

A GOD WORTH SERVING

Throughout this series we have studied about God and His creation, about Christ and salvation, about Satan and disobedience, about deterioration and restoration, about eternal life and eternal death. Some have called all of this "the great controversy between Christ and Satan." Truly, it has been a great conflict between God and Satan, and has also raged throughout history in the life of every person since the time Adam sinned. Wrong or right? Evil or good? Satan's way or God's way? We have all been in the struggle. God's desire is that we all come out the victors.

It has ever been the course of Satan to distort and defame the character of God so that men and women, in believing such falsehoods, will refuse to serve such a God. He can lie about God, lead men to teach doctrines that make God a tyrant, unloving, a being to be feared. By way of contrast, God can work only in ways in harmony with His nature, which is love, to prove Himself all that He claims to be. This He has been doing throughout all history. But so many have failed to see it. Falsehood and deception are powerful, especially when they lead us to rationalize God's clear will, and thus justify ourselves in continuing in our own natural, sinful way. What a day it is when we find that our only true freedom and happiness is in the acceptance of Jesus as our Saviour and Lord. (See John 8:32,36; 10:10.)

1. What do these texts tell us about the true nature of God?

- (a) 1 John 4:8-10 _____
- (b) Luke 6:36 _____
- (c) Romans 3:26 _____

2. By way of contrast, what does the Bible teach us about the true nature of Satan, the devil?

- (a) John 8:44 _____
- (b) Zechariah 3:1 _____

(Satan, the "adversary," has ever attempted, first with holy angels (Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4), then with mankind, to distort and obscure what the Bible says that God is in question 1.)

3. The two met face to face in the wilderness at the beginning of Christ's ministry. Read Matthew 4:1-11 and jot down every way you can find in which Satan was lying in his attempt to get Christ to sin.

4. In our series of lessons you will recall many references to the work that Christ has done for us all at the cross. John 3:16 is a fine summary of it. But the death of Christ, without having yielded to temptation, accomplished something else that we often overlook. Read Hebrews 2:14 (also in Revelation 12:10; John 12:31-33), and identify this second accomplishment of Calvary.

5. In this state of guaranteed, final annihilation, how has Satan continued to operate against God's people since Calvary? Review Revelation 12:10:
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(No wonder the 1,260 years of persecution (verses 13-16), and the devil's wrath against those who remained after that time (verse 17).

6. If God demonstrated His total and unchanging love by offering His Son for sinners (who could have been left to perish), and if the ten commandments reveal facets of a loving God's character--holiness, majesty, trustworthiness, purity, honesty, etc.--would it not then be the natural thing for Satan to seek to malign the marvelous sacrifice of Christ and His ten commandments since the time of Calvary? Review these two texts:

- (a) 1 John 4:1-3 _____
(b) Daniel 7:25 _____

(Review and compare Matthew 5:17; John 15:10; Romans 6:14; 3:31.)

- (c) Note the beautiful way in which Ellen G. White blends grace and law in connection with the death of Christ: "Had it been possible for the law to be changed or abrogated, then Christ need not have died. But to abrogate the law would be to immortalize transgression, and place the world under Satan's control. It was because the law was changeless, because man could be saved only through obedience to its precepts that Jesus was lifted up on the cross. Yet the very means by which Christ established the law Satan represented as destroying it. Here will come the last conflict of the great controversy between Christ and Satan."---Desire of Ages, page 762.
7. As the result of many of our studies, we know that the "last conflict" is upon us. And as we studied in lesson 28, Satan will, through the enactment of human laws, seek to compel men to obey him and thus force God's loyal followers to disobey conscience and forfeit their allegiance to God. How is the contrast dramatically made in these verses?
- (a) John 14:15 (Psalm 40:8) _____
(b) Revelation 13:16,17 _____


8. For all there is a reward. What is the reward for

- (a) Satan and his followers, in Malachi 4:1?
(b) Christ's followers, in Revelation 12:10? "Now is come _____,
and _____, and the _____."

9. All of the holy angels and the redeemed praise God forever and ever. What do they praise Him for in

- (a) Revelation 4:11; 5:11,12? _____
(b) Revelation 5:13? _____
(c) Revelation 15:2,3? _____

Our God is truly a God worth serving, NOW. There is no way to lose in life if we make the total choice to serve our wonderful God faithfully, but always in His strength (Philippians 4:13). Then we will be ready to praise Him with gratefulness throughout all eternity. If you have already made such a decision, renew it. If you need to make it, the Bible encourages you, "Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts" (Hebrews 4:7). From this point, let us walk together, right into the kingdom of God.

<u>The Nature of God:</u> 1a. _____ 1b. _____ 1c. _____	<u>For what is God praised:</u> 9a. _____ _____ 9b. _____ 9c. _____ & _____	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="text-align: center; flex: 1;"> <u>The Nature of Satan:</u> 2a. _____ 2b. _____ </div> <div style="text-align: center; flex: 1;"> 3. Christ & Satan met in the wilderness </div> <div style="text-align: center; flex: 0.5;">  </div> </div>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <u>Christ's Death:</u> 4. _____ _____ _____ _____ </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> 5. Satan has continued to accuse God and His followers <u>HOW?</u> 6a. _____ 6b. _____ _____ </div> </div>		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"></div> <div style="width: 50%;"> <u>Satan's Reward:</u> 8. _____ </div> </div>		