Heaven—which is only through *faith* in Jesus.

We must heed the warnings of possible danger as we journey through life—danger that is *not* always obvious or recognized. If walking through a forest area and coming upon a bear or mountain lion, we would quickly be alerted to the danger and potential harm—putting us on the defense. But if we came upon a deer or doe, we would not be alerted to any harm from such a docile animal.

Therefore, if our enemy were in *disguise*, we would *not think* there would be any potential harm from that person and would *not* be alert or on the defensive. There are two types of enemies—an angry person who could harm us *physically*, and an outspoken person who could harm us *spiritually*. The first would be recognized as an enemy and the other would not.

Someone who could cause *spiritual harm* would be more *dangerous* than a person who could inflict *physical injury*. An unbeliever could have the intention of harming us physically, financially, or in some other way. The spiritual enemy, however—often in disguise—could appear to be a friend but could harm us in the worst way!

Anyone giving scriptural advice or speaking a religious message Titus 1:9 “*Must hold firmly to the trustworthy message [holding fast the faithful word] as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. 10 For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group.*”

There is not much *holding fast the faithful word* of Truth by churches or people today, but there is much *unsound* doctrine spoken and written that has the potential for spiritual harm to the one *listening, reading, or accepting* their doctrine. Titus 1:11 “*They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households [overthrow the faith of whole families] by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain.*”

There are many enemies in disguise in the Bible —One example is King Solomon’s wives, as the close relationship he formed with those who were from unbelieving nations, caused spiritual harm to the king. 1 Kings 11:1 “*King Solomon loved many strange [foreign] women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites.*”

The king married women from these countries even though God told him not to. 1 Kings 11:2 “*They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, ‘You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods.’ Nevertheless, Solomon held fast [clave] to them in love.*”

Close fellowship with anyone who does not love nor live God’s Truth and does not trust Him in faith for every aspect of this life on earth, has the potential to cause *serious spiritual harm*, because that relationship would jeopardize a person’s eternal life—just as it did with King Solomon.

1 Kings 11:4 “*For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.*”

King Solomon was harmed in the *worst* way possible—through rebellion and idolatry! The very ones he loved *most*, hurt him the *worst*—*spiritually* and eternally! His heart turned away from God through their unscriptural influence. These wives did not *appear* to be enemies, but they were the *worst type*—they were *spiritual* enemies in disguise who would cause eternal spiritual harm.

We can safely assume that the king did not consider these wives as enemies at all—but he would have thought of them as loved ones and certainly *harmless*—they were to be cherished. The reality was, however, what the Bible *teaches*.

1 Corinthians 15:33 “*Do not deceive yourselves [Be not led astray]: ‘Evil companionships corrupt good morals.’*”

King Solomon’s apostasy [departure from religious principles] that resulted from close fellowship with these unbelieving loved ones, shows how friends, family members, or anyone can influence another to no longer obey God. Solomon was in God’s will at first, but the relationship he had with unbelievers took him *out of* God’s will.

Jesus warned of this very danger from close relatives, and from those who definitely *should* have our spiritual best interests at heart. Matthew 10:34 “*Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.*” He meant that *spiritual matters* could cause a serious *split* within our own home.

He added 35 “*For I have come to turn ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—*

36 a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' 37 'Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.'

A close friend, a relative, or a family member could be an *enemy in disguise*—even though they can seem to be very loving—like King Solomon's unbelieving wives. Jesus said that we must love Him more than any friend or relative, if we want to be worthy of Him. John 14:15 "If ye love me, keep [you will obey] my commandments."

Anyone, anything, any activity, or any interest that we love more than Jesus, has already become an idol—it means we are unworthy of Him if we cleave to the wrong. And if we are unworthy of Jesus, we are unworthy of eternal life—since Jesus is eternal life. We need divine protection from anything or anyone who could cause spiritual harm—and not depend on our own ability or intellect. King Solomon had exceptional wisdom and intellect, but still was deceived by unbelievers.

If spending our leisure time with a friend, a relative, a co-worker, or anyone else has the potential of our learning ways and attitudes of the world, we must put God first and love Him more than everyone else—even if that would end our relationship with them. If we love anyone more than we love Jesus, they have become an idol—and that must be corrected.

False teachers are *enemies in disguise* and spiritually dangerous. Any religious message that does not emphasize faith and trust on the Atonement Blood of the Lord Jesus for every aspect of life—such as: healing, finances, meeting wrongs scripturally, etc.—must not be accepted, as it could influence us away from these important issues of trust on God.

Access to false teaching today is everywhere—printed material; books; web pages; radio; television, and live-streamed on tablets, phones, and computers, but a spiritual message that may seem okay on the surface or seem to be correct according to the Bible, may omit divine principles of trust on the Atonement Blood of Christ—things that cannot be omitted—if we are to remain in the will of God on important issues.

The one thing we take with us into eternity—our soul—can be taken away by an enemy of God in disguise, and by our own choice to accept something less than the full Truth. Jesus warned Revelation 3:11 "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."

Eternal life is a valuable gift from God—Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Salvation is something we possess by a believing faith in the Lord Jesus. John 6:47 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."

Eternal Life is something we possess and must keep by faith in God. 1 John 5:11 "God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

We all hope to receive an eternal kingdom—and it is a living hope by faith in Jesus. Titus 3:7 "Being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Eternal life is something to harvest by faithful living through the power of the Holy Spirit—Galatians 6:8 "He that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

The next life is infinite and endless, and we can have it by trusting God in this one—giving

up anything or any idol that has come between us and God. We can Mark 10:30 "Receive an hundred-fold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

An enemy in disguise can influence us away from the faith by giving wrong advice. The common teaching of *Once Saved; Always Saved*—which is not true and not taught in the Bible, can jeopardize our eternal life. We must Romans 2:7 "By patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life."

God's eternal kingdom is for those who hold to the Truth they have heard, and know, and live every day. 1 John 2:24 "Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life."

The warning is clear—1 John 2:26 "These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you [try to deceive you; who are leading you astray]." God wants us to have His kingdom—Luke 12:32 "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom;" but we have to want it enough to live by faith in Jesus to receive it.

Paradise is a hope; a promise; and an eternal reality, if we do not allow ourselves to be deceived by an *Enemy in Disguise*, nor be discouraged in difficult times. Galatians 6:9 "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."



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