

Liberation Part 1 1 John 3:7-9

He came to Destroy the works of the Devil 1 John 3:8

⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. ⁸ He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

Jesus came into the world – to Destroy something!

A) You probably never thought about Christmas in that way before – but it is true –

B) When Jesus entered the world – that first Christmas morning as the baby born in Bethlehem – He entered a war zone!

1) He entered this world – on a Seek and Destroy and Rescue mission! –

C) Covert at first – A Baby – nothing threatening about a Baby - Or was there

1) think about it – Satan inspired King Herod to kill all the babies in Bethlehem just to destroy this one child.

D) We often forget that part of the Christmas story – amidst all the carols – the Wise Men – the Angelic choir – the sparkle of the season

We forget that the Christmas story – included the brutal massacre of a bunch of babies –

A) All the babies - 2 years old and below in Bethlehem were slaughtered

B) In a Satan inspired effort to destroy this one little BOY – born to Joseph and Mary.

The Babe of Bethlehem came into this world – not only as a King but as a Warrior.

A) I enjoy watching War Action movies –

B) Especially one's set in mid evil times or like Lord of the Rings – Biblical – Jesus is a Warrior

1) Our text tell us that He came into this world – specific mission- **To Destroy the works of the Devil**

C) He Entered into the war zone – called planet earth

Back during World War II a little boy and his dad were driving home on Christmas Eve. They drove past rows of houses with Christmas trees and decorations in the windows. In many of the windows the little boy noticed a star. He asked his father, "Daddy, why do some of the people have a star in the window?" His daddy said that the star meant that the family had a son in the war.

As they passed the last house, suddenly the little boy caught sight of a lone evening star in the sky. "Look, Daddy, God must have a son in the war, too! He's got a star in his window."

D) Indeed, God has a son who went to war,

1) Christmas is the celebration of the appearing on earth of God's eternal Son. And the reason he appeared is to destroy the works of the devil

E) The people who will experience the fullest meaning of Christmas this year

1) are the people who know that there was something in them that needs to be destroyed

The war started several thousand yrs prior to Jesus birth – in a garden – the garden of Eden.

A) God made man – Male and female – Husband and wife – MISSION

Aa) Be fruitful and multiply – beyond procreation - involves their destiny!

B) Human kind was made to be image bearers of God!

1) Part of the mission – Reflect God in this new world – IMPORTANT

C) To Make more image bearers – who will form communities of Justice - generosity beauty and faithfulness

Another part of the mission was to take care of God's planet –

A) Stewardship – take care of what he had put into their hands – One rule – Don't eat..... evil- DIE

B) Adam and Eve – ate – Sin entered the world – Cursed

1) Adam's Curse – not work – made to work – but that work would be hard

C) Curse for the women – Pain in child birth – and this desire to constantly rule over her Husband

D) The curse on the serpent – crawl on his belly – legs

But then the Lord said this to Satan:

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” Genesis 3:15

A) Enmity = hostility and hatred – WAR

B) For thousands of years the forces of light and darkness have been at war! – Star wars – Dark side – true

C) Note our text again And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” Genesis 3:15

D) Your seed and her seed – the woman doesn’t have seed – that man does – this was a prophecy of the virgin birth!

1) You shall bruise his heel – he is going to be wounded by you – but he is going to crush your head – Destroy you!

Jesus Came To Destroy Something

A) What did Jesus come to destroy?

- The works of the Devil

B) What are the works of the Devil?

- Distort man’s view of truth: Did God really say?

You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. John 8:44

He wants us to question the word of God.

A) Part of this tactic

B) What are the works of the Devil?

- Distort man’s view of truth: Did God really say?
- Distort man’s view of God: - Not die – like God - God is holding out on you.

C) Ultimate goal is to tempt man to act independently from God

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness- 1 John 3:4

A) Lawlessness is living as though your own ideas are superior to God’s.

B) YOU BECOME YOUR OWN GOD

C) Lawlessness says, "God may demand it, but I don't prefer it."

1) SELECTIVE OBEDIENCE – we pick and choose what we want to obey!

D) People who ignore whole parts of the Bible – that don’t fit with their lifestyles

1) Big one today – pre-marital sex

E) An article that came out from Pew research last month – results of a survey conducted in June and July of this year

1) Stated that 76% of those young adults 18-29 who put protestant as their religious affiliation – cohabitation outside of marriage was ok

F) 76% of Protestant and 74% Catholics in the same age range –

1) Ignore the part of the Bible – Abstain from sexual immorality =. Lawlessness

Lawlessness says, "God may promise it, but I don't want it."

A) I will chart my own course – I will create my own way –

B) that is the tactic of the Devil – you know better than God -what's best for you!

C) Lawlessness replaces God's law with my contrary desires.

D) Lawlessness is rebellion against the right of God to make laws and govern his creatures.

1) WE CAN GOVERN OURSELVES –

E) Remove the ten commandments from our courtrooms and School classrooms –

1) so we don’t have to see his laws

F) We will create our own laws – We will do what is right in our own eyes

1)That has REALLY WORKED OUT WELL FOR US -RIGHT?

Jesus described Satan as a thief who comes to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. – John 10:10

A)**The Results of the works of the Devil:** Bondage to sin and lawlessness

We get addicted to trying to please ourselves

B)**Fear – Fear if ever be satisfied – Fear of – ever find purpose**

Fear of being alone - fear of death

C)**Condemnation – Plagued by the guilt of our sin**

D)**Frustration and discontentment – Never experience lasting Satisfaction**

1)Mick – **Can't get no.... tried and I tried** – can't get no - Anthem of a generation – and the experience of all of humanity

E)**Jesus came to Destroy all of that**

1)Destroy - means to loose, release, break, to set free what is bound.

How Did Jesus destroy the works of the Devil ?

A)**The text gives two answers and we need to ask how these two are related to each other.**

B)**Two Answers—His Appearing and the New Birth**

His appearing – He was manifested - He came into this world – He was visible for all to see!

Turn to 1 John 1:1

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—² the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. – 1 John 1:1-4

Jesus was the manifestation of Real life! – Life of Joy – Pleasing God

A)**He was the manifestation of truth – John 14:6 I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the Father except through me**

B)**His very life was this declaration of truth! He was a living breathing revelation that God's word could be trusted**

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:31-32

C)**God's truth was not meant to hold back or to keep us bound or from experiencing anything - meant to set us free**

D)**Jesus lived the best life ever – by living according to God's standard**

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. John 8:34-36

E)**He manifested the truth**

He manifested the Father – clear up the distortion – what is God really like.

A)John 14:9 – **Seen me you have seen the Father**

B)**Jesus revealed the Father to us**

C)**His love – his compassion – His mercy and grace – perfectly seen in Jesus**

D)**As well as his anger at religious hypocrisy and when “Spiritual leaders” abuse and take advantage of God’s people.**

But His appearing also involved the Mission – to destroy the works of the Devil

A)**But in order to do that He would have to be bruised –**

B)**Remember the decree in the garden – God said to Satan – you will bruise his heel**

1)**But he will crush your head!**

C)Jesus was bruised at Calvary – Wounded for our transgressions – trespasses – willful disobedience

1)bruised for our iniquities – grossly immoral behavior

D)Jesus took all of that upon himself at the Cross – Part of the rescue mission – A ransom had to be paid

1)His life for ours – was the COST

¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage- Hebrews 2:14-15

E)He broke the Devil's grip over humanity – Hebrews 2:14-15 – Destroy = Rendered Powerless

The writer of the book of Hebrews likened the Christian life to that of running a race – when he said Hebrews 12:1-2

let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. -Hebrew 12:1-2

Note: who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,

A)The Joy that was set before him – Well done – also you and me brought into the family – he endured the cross and shame

B)Endured is not barely hanging in there – Picture naked – crying out my God my God – desperate and weak – broken

C)Nothing could be further from the truth – endured = **Hupomeno – To conquer**

D)He conquered so that we would no longer have to be conquered – He finished – so that we could know that we could finish

1)He won -so that we could be winners

E)That was the byproduct of his appearing – but that leads us to discuss the second way our text described that he destroyed the work of the devil

He destroyed the works of the Devil through his appearing – And thru– providing us with new birth

A)He brought new birth to us–back to chapter 3:7

⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. ⁸ He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

B)He brought new birth – His seed in us – born again – Jesus didn't just die – but he rose and lives

1)Whoever believes in Him – his work on the cross – Born again – Spirit to life – His spirit in us =

C)His seed in us = His spirit in our lives – His nature – new nature

1)Like his – desire to honor God with our lives

D)Which is why John says - Whoever has his seed in them – his spirit cannot sin = practice sin is the idea and context – NOT SINLESS PERFECTION

1 John 1:8 - If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

E)We all sin – Miss mark – none is perfect - but there is a difference between sinning – and living in sin.

The person who is born of the Spirit – has His seed in them -his spirit is not going to live in Sin –

A)Or at least not for very long – because God's Spirit is in them

B)One of the Holy Spirit's job is to convict us of sin -Rob that is Wrong – Repent – turn

C)Condemnation pushes away – Conviction pulls us in – deal with the sin

D) ⁹ If we confess our sins, (Confess = to say the same as – no longer rationalizing or making excuses) He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

Jesus destroyed the work of the Devil's power over our lives – by giving us his spirit!

A)Peter described it as being partakers of a Divine nature

² May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.

³ By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. ⁴ And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires. 2 Peter 1:2-4 NLT

Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord – Zechariah 4:6

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things. Romans 8:31-32

³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Romans 8:37

Contrast – Results of

Satan's work -/

Bondage to sin
Fear
Joy
Condemnation
forgiveness
Frustration/ discontentment

Jesus Victory

Freedom from sin
Confidence and
Acceptance /
Abundant life

How? Romans 12:19-21

Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:19-21

A)War is doing good in place of EVIL – We recover our original identity in being image bearers of the Lord.

B)We are actively engaging in the war as we live right now for Jesus in this world – and seek to do good.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. Matthew 5:14-16 NLT

C)This Christmas – let your light shine bright – do something kind to someone else.

So this Christmas let's remember that Jesus came into the world to destroy something in us –

A)the works of the Devil – foothold

B)But let's also remember that Jesus recruits us to be a part of the War effort

C)Because Satan is alive and well – He is still actively at work in the lives of most of the people living in this world

C)But we are called to be image bearers of Jesus –

D)That is The way we live can be actively Destroying the Devil's foothold