



I JOHN: WHEN TRUTH IS LIVED
“VICTORY OVER THE DEVIL”

I JOHN 3: 8

JOHN HAS BEEN TELLING HIS READERS THAT TO ENJOY FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD, TO LIVE THE TRUTH, TO EXPERIENCE A “FULLNESS OF JOY”, THEN OUR LIVE SHOULD BE MARKED BY RIGHTEOUSNESS. FALSE TEACHERS WILL ALWAYS TRY TO DESTROY THE TRUTH AND DISRUPT THE FELLOWSHIP. BEHIND THESE FALSE TEACHERS IS THE DEVIL HIMSELF: “HE THAT COMMITTETH SIN IS OF THE DEVIL.” AS JESUS IS THE SOURCE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IN A CHRISTIAN’S LIFE, SO THE DEVIL IS THE SOURCE OF ALL THE EVIL IN THE WORLD. HERE IN THIS VERSE, JOHN TELLS US THAT JESUS CAME “TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL.” OUR LORD CAME INTO THIS WORLD TO WAGE A GREAT FIGHT, AND IN THE RESURRECTION, WE SEE THAT HE WON THAT BATTLE; HE CONQUERED THE DEVIL.

I. THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL

SATAN’S GREAT ENDEAVOR IS TO SEPARATE MAN FROM GOD, AND HE HAS DONE THIS THROUGH “LIES.” THE WORLD IS IN THE SHAPE IT IS IN BECAUSE MEN AND WOMEN HAVE BELIEVED THE LIE OF SATAN. THERE ARE VARIOUS FORMS WHICH THAT LIE HAS TAKEN.

- A. THE LIE ABOUT GOD HIMSELF.
- B. THE LIE ABOUT GOD’S HOLY WILL.
- C. THE LIE ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN AND DISOBEDIENCE.
- D. THE STATE OF THE WORLD APART FROM CHRIST.

II. THE VICTORY OF CHRIST OVER THE DEVIL

JESUS HAS COME INTO THE WORLD TO DESTROY AND UNDO THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL. HIS VERY INCARNATION UNDOES THE LIE OF SATAN, FOR IF THE INCARNATION TELLS US ONE THING MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, IT IS THAT GOD IS LOVE AND THAT GOD HAS LOVED US WITH AN EVERLASTING LOVE. SATAN SAYS, “GOD IS AGAINST YOU”, BUT THE INCARNATION OF JESUS SAYS, “NO, GOD IS LOVE, HE LOVES YOU.” THE BABE IN BETHLEHEM IS A DENIAL OF THE LIE OF SATAN.

LOOK ALSO AT THE LIFE OF JESUS IN ADDITION TO HIS BIRTH. HIS VERY LIFE WAS ONE OF SINLESSNESS—HE LIVED ACCORDING TO THE LAWS AND COMMANDS OF GOD, NOT THE TEMPTATIONS OF SIN AND REBELLION BY THE DEVIL. IN HIS LIFE HE DENIES THE LIE OF SATAN.

LISTEN ALSO TO HIS TEACHING AS HE EXPOSES IN ITS UTTER DEPTHS THE EVIL NATURE OF SIN AND OF WRONGDOING. LISTEN TO HIS INTERPRETATION AND EXPOSITION OF THE LAW OF MOSES IN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT. HE EXPOSES THE DEVIL, EVIL, AND SIN FOR WHAT THEY ALL ARE.

THEN WATCH HIS MIGHTY MIRACLES AND GREAT WORKS. WHAT IS DOING WITH THEM? HE IS DESTROYING THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL! HE IS BREAKING THE CHAINS THE DEVIL HAD PLACED ON HUMAN BEINGS.

NEXT, LOOK AT HIS DEATH ON CALVARY’S CROSS. HE IS DEALING WITH OUR GUILT AND SIN. JESUS IS UNDOING THE CONDEMNATION OF THE LIE OF SATAN. HE IS WIPING AWAY THE GUILT AND SETTING US RIGHT WITH GOD. HE IS RECONCILING US WITH THE LORD. HE HAS UNDONE THE CONDEMNATION OF THE SIN THAT RESULTS FROM LISTENING TO THE LIE OF SATAN.

NOW, FINALLY, LET US LOOK AT THE RESURRECTION. HE IS SHOWING US THAT HE HAS CONQUERED DEATH, OUR LAST ENEMY. WE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM HAVE RISEN WITH HIM AS NEW MEN AND WOMEN—WE ARE NEW CREATIONS BECAUSE JESUS HAS BEEN PLEASED TO SEND HIS HOLY SPIRIT TO INDWELL US. THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL HAVE BEEN DESTROYED AND UNDONE.

TODAY JESUS’ WORK IS CONTINUING. ONE BY ONE PEOPLE ARE BEING SAVED—THEY ARE BEING TRANSFORMED FROM THE KINGDOM OF THE DEVIL AND DARKNESS TO THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND LIGHT. EVERYDAY JESUS CONTINUES TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL!