

“...strengthen thy brethren”



Luke 22:32

CHURCH OF CHRIST

of Genesee County

August 17, 2014

5284 Fenton Road, Flint, Michigan 48507

Welcome All:

We are thankful to have you with us today. The Lord's church here is dedicated to the restoration of New Testament Christianity, respecting both the authority and the silence of the Scriptures.

Again, thank you for worshipping God today.

Schedule of Services

Worship...	Sunday	11:00 a.m.
	Sunday	6:00 p.m.
Bible Study...	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.

www.coc-gc.org

Preacher: Michael Golwitzer (810) 771-4627

Prayer List

Elsie Jaques-health problems
Helen Summers-health problems
Kim Penoyer-breathing problems
Dale Gregory-undergoing testing
Barbara Johnson-health problems
Joyce Stearns-knee pain
Chuck Smith-heart & Sciatic nerve
Earlene Currier-health problems
Lauren Weidner-for encouragement
Marion Wallace—cancer-in TN
Charles Leonard-health problems
Edith Taylor - Bill's mother.
Stan Bozich—friend of Chuck.
Scott Bateman-health
Ruthie Blevins-health problems
Ashley Beaver-health problems
Donna Duford-Betty's daughter.
Art Booth-Aunt Helen's son
Misty Davis— health problems
Margaret Katros-death of husband.

Sermon:

AM The Nature of Jesus Christ's Teaching

PM Jesus Christ's Approval of the Old Testament

Harrison Morgan for our Year End Meeting on the 27th and 28th of December.

Seminar with Rusty Stark

Sept. 26 (“Lessons from Gen. 1 and 2”) Webberville church of Christ

The Devil's Approach

When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, he revealed many of his best tactics. Since Christians are not to be “ignorant of his devices,” every sincere child of God ought to be interested in the following principles (2 Corinthians 2:11).

The devil attacks those who are determined to do right. Nobody can be at peace with God without picking a fight with the devil. Jesus is described as a person who “went about doing good” (Acts 10:38). Immediately before the account of His temptation in Matthew 4:1–11, Jesus had made it clear that He was interested in fulfilling “all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15). Anytime a person chooses to be interested in pleasing, serving, and honoring God, that person can also reasonably expect to begin receiving “fiery darts” from the devil (Ephesians 6:16).

The devil often attacks when people are weakest. Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, and the Bible plainly tells us “he was afterward an hungered” (Matthew 4:2). From the context of Matthew 4 and the parallel account in Luke 4, it appears that the devil waited until Jesus was weak for this attack. Certainly it can be said that people today are weak when, like Jesus, they are physically and emotionally exhausted. However, it is also worth considering that people today are often especially weak and susceptible to sin when they are celebrating a great success or achievement (cf. Proverbs 16:18).

The devil knows and uses Scripture. In tempting Jesus to test God’s love for Him, the devil quoted Psalm 91:11–12, which records God’s promise to preserve and protect those who are faithful to Him. However, Jesus pointed out that while the promise itself was valid, Jesus’ motive in jumping off the temple would have been sinful (Matthew 4:7). Multitudes of false teachers (witting or unwitting agents of Satan, cf. 2 Corinthians 11:13–15) today are likewise guilty of

wresting the Scriptures to their own destruction (2 Peter 3:16). Based on the temptation of Jesus, it should surprise no one that the devil knows the Word of God, and that he twists God’s Word in ways that will cause people to lose their souls (cf. John 8:44).

The devil appeals to a person’s sense of “rights” and “privileges.” The devil wants people to believe that they are missing out on something great by being faithful (cf. Genesis 3:4–6). Look at how he tempted Jesus: “You have the power to change rocks into bread; why don’t You use it?” “God has said He will preserve You; why not have Him prove it?” “The nations of the earth don’t appreciate how great and special You are . . . let me help You get the recognition You deserve!” In every temptation the devil attempts to sow the seeds of doubt. He often does so by implying life would be better if one would take advantage of a sinful opportunity.

The devil is an opportunist. Luke 4:13 states, “And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.” The devil is constantly looking for opportunities to tempt the faithful. Scripture describes him as pacing about “as a roaring lion . . . seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). Christians are promised that if we “resist the devil,” he will “flee from you” (James 4:7). However, the devil will continue to look for an opportune time.

May all Christians be aware of the tactics our enemy uses. —
John Baker