

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 4- Luke 4:31-37** **47- Jesus' Authority Over Demons- Part 2**

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Luke 4:31-37

Now this passage is only seven verses long- and you might assume that the Divine Truth that this passage contains could be discussed very quickly- but that's just not true because this passage deals with demons and demon possession, and because we live in a day when there is much false teaching- especially about demons- we need to camp here a few weeks so that we can glean all that the Word of God actually teaches about demons and demon possession.

Now as I said last time- every single lost person is dominated by the devil and the power of Satan. The Bible teaches that all lost people are slaves to sin, and every single human being that walks the face of the earth who is not saved is, in fact- a child of the devil. No man is the "master of his own destiny"; that is simply nonsense. You are either a slave to sin or else you are a bondsman of the Lord Jesus Christ- but you are somebody's slave- and you are going to serve somebody.

And all lost people are children of the devil- not because we did something bad- but we are children of the devil by birth- from the very moment of conception- we are all given the very same rebellious and God-hating nature of Adam, and we are all personally guilty of the very same sin of Adam. So we are not sinners because we sin- we sin because we are already sinners.

We have to understand that there are absolutely no good people on earth. There is not one single righteous human being on planet earth. There is none who seek after God, and there are none who follow and obey God without transgression. There are no innocent people on earth- everybody sins, and everybody sins because they want to.

The Bible teaches that the overwhelming majority of people who are on earth today don't commit the heinous and awful acts that you read about. Most people are nice and they go to work and they pay their taxes and they live their lives and they laugh and sing and play, and everything that they do is sin. Please turn with me to **Romans 3:23:**

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

... and look over at the last phrase in **Romans 14:23**

... whatever is not of faith is sin.

So we can see that in addition to sin being all those bad and terrible things that we have all been taught- we can see that sin is, in fact, *anything* that is done for any other reason other than for the Glory of God. Sin is doing *anything*- even preaching and singing Christian songs if what is done falls short of God's Glory, and if it is done without full trust and assurance in Christ as Savior.

So by that definition- it is not hard- but it is totally impossible for any lost person to do anything but sin- because a lost person has no desire to glorify God, and a lost person does not possess faith. So all lost people are utterly devoid of any righteousness, and they are absent any faith, and they do all that they do for every reason other than for the Glory of God. So the bottom line is that every single thing that a lost person does is sin.

But even at that- sinning is not the same things as being demon possessed. All lost people sin constantly. In fact, **Genesis 6:5** says that every single imagination of the heart of every single person who was born after Adam is:

...only evil continually.

So, lost people are all bad - all the time. They are without God, they are strangers from the covenants of promise, and they are alienated from the life of God, and they are without God and without any hope at all in the world.

But even though all of that is true- most people are not demon possessed. Demon possession is very rare and it has only occurred a few times in the 6,000 year history of Man.

Now this is the first time we encounter a demon-possessed person in our journey through Luke. Now as I told you last week- there is not one single incident of any person throughout the 39 Books of the Old Testament being demon possessed. Not one. And yet as Jesus enters the scene- there is an explosion of demon-possessed people that goes all the way through Jesus' Ministry and into The Book of the Acts of the Apostles- and there is a reason for that.

Now, what I want you to get this morning is that it is very significant that the first miracle that Luke records of Jesus is a miracle of delivering a demon-possessed man from that evil spirit living in him.

Because, there is a real world of demons. There is a real world of evil spirits- not to be confused with Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. The world of Harry Potter is a fantasy, and JK Rowland- the woman who created the characters and who wrote the books creates illusions about a nether world, and an underworld, and a spirit world of wizards and magicians, and strange bizarre creatures that have supernatural power.

But the world of Harry Potter doesn't exist. It is the world of fantasy. But there is a real spiritual world and there really are demons and there really are unclean spirits that possess people. And sometimes I think that all of this fantasy and all of this preoccupation with the world of Harry Potter, and the endless fantasies of spiritual beings, and supernatural worlds, and aliens and vampires is somewhat of a clever smokescreen that covers over the true reality of the underworld of demons.

It was no fantasy when Jesus engaged and confronted the forces of hell. It was a real world- a real world of demons. And one of the most fascinating features in the Ministry of Jesus is His encounter with the demons.

The whole subject of spiritual evil in high places, and the whole area of study that we call demonology fascinates people. And unfortunately even in the Christian world- reality and fantasy have merged to create a body of material that is basically very confusing.

If you go into the average Christian bookstore and just take the material out that deals with demons and read it, in the end you would

be probably hopelessly confused about what the Truth really is. But we have to know that it has never been God's Purpose in the Revelation of Scripture to confuse anyone. The Bible was written to make things clear. God revealed Himself on the pages of Scripture in order that we might know the Truth and so that we might understand the Truth and so that we might have the mind of Jesus Christ.

Now the mind of Christ is not a mystical experience. Having the mind of Jesus Christ simply means that we are able to think the same way Jesus thinks and that means to think the very same way that things really are. In other words- to have the mind of Christ simply means that we have a true and full understanding.

Now, it is very important that God's people have a true and full understanding of God. And it is very important that we not deviate with regard to God or else we are guilty of having a false God. It is important that we not have another Christ than the Christ of the New Testament. It is important that we understand the trinity, and the Holy Spirit the way the Holy Spirit truly is. It is important that we understand Salvation- the way Salvation is- because a deviant form of the Gospel damns men's souls.

So why in the world would we think that we are free to mingle Truth with fantasy and err in our understanding about the dark world of Satan- the world that holds the whole planet captive and in bondage?

It is a great personal grief to me that there's so much confusion in the modern Church about so many things- and this subject of demons is just another one to add to your list.

In some ministries- demons have become a major preoccupation. In fact, there are ministries that exist today for no other purpose other than to go around and chase demons out of houses and cars and boats and even churches. But we have to understand, dear friends, that demons don't live in sheetrock. Demons don't live in vinyl couches or cloth pews. Demons live inside of lost people who have opened themselves up to demon possession by a series of ungodly activities.

And this has gotten so out of hand that there are ministries around this area who teach that demons need to be cast out of Christians- which cannot ever be and does not exist.

So suffice it to say that demons have become a major item in many ministries today. But sadly- most of those ministries paint a picture of demons that is not Biblical, and that is of their own imagination and

invention and misrepresents the reality of what demons are and what they can and cannot do. And whenever you misrepresent the reality of satan- you put yourself in a highly vulnerable position. Confusion can be dispelled with Truth, and I don't believe that God's people need to be confused about the demon world, and I don't think we need to be confused about demon possession. But in order to know exactly what the Bible does teach about demons- it requires a rejection of speculation. It requires a rejection of personal experience as the norm that establishes the standard and it demands a careful consideration of Scripture.

And you can go everywhere that Scripture takes you- but beyond that- you cannot go and you must not go- but you certainly can go as far as Scripture takes you, and Scripture is the only reliable and trustworthy source.

And when you're talking about what the Scripture teaches about demons- you're essentially talking about the four Gospels and **The Book of the Acts**.

There is an explosion of demon possession during the time of Christ and the Apostles, and then in the Epistles there is no reference to demon possession at all. And then there will be a greater explosion of demon possession as the apocalypse of **The Revelation** tells us just prior to the return of Jesus Christ when according to **2Thessalonians 2** the Holy Spirit- Who is the Restrainer is removed from the earth and all hell breaks loose as all the demons effect their evil on the world of the Antichrist.

But in the Old Testament and in the time of the Epistles which define for us the Church age- there's no discussion of demon possession. It only explodes on the scene when Jesus arrives. It's as if, as I told you last week, demons did their work in a clandestine way, chose to function in subtleties, for the most part, until Jesus came, and they couldn't remain confined and hidden any more.

Their cover was blown under the power of Jesus as He pulled them out of their hidden places and exposed them and dealt with them. And so we see this very dramatic escalation of demon possession and demon activity in response to the Ministry of Jesus Christ, and we also see His immense and complete power over them all.

So the definitive material on demons is found in the historical records of Jesus' life; Matthew, Mark, and Luke, in particular. John's

Gospel record doesn't mention demon possession. And demon activity is also found in **The Book of the Acts** as we see demons being dealt with by the Apostles of Jesus who also were declaring His Messiahship and articulating the Revelation of the Gospel.

So, as we come to Luke 4:31- we come to the first miracle in Luke, and in this miracle Jesus casts a demon out of a man. And we also come to a turning point in the big picture of Luke. Up to chapter 4 verse 30- Luke has been concerned with the Person of Jesus Christ.

Everything up to this point has focused on Jesus' Person. He is the promised Messiah. He is the One John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Messiah, announces. He is the One that the angel Gabriel proclaims will be born to the virgin Mary. He is the One Who fulfills the Abrahamic, Davidic, and New Covenant promises. He is the One who fits the Davidic genealogy. So, all that Luke has said up to this point focuses on the Person of Jesus Christ- through the testimony of angels and men and God Himself as to His Person.

But now we have a transition here, and Luke looks at not the Person of Jesus so much, but on the Power of Jesus. If Jesus really is the Messiah- if we are to believe He is- then Jesus has to demonstrate that He has power beyond any human level. And so Luke begins at this point in **Luke 4:31** to tell us that, in fact- Jesus does have this kind of supernatural Power over all teachers and over all teaching. He has Power over all disease, He has Power over Nature itself, and He begins in verse 31 by showing us Jesus' great and full Power over demons.

Luke 4:31

And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the Sabbath;

Now as I told you last week- when it says that Jesus came "down" to Capernaum from Nazareth- it really means "down" because Capernaum is 2,000 feet below Nazareth. The city of Nazareth is 1300 feet *above* sea level and Capernaum- which is only 20 miles away- on the shores of the Sea of Galilee is 686 feet *below* sea level- so Jesus literally came "down" about 2,000 feet- after He made everybody mad in the synagogue back in Nazareth. You remember that all the people that Jesus grew up with wanted to throw Him off a cliff because He preached 1-1/2 verses of Isaiah 61.

So Jesus goes down to Capernaum and began to preach to those people.

And they were all amazed at His teaching because they had never heard anybody preach like this before with such clarity of mind and such precision of vocabulary, such mastery of the language, mastery of thought, and such power of conviction- all of it was in Jesus and in His preaching.

So they were astounded at His teaching. And His message came with Divine Authority. And according to the verb in verse 31- Jesus was in the process of teaching when there was a man, verse 33, in the synagogue possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon and he cried out with a loud voice,

Let us alone! What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!

Now we don't know this for sure- but it makes sense that Jesus was teaching exactly the same thing that He taught back "up" in Nazareth- reading out of Isaiah 61- and explaining to the people of Capernaum that He is the fulfillment of that passage, that He is the Messiah, and that He has come to preach the Gospel to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and to set free those who are downtrodden.

So what Luke is telling us here is that Jesus has boldly walked right into the kingdom of darkness where sinners are kept in spiritual poverty and where they are kept as spiritual prisoners and where they are spiritually blind and spiritually oppressed, and He has come there to utterly destroy the works of the devil- just like **1John 3:8** says, and He has come to set those prisoners free.

In other words, Jesus has come to destroy the kingdom of darkness and to rob satan of the people that he has taken captive, and to forcefully rip them out of the kingdom of darkness and transfer them into the Kingdom of light.

And in the midst of making that declaration and preaching that message, a demon screams out from inside a man.

Now there are a lot of questions that I have at this point. But here is one that we need to try to discover. Why does Dr. Luke begin his record of Jesus' miracles with this one? Why didn't Luke talk about

the miracle at the wedding at Cana-like John did? Why does Luke begin with this one? And the most obvious answer to that question is that Luke wants to emphasize to Theophilus and to us the Divine Power and the total Authority that Jesus has over the devil and over demons.

Luke understood- as we should all understand- that all human beings are already in satan's kingdom at the very moment of conception. All lost people by reason of their birth are in the kingdom of darkness. Lost people don't have to actually *do* anything wicked in order to be slaves to sin- they are *born* as slaves to sin. And the Bible teaches in **Ephesians 2:1** that all human beings are born dead in trespasses and sin in whom the god of this world literally works.

The Apostle John said in **1John 5:19** that the whole world lies in wickedness. The devil is the spirit who works in the children of disobedience; he is the god of this world who has blinded their minds.

Satan is the one who holds the sinners all their lifetime in bondage according to **Hebrews 2:14**. And the whole world is captive to the kingdom of darkness. The entirety of all mankind is by default the children of the devil according to **John 8:44**. And that is the offensive part of the Gospel.

If in anyway- anybody thinks or believes that they are good people, if they trust in their own inherent goodness, if they believe that deep down inside they are basically good people- then there is no possible hope that they can ever be saved. Salvation does not come to any good people, dear friends- Salvation only comes to lost sinners- to the weak and desperate and hopeless, and Salvation is only for those who are held captive by satan and those who are prisoners to satan's devices. So if you lay claim to being free - then you cannot be saved.

We have to understand, beloved, that if you are good- then Jesus did not die for you, and you are left to yourself. Jesus said in **Luke 5:32**:

I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.

... and if you argue about whether you are a sinner- then you must know that the Death, Burial, And Resurrection of Jesus is not for you.

This is the issue that had made the people of the synagogue up in Nazareth so mad at Jesus- that after reading just 1-1/2 verses in **Isaiah 61**- they wanted to throw Jesus off the cliff.

The idea that man is lost and undone is patently offensive to Man- but when you add to that the Biblical Truth that not only are we lost- but we also cannot do anything about it apart from the Sovereign Working of God's Mercy- now you have war on your hands.

The notion that I cannot and do not choose God- but that God has to wondrously and Mercifully choose me is insulting to human pride, and the concept that unless and until God's Spirit Sovereignly invades my life I cannot even desire to serve the Lord is an affront to human dignity; which is why they hated Jesus.

But if it is true that Jesus came to set the prisoners free and to make the spiritually impoverished rich and to give sight to the spiritually blind and to deliver those who are downtrodden or oppressed- then He's going to have to break the power of satan and demons over the souls of men.

And there has been a great debate in recent years on the issue of Justification, as there has been much effort by a lot of people to redefine Justification in very broad and sweeping terms which allow Biblical Justification to embrace both Protestantism and Catholicism.

So in response to this heresy- there has arisen the necessity of clarifying the Doctrine of Justification and to teach it properly and to teach it fully so that people will know what God's Word says about this rather than just what is popular.

And in that discussion there's a lot of things being written. And I am reading many, many things on this subject- and I read about regeneration and I read about conversion and I read about justification and I read about redemption and I read about adoption, but there's one feature of Salvation that I rarely ever read anything about, and it's unfortunate because it's a very critical issue and that is the element of Salvation that is called "Deliverance".

Now there is much written and said today about this word Deliverance, and we see many so called "deliverance ministries" popping up all over the place where they say that they cast out demons and deliver people from all kinds of diseases- but that is not what true Biblical deliverance is.

True Biblical Deliverance is when Jesus Christ goes into the kingdom of darkness and singlehandedly and forcefully and violently takes people who are held captive by satan, and Jesus delivers these people into the Kingdom of God. When is the last time you read a book

or even an article on the matter of deliverance that says when a person becomes a believer- they are not set free to then go and do whatever is in their heart to do- but when a person is truly delivered- they are delivered from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son. They are delivered from darkness to light- from sin to righteousness; They are delivered from living their lives to their own self-centered ways to living their lives totally abandoned to the Glory of God.

That's what Salvation does. Salvation is deliverance, dear friends, and Salvation takes us out of the sovereign dominating power of Satan and puts us under the sovereign dominating power of Jesus Christ. And, therefore- we are no longer slaves to sin, we are no longer slaves to the lusts of our flesh and the lusts of the eyes and the pride of life- but we become the slaves of righteousness- to use the language of **Romans 6**

Deliverance is an issue that needs to be grasped by the people of the modern Church. And I am not content to allow these self-styled prophets and apostles to define what is and what is not deliverance because they don't really know themselves.

Deliverance in the proper and Biblical context of Salvation is a great concept, isn't it? If it is true that we are prisoners of satan and prisoners to darkness, if it is true that we are slaves to sin, if we are in bondage to the devil, if we are in those fortresses of **2Corinthians 10**, and if it is true that we are locked inside those massive granite fortifications of hellish ideologies and we need to be liberated- if that is our true condition- then Salvation is our Deliverance.

And that's why **2Corinthians 10** says that we come with the Glorious Gospel- which is the Power of God unto Salvation, and when the Gospel is rightly and fully preached, when the Gospel is unleashed on these prisoners and on the fortifications that holds them in bondage, and when we are not ashamed of the Gospel, and when we do not try to dull the edge of the sword by compromise, and when we do not try to change the Gospel because it is so offensive- then God Almighty takes the Gospel- and the Gospel smashes the fortifications, and Jesus rescues the prisoners and leads them captive to Christ. And that's really what evangelism is.

True evangelism is not about drawing people to the stadium with promises of sports stars and movie stars and then do a divine bait and switch and try to fool people into getting saved- true evangelism is all

about preaching the Glorious Gospel without fear or fail and allowing God's Spirit to do the work inside the dark human heart that is enslaved to satan, and stand back and see the Salvation of the Lord.

Now here is how we tie all this together. If we are going to be delivered from the power of Satan- which is no small thing- if we're going to be delivered from the world of demonic power and influence- then Jesus Christ- Who is our Deliverer must have complete Power and Authority *over* that evil kingdom, right? Jesus cannot possibly deliver anyone out of satan's kingdom unless and until He has full Authority and full Power over that wicked kingdom.

Now from what Luke has already told us in the beginning of Chapter 4- we already know that Jesus had Power and Authority over Satan for Himself- because one of His Credentials as Messiah is the fact that when He was personally tempted by Satan- Jesus was totally triumphant. So we already know that Personally- Jesus can resist all of the tempting power of satan.

So what we need to know now from Luke is whether Jesus can break the power of satan for us- the sinners. Because it's one thing for Him to resist the power of Satan in His Own holy Perfections- but it's quite another thing for Jesus to break the power of Satan over an unholy sinner. And that's why Luke starts at this point.

If we're going to talk about the Power of Jesus- then let's talk about the place where that Power has to be in effect. Jesus came to save sinners, and sinners are slaves of Satan- they are the children of the devil, and they are literally controlled by the spirit of satan working in them, and they are under complete demonic control by virtue of the fact that they are lost and not saved. That's what it means to be lost- you are a child of the devil.

Lost people are held in complete and total bondage, and there are massive and powerful and high and wide reinforced fortifications of demonic ideologies that holds every lost person as a literal prisoner. What we have to know is that every single lost person- no matter how nice they may be and no matter how gentile they may be- are, in fact, totally and completely imprisoned in these dark and demonic fortifications.

And so, if Jesus is going to deliver them, if He's going to justify them, if He's going to redeem them, if He's going to regenerate them, if

He's going to adopt them- then He is also going to have to forcefully and violently deliver them or else nobody gets saved.

That's why the Apostle Paul on the road to Damascus was told by the Lord Himself that he was going to go and preach deliverance. All preachers preach deliverance. Every true ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ is a ministry of deliverance. You and I are going to preach deliverance.

And I really don't think that very many people of the modern Church know that today. They have been so conditioned to believe that only certain people preach teach deliverance, that only certain gifted people pray and interceded, that only certain people are specially anointed to rescue people out of satan's prison. But that is simply not true.

I meet people all the time- I speak to them in person and I receive their phone calls who honestly believe that born again Christians are literally under the constant terrorizing by demons. People want me to cast demons out of their cars and out of their houses and out of the sheetrock in their houses. One man recently called me to ask me how to cast the demon who keeps bumping his wall at night out of his house. When I told him that demons inhabit people and not sheetrock- he got angry at me and then sent me a book where a self-appointed and unaccountable so called "apostle" wrote about certain prayers that will remove demons from walls and cellars and attics and even go carts.

I remember a few years ago reading a book in which there was a chapter on, "The Demon of Post-nasal Drip," and that somehow there was a formula that you could call against this demon to make your noise stop running. One woman wanted me to cast out the demon of gluttony and I gently told this precious soul that stuffing yeast rolls by the dozen down her throat was an issue of self-control- not demons, and she got mad and left. She attends a church now, I understand, that they regularly cast this same demon out of her along with the demon of Krispy Cream Donuts.

There are ministries today all over the country in quote/unquote evangelical Christianity where the assumption is that whatever is wrong in your life as a Christian must be due to some demon that's in you and that needs to be exorcized. I'm telling you- it will break your heart. These precious souls fail to understand the great and powerful and wonderful Truth about true deliverance.

The fact of the matter is that genuinely saved people do not tremble in front of the demons- the demons tremble in front of the Christ who lives within us. And we need to understand that. The truth of the matter is that we have absolutely no reason to be afraid of demons as long as we are truly saved, and it is also true that demons have no reason to be afraid of you either. Demons do not fear you- they fear Jesus, and if Jesus is not inside of you- you are a sitting duck. And if Jesus is living and walking inside you- then all the power of hell put together cannot touch you unless it is God's Will and unless God gives them permission- which He sometimes does for His Own Glory.

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ has put satan under our feet. **James 2:19** says that even if there are many people in the modern Church who don't believe that and who don't know that- the demons know it and they believe it so strongly that they tremble.

Demons are afraid of Jesus. They are not one bit afraid of you or me- but they tremble in fear at Jesus. And not only do demons fear Jesus- but false prophets- who are guided by demons- they fear Jesus, too. Please turn with me to **1John 4:4**:

You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

Now here the Apostle John teaches that we are of God and have what? We have overcome "them". Well who is "them"? Is this demons? No. This refers to the false prophets and false teachers who follow Gnosticism and who deny the full humanity of Jesus Christ. Please look at **1John 4:1-3** with me:

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;

3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

Now people read this and automatically assume that when John uses the term "spirits" here that he is referring to demons- but that is

not true. The word that John actually used here is the Greek word *pneuma*- which means: *a person who is motivated or led by a spirit*. Now to confirm that this is true- please look at the reason why John warns us about this at the end of verse 1:

... because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

So John is not referring to demon spirits here- but, in fact, to human beings- who are demon led and demon motivated- who are trying on purpose to deceive God's people. And that tells us some very interesting things about these people.

First of all- if they are truly demon led and demon motivated- then they are not truly saved. So genuine heretics, genuine apostates, cannot be saved, they cannot ever have been saved, and the Bible teaches that they will never be saved. Hold your finger here and turn to read **Jude 4**:

For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Now first of all- Jude says here that these are "certain persons". So this is a very select group of people. The Apostle John says "many false prophets have gone out into the world" and here Jude says, "certain persons".

So we see that while this is not rare- everybody you don't like and even some who are teaching bad things does not automatically make them a heretic or a false prophet. A false prophet is confronted with his false teaching and categorically rejects what the Bible says and goes on to teach his heresy. But look further into what Jude teaches here. These persons:

... crept in unnoticed

These false prophets, these heretics, these apostates- snuck into the Church while the leadership of the Church was asleep at the wheel. You see part of the calling of Elders is to guard whatever is being taught in the Church. If the Pastor or a visiting Evangelist begins to teach things that are contrary to the Word of God- then it is the duty of

the Elders to stop him. And that very seldom happens today. And the reason why Elders don't do this today is not because Elders are polite- it is because most Elders don't have a clue what is correct and they wouldn't know if somebody was teaching false Doctrine or not.

So heretics sneak in when the leadership is asleep at the wheel. Jesus said that while men slept the enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat. False doctrine that is controlled and motivated by demons always comes into the Church when there is no leadership or where there is real weak leadership. A strong, Biblical Church has godly and qualified male leadership in all positions in the Church or else false doctrine is sure to come in.

Part of the problem in the modern Church is the role of women in leadership positions. The Bible teaches that women are the weaker vessels, and when women lead in the Church- false teaching is certain to come.

The Apostle Paul rejected female leadership because of two very important Biblical reasons found in **1 Timothy 2:12-15** when he wrote:

12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.

13 For it was Adam who was first created, *and* then Eve.

14 And *it was not* Adam *who* was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

15 But *women* will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

Verse 13 says that the first reason why Women cannot be Pastors or Elders in the Church is because of the Divine order of Creation. God did not make Eve at the same time or in the same way that He made Adam, and that is significant.

The second reason is found in verse 14 which teaches that it is far easier for women to be deceived spiritually than it is for men to be deceived, and, therefore, part of the godly role of men in the Church and in the Home is to guard what their wives are feeding on and what their wives believe.

Demon-led and demon-motivated females have taken control of many churches and many homes today, and men have not only been emasculated- but they have been silenced into accepting an ungodly and

unbiblical role and an ungodly pattern in the home and in the Church, and Jude says that this is all because the leadership was asleep and negligent about teaching what is right and true and godly. Now look further with me into **Jude 4**:

... who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation...

These people were never saved, they will never be saved, and, in fact, they cannot be saved. These are emissaries of satan and are not fertile ground for the Gospel. The only things that the Church can do with these people is to identify them as soon as possible and mark them as the heretics that they are and cast them out of the Church before they deceive weak and simple minds. Now go further with me into **Jude 4**:

... ungodly persons ...

They are called spiritual and apostles and prophets and seers and great men and great teachers and great leaders and great people - but they are not any of that. All that these people are is ungodly. That is all that the Bible calls them- ungodly. They are not anything else but ungodly. Now go still further into **Jude 4** with me:

... who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

This is the three main areas of false teaching that all heretics and false prophets teach. It is only three:

1. They do great damage to Grace. They either *abuse* Grace by saying that it doesn't matter how you live your life after you are saved or they *ignore* Grace and say that we can earn righteousness by what we do.
2. They deny or pervert the Character and Nature of God the Father
3. They attack the Person of Jesus Christ in either His full Deity or His full Humanity

In John's case back in **1John4**- the Gnostics were fully accepted that Jesus was God- but they denied that Jesus was really a human being. And so look at what John says in **1John 4:2&3**:

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;

3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

So there is not one antichrist as so many people teach today- but there were many and the many antichrists already on the earth at the time that John wrote this Epistle. So antichrists are demon-led and demon-motivated lost people who sneak into the Church while the leadership is asleep and neglecting of their duty to guard the souls of the sheep, and these evil ungodly men come into the Church for the sole purpose of perverting the right way of the Lord and to deceive the people.

And the reason why I took time with this, this morning, is because this is the main way in which demon powers are at work in our day. Primarily demons work today through false teachers, and spiritual warfare is the battle over the mind in what you think and what you believe and what you accept and how you put all the pieces together.

So we must know that we don't have to "bind the devil" in our day, dear friends, Jesus has fully bound satan, and he is totally and completely bound and cannot operate in any capacity throughout all of God's Creation other than what God gives him permission to do.

So we do not engage in spiritual warfare, dear friends, by rebuking satan and by praying certain prayers- but we engage in spiritual warfare by teaching the Truth and allow our minds to be transformed into the mind of Jesus Christ because greater is He that is within us than he that is in the world

Let's come and pray

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.