

## OH THE DEPTHS

Sunday Sermon

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### INTRODUCTION:

Human beings are trained through site to judge things according to what can be seen. It is natural to man to think those things seen are more real and tangible than those things not seen. We know in the Christian Life, this is not the case. The majority of the things pertinent to the Believer are spiritual and unable to be seen.

The expression “more than meets the eye” illustrates there is more to reality than what can be seen. Unfortunately, this is also true of Satan. Because Satan is a spiritual being, he can operate in situations in ways make things seen just the beginning point of reality. What is beneath the surface cannot be seen. Satan’s deception pushes Believers to focus on physical life rather than the spiritual.

Fortunately for the Believer, we have a God that is far deeper, wider, higher and longer than Satan can ever be. This reality can be recognized by the Believer who is in tune with our position in Christ. Those things that Satan does to distort reality are then recognized and the Believer can live in light of the victory that has already been provided in Christ.

### I. THE MEANING OF THE DEPTHS OF SATAN

- A. The Definition of Depths
  - 1. Friberg’s Greek Lexicon
  - 2. Webster’s Dictionary
- B. The Description of the Depths (Satan)
  - 1. The Spiritual Ones in Thyatira Not Experiencing Depths – Rev. 2:24
    - a) The Encouragement to the Messenger and Part of Thyatiran Church
    - b) The Messaged Avoiding the Satanic Depths
  - 2. The Depths Explained
    - a) CDJ – The things that Satan does behind what is viewable. Satan existing in the spiritual realm is able to have an effect on people and situations which is more than can be viewed by the individual.
    - b) The Title of Satan
      - (1) The Adversary, One Standing in Opposition
      - (2) The Use of Deception to Oppose God through Saints

- c) The opposition of Jezebel to deceive<sup>1</sup> showed a experiential knowledge of the depths
  - (1) Deception of Fornication for Religious Purpose
  - (2) Deception of Idolatry
  - (3) Deception from Satan (Works of the Flesh from the Sin Nature)
- 3. The Manifestation of Satanic Depths Seen in Operation
  - a) Manipulation of Situations to Cause Focus to Shift from Spiritual Realm
  - b) The Devices<sup>2</sup> of Satan – 2 Cor. 2:11
    - (1) Seen by Unforgiving Spirit
    - (2) More than the Act of Unforgiveness
  - c) The Wiles<sup>3</sup> of the Devil – Eph. 6:11
    - (1) The Methods Focuses Believer on Physical over Spiritual
    - (2) The Methods Deeper Than Service

## II. THE CONTRAST OF THE DEPTHS OF SATAN WITH THE DEPTHS RELATED TO GOD

- A. The Depths of God Based on Infinity
  - 1. God Infinite in Knowledge/ Satan Limited in Knowledge – Rom. 11:33
    - a) Depth of Wisdom
    - b) Depth of Experiential Knowledge
    - c) Depth Manifested in Plan for Israel
  - 2. God Infinite in Space/ Satan Confined in Space
- B. The Depths of Satan Powerless against God’s Love – Rom. 8:39
  - 1. The Tangible Things
    - a) Life and Death
    - b) Spirit Beings (Effects)
      - (1) Principalities and Powers
      - (2) Heights and Depths
      - (3) Creatures (Created Beings)
    - c) Possibility of Events
  - 2. The Stability of God’s Love

<sup>1</sup> Πλαναω (pla-na-oh) – “To deceive by leading one away from what is truthful to what is error” (CDJ) – Satan deceives the nations, Rev. 12:19, 20:3, 8, 10, The False Prophet will deceive men into following the Beast, 13:14, 19:20, Traders on the earth during the Tribulation Period will utilize mind-altering means to deceive men, 18:23

<sup>2</sup> Νοημα (No-ay-ma) – The results of the progression of thoughts in the mind.

<sup>3</sup> Thayer’s

### 3369 μεθοδεία

**μεθοδεία** (T WH μεθοδια, see Iota), μεθοδείας, ἡ (from μεθοδεύω, i. e.

1. to follow up or investigate by method and settled plan;

2. to follow craftily, frame devices, deceive: Diodorus 7, 16; 2 Sam. 19:27; (Exo. 21:13 Aquila; (middle) Chariton 7, 6, p. 166, 21 edition Reiske (1783); Polybius 38, 4, 10)), a noun occurring neither in the O. T. nor in secular authors, *cunning arts, deceit, craft, trickery*: ἡ μεθοδεία τῆς πλάνης, which ἡ πλάνη uses, Eph. 4:14; τοῦ διαβόλου, plural, Eph. 6:11 (A. V. *wiles*. Cf. Lightfoot, Polycarp, ad Phil. 7, , p. 918.)\*

- a) Powerful against Opposition
- b) Powered through Position
- C. The Depths of God Searched by the Holy Spirit – 1 Cor. 2:10
  - 1. The Searching of the Spirit
  - 2. The Searching of Spiritual Things of God
  - 3. The Comparison of Spiritual Things
- D. The Depths and Other Direction with Reference to the Body of Christ – Eph. 3:18
  - 1. Depth, Height, Breadth, Length
  - 2. Powered by the Indwelling Christ

### **III. THE AVOIDANCE OF THE DEPTHS OF SATAN**

- A. Positional Reflection
  - 1. Key to Overcoming Satan – Eph. 6:10
  - 2. Reflective Thinking – Col. 3:1
- B. Satanic Recognition
  - 1. Through Watchfulness – Ac. 20:31
  - 2. Through Mental Focus – 1 Pet. 5:8

### **CONCLUSION:**