

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

NO DEVIL IN CHRIST

October 4, 2016

Many years ago a young man began visiting our services, and on several occasions he sought me out to ask questions about spiritual warfare. He was very interested in the subject and told me he had been attending a spiritual warfare seminar where part of the focus was on demonology. He was full of information on all sorts of demons, their sources and their work. I did not offer him the insight on demons that he desired because I would always turn the conversation back to Jesus Christ and his victory at Calvary. Several weeks later he showed up again and was very troubled. He had begun to be tormented by demonic visitations. Apparitions were appearing in his room at night and he began to hear voices threatening his life. He told me how that one night he found himself running down the street fleeing from a demon who was chasing him seeking to kill him. He asked me, "What do you do when a demon is chasing you down the street at night trying to kill you?" My first words might seem sarcastic to some, but I answered, "I cannot remember the last time a demon chased me down the street in the middle of the night." I said, "Listen to me! The word of God says that Jesus Christ destroyed the devil through his death on the cross.

Hebrews 2:14 It also tells me that Jesus *'having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.'* Colossians 2:15 The word of God says that in Christ is where I live. John 15:7 I simply ABIDE IN CHRIST and I know that Satan does not want anything to do with the one I abide in. As Psalms 91 says, I have made the Lord my habitation."

This young man did not receive my answer. It was too simple, and perhaps too unexciting. Yet I knew

that this young man had opened the door for demonic torment through filling his mind with “knowledge” about demonic things. The apostle Paul said, *“I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.”* Romans 16:19 You do not need to understand much about Satan in order to be victorious, but you do need to see Christ in all his victory. There is a simple yet evident truth that every child of God needs to understand; just as there is no sin in Christ; there is no devil in Christ. Anyone who will simply believe the gospel and abide in Christ will live free from both sin and Satan. Jesus said *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”* John 16:33 Those who abide in Christ may walk through tribulation in this world, but they will do it with peace because their dwelling place is in Christ Jesus. In the same manner they may walk through a world of sinfulness, but live a life of overflowing righteousness because there is no sin in Christ who is their habitation. The torments of Satan may be all around, but he cannot torment those who live in a place where Satan does not even exist. This is the reality for those whose life is in Christ Jesus! Our wrestling with principalities and powers is NOT for our own peace and victory, but for those who are still lost and bound in the darkness of unbelief and sin.

May God Bless You,
Pastor Keith Surface
Calvary Outreach Ministries