

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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VOLUME 9 NO. 36

November 4, 2012

Competition for **the Mind**

By Dee Bowman

In **Ephesians 4:26-27**, Paul commanded, "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: neither give place to the devil." This passage is variously translated. Phillips renders it, "Don't give the devil that sort of foothold." Goodspeed's translation says, "You must not give the devil a chance." The Twentieth Century New Testament gives it, "And give no opportunity to the Devil." The thought in all of these is the same: mainly, don't give the Devil residency in your mind.

Someone has said, "You can't keep the birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from nesting in your hair." In the same way, you can't keep the Devil from making periodic trips through your mind, but you don't have to give him a place to stay.



In this age, there is a constant bombardment of the mind by the Devil. He is seeking a place to stay. And one of the ways he does it is by advertising. Our society is addicted to it. Its influence in our lives is astounding.

This competition for the mind is relentless and indefatigable. Just as the means is subtle and effective. Secularism is disguised as success; materialism wears the mask of excellence; free love is passed off as freedom of human expression. The result is indifference toward God.

Those who give over to this cunningly devised plan will find it hard to leave. Once they enter this world of "let me do it

my way," they quickly become so mired that only the strongest will can divorce them from their predicament. The appetite for such loose activities cannot be satisfied and calls for an ever-deepening, always increasing evil just to top the last "satisfaction" they enjoyed.

Such careless subscription to the devil's ploys results in disaster. The giving of oneself to a life without restraint results in a cluttered, undisciplined mind, one difficult to penetrate and often without much feeling for others. Such thinking dampens the spirit of purpose, causes its adherent to be tentative in his plans, temporary in his judgment. It restrains the inclination to grow—intellectually, spiritually, or any other way.

It is short-sighted, foolish to listen to promises of the sort we see everywhere displayed by our adversary. Three things stand out to me as necessary to guard against the Devil's efforts to capture the mind:

1. Make sure your focus is right. Where are you looking? In what direction are you heading? Like Paul, we must "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ

Jesus" (**Philippians 3:14**). The Hebrew writer said of Jesus, ". . . who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross . . ." (**Hebrews 12:2**). We need to set before us the hope of heaven.

2. Develop a determination toward self-regulation in your life. Paul said it was necessary. "But I keep under," (buffet – ASV) my body and bring it into subjection: that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (**1 Corinthians 9:26-27**). The life that is not managed properly vacillates, is tentative, not fixed on course.

3. Return to a regular association with truth. It is just so that we are influenced by our companions. When you tolerate associations with the Devil, you are just apt to be like him. But when you are in constant contact with the truth, it will be the pervading influence in your life. There is a battle raging—a serious, eternal-life threatening battle. We can lose it if we are not careful. The mind is the battleground. Choose your associations carefully and well.

**Another Week Has
Gone By!**

By Steve Niemeier

Hello again from across the Atlantic Ocean. As I sit here and prepare these bulletins before I leave for Sierra Leone it seems strange to talk as if we are already in Freetown!

The Lord has blessed us in so many ways! To my knowledge since I started doing weekly bulletins many years ago I have never missed a week of preparing them. No matter if I am gone in a gospel meeting – on vacation – or out of the country teaching in a foreign land.

The blessings of modern technology allows this to happen as bulletins can be prepared in advance – copied on the copier and put into a location that a good brother can pull out and give each Sunday.

By this time we should have about 8 days or so of the trip behind us. No doubt we are getting worn down but hopefully still full of spirit – that will carry us all the way to the end of the teaching we came to do - that and the prayers that you are offering on our behalf.

For certain – we are missing you and long to be back with you in our work together at Greenwood for the Lord!

Invite Night – Nov. 18st
“Do You Have An Achy
Breaky Heart?”

Our Next Gospel Meeting
March 3-8, 2013 David Lanius
A Mixed Up World
By Frank Jamerson

Human wisdom has rejected the Bible as the word of God and has decided that man evolved from lower animals, therefore they do not want to kill animals, but many of the same people have no respect for human life, therefore advocate unrestricted abortion. It is really a mixed up world!

Some do not want to wear any article of clothing made of fur, or any other kind of animal products, use animals for research or eat meat. According to the doctrine of reincarnation, they may be harming a relative!

What does the Bible say about this? First, if it is a sin to wear animal skins, then God sinned in the garden of Eden, when he "made tunics of skin" and clothed Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:21). When Noah came out of the ark, God said "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with the life,

that is, the blood" (Gen. 9:2,3). God did not know that it was "cruelty to animals" to eat meat. Paul said that one doctrine of those who departed from the truth would be "commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer" (1 Tim. 4:4,5).

John Clayton commented: "Is nature cruel? Do animals possess a sense of self that makes death a personal tragedy? The evidence suggests that the answer is No! The fact that males will frequently kill their own offspring and that many forms of life will eat a member of their group that has died suggests that there are other forces at work. Predation (preying on other animals) is not a wanton and cruel act..."

"If we recognize that living things are not unevolved men but products of a design which ensures survival of the species and are programmed to fit the design, we will be better equipped to manage our world and also will be able to understand acts in nature that many interpret as blatant unwarranted cruelty" (Does God Exist? Sept/Oct, 1990).

The theory of evolution and the Eastern religion's doctrine

of reincarnation have influenced us more than most may realize. When men reject God's revelation, they get values confused and even reversed. In short, if vegetarianism is mandatory, the Bible is false