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DON'T RENT ROOMS TO THE DEVIL!

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
NUMBER 46
EPHESIANS 4:25-27

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EPHESIANS 4:25-27 "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil."

Back in verse 17 of this 4th chapter of Ephesians we read the word "vanity." The Greek word for vanity is "mataiotes" and it means a vacuum in the soul. In order to fill up this vanity, this emptiness, this void, it is necessary for us to build an edification complex in our souls. The only way we can do this is by the intake of Bible doctrine.

Back in verse 22 of this chapter, we studied about the putting off of the old sin nature. In verse 23 we studied about the importance of the "breathing of the mind." This means the intake of Bible doctrine, the breathing of the mind. Thus residual doctrine becomes the basis for the edification complex. When once you build up this edification structure in your soul, you can then reflect the glory of God. In verse 24 we studied about putting on the new man, and this new man is the residual doctrine in the soul. In verse 25 we saw how divine viewpoint replaces the human viewpoint. We saw how when once you renounce the lie, which is false doctrine, you then are in position to speak truth with your neighbor.

The soul is made up of self-consciousness, mentality, volition, emotion, conscience, and the old sin nature. Look at the soul in this way--
Self-consciousness--You recognize yourself as a human being.
Mentality--This is the "nous", the box which contains the thoughts.
Volition--Where you make your decisions.
Emotion--Which is the appreciator of the soul.
Conscience--Here you have the norms and standards of the soul.
The Old Sin Nature--Which is the distorter of the soul.

The soul has lungs and we inhale truth into all five areas mentioned above (except the old sin nature). Now if we feed enough truth into these areas of the soul, then it is stored over in the shelves of the human spirit and this is the residual doctrine we store up. This is the way we reflect the glory of God in the soul.

EPHESIANS 4:26 "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath." Here we have a second result which comes to us because of the edification complex, and this is discernment minus mental attitude sins. Discernment calls for an attitude toward false doctrine where ever it is found. The Devil is trying to create a millennium. The Devil is trying to create perfect environment in the earth. But in spite of his great genius, he does not have the ability to do this. Satan is behind many of the do-good systems like "The greatest good for the greatest number." The Devil will do anything he can to destroy the privacy of the individual, the freedom of the individual, and the volition of the individual. It takes a believer with an edification complex in his soul to have enough discernment to understand this.

Many False Notions

We find many Christians in the world today hung up on the idea of world peace. Some call themselves conscientious objectors. They say that the Bible says, "Thou shalt not kill." What the Bible really says is, "Thou shalt do no murder." This has to do with crime in a nation and has nothing to do with war or the defense of the country. So we have many "religious" people and even some Christians who believe that it is wrong to go to war. If one has an edification complex in his soul, then he can discern what is right about all these things.

It is possible to be angry and sin not. You can lose your temper mentally, and we have a Greek word for this kind of anger. Mental attitude sins of jealousy, bitterness and hatred come from anger. Now how can you be angry and sin not?

1. "Be ye angry" is a present, middle, imperative of "orgizo" and it means to be indignant at someone on the basis of what you believe or advocate. So this is anger toward false doctrine.
2. This is an imperative mood and that means this is a command. It is a present tense and this means we constantly should have this attitude. So this refers to righteous indignation. The middle voice means we are benefited by having righteous indignation toward false doctrine.
3. The context will determine the basis of righteous indignation.
4. In this context this righteous indignation is based on two Greek words we saw in verse 25--"to pseudo" and this refers to doctrine of demons. This refers to false doctrine.
1 TIMOTHY 4:1 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"
5. This phrase is a quotation from Psalm 4:4.

Anger is one of the mental attitude sins and can produce all kinds of jealousy and bitterness and hatred. But anger is also an emotional sin. So anger is a double sin, both mental and emotional. So this verse actually says, "Be always angry for your own benefit, and sin not."

Now exactly what does this mean? The word for sin is "harmatano" and it means to miss the mark or to be in error. Here it should be translated, "Be always angry for your own benefit and do not be in error." The way to do this is to know the facts, have doctrinal truth in your mind and then you can operate on discernment, and this leads you to resent that which is false. (Now remember--this does not give the believer the right to rationalize this and move into a sinful type of anger.)

So this next phrase is a warning for us not to resort to a sinful type of anger. "Let not go down the sun upon your wrath" and the word is "epidou," a word used for the setting of the sun. The sun represents the end of a Jewish day and it means not to end a day out of fellowship

Use rebound when you get angry and do it quickly. Don't end one day out of fellowship. The word for wrath is "parorgismos." Para is the word for immediate source and "orgizo" means an angry mood or an outburst of anger. Why doesn't this refer to emotional sins also? Because they fluctuate and change so quickly. Emotion runs out of gas rather quickly and emotion changes so rapidly. But the mentality is different. You can have mental attitude anger and it may last for days or months or even years. This is anger that leads to bitterness and to jealousy and to hatred. "Thumos" is the Greek word for emotional anger and it comes and goes rather rapidly. But the word used here is "parorgismos" and you can even go to sleep and have this anger in your mind and get up in the morning and you still have it. So if you let the sun go down on your wrath, you do not have an edification complex in your soul, or if you have it, you are in danger of losing it.

This leads us back to verse 22 where we were instructed to put off the old man. Mental attitude sins come right out of your old sin nature and we are commanded to put off this evil attitude. If you carry around mental attitude anger, your edification complex will soon collapse. So verse 26 really says, "Develop real discernment in your mind and soul."

The Third Result

EPHESIANS 4:27 "Neither give place to the devil." The third result of an edification complex has to do with Satan. The edification complex has no room for Satan. Do not give any ground, any space for Satan. When the believer takes in very little doctrine, then scar tissue builds up in the soul. A vacuum is formed and Satan moves in and fills this empty space with his ideas. So this verse says, "Stop giving space in your soul to the Devil." It really means "Stop allowing the Devil to stack the shelves of your soul with false doctrine." Now you are a believer and the Devil can't possess you or he can't indwell you. But I will tell you what he can do to you--"YOU CAN RENT ROOMS TO THE DEVIL." This is the easiest thing in the world for the Christian to do. If you believe in socialism, you have rented rooms to the Devil. If you believe in the tongues movement, you have rented rooms to the Devil. If you have very little intake daily of Bible doctrine, then you have rented rooms to the Devil. Maybe you haven't rented many rooms yet, but the "for rent" sign is up and it won't be long before he has moved in.

SEVEN POINTS ON THE DEVIL

(Since some of you have rented a room or rooms to him already, you should know something about the one you have as a guest in your house. After you learn these things about him, you may be ready to throw him out. If you take in enough Bible doctrine, then it will push him out.)

I. THE DOCTRINE OF THE PERSON OF THE DEVIL.

The Devil is smarter than you are. The Devil is smarter than Julius Caesar or Napoleon or Plato or Socrates or Alexander the Great or any other great man you can name. The only one smarter than the Devil is Jesus Christ in his humanity in his hypostatic union. The Devil is a genius and the most beautiful creature God ever created.

Isaiah 14:12-17

Ezekiel 28:11-19

In one passage he is said to be the ruler of this world.
EPHESIANS 2:2 "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"

In another passage he is said to be a liar and a murderer.
JOHN 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

The word Devil is just a name for him and comes from the word "diabolos" and it means slanderer or gossip. Lucifer is his name and it means the brightness of light. He is called "The son of the morning" and "The prince of the power of the air" and "The ruler of this world."

II. THE DEVIL AS THE RULER OF THIS WORLD.

We read this in many passages, such as Eph. 2:2, Luke 4:5, 7, John 12:3, 14:30, 16:11, and 2 Cor. 4:4.

But though he is the ruler of this world he doesn't control this world. To prevent the Devil from controlling this world, God has set up four divine institutions--Volition, Marriage, The Family, and the Nation. God has ordained "Nations" and he doesn't believe in internationalism. If the world is to survive, then nations must survive.

III. THE DEVIL'S STRATEGY CONCERNING NATIONS.

The devil plans to destroy nations and neutralize them.
 Rev. 12:9, 20:3, 20:8. The Devil is trying to destroy nations.

IV. THE DEVIL HAS A STRATEGY FOR UNBELIEVERS.

The Devil wants to keep people from getting the gospel. Once they get it the Devil tries to blind them concerning the implications of doctrinal truth.

2 Cor. 4:3, 4; Luke 8:12; 2 Thess. 2:9-10; Col. 2:8.

V. THE DEVIL'S STRATEGY REGARDING BELIEVERS.

2 Cor. 2:1

a. He accuses believers. Rev. 12:9, 10; John 1:6-11; Zech. 13:1, 2. Though he accuses us, we have a district attorney
 1 John 2:1-2.

b. He tries to keep the believer away from the Word of God.
 1 Tim. 4:1; 1 Cor. 10:19-22; 2 Cor. 11:3

c. He tries to frustrate the will of God in your life.

The operational will of God--James 4:7-8

The geographical will of God--1 Thess. 2:18

The mental will of God--Ephesians 4:14

d. The Devil encourages the believer to worry.

1 Peter 5:7-9.

The Devil wants you to have no doctrine in your soul and no faith rest.

e. He obscures the believer's focus.

Tries to get you to focus on self--1 Kings 19:10.

Tries to get you to focus on people--Jeremiah 17:5.

Tries to get you to focus on things. Hebrews 13:5-6.

- f. The Devil gets men to rely on temporal solutions.
This is what we call the social gospel.
- g. The Devil tries to get the believer to fear death.
Hebrews 2:14-15
The antidote to this is dying grace as taught in Psalm 23:4 and Job 5:21.

VI. RELIGION IS THE DEVIL'S ACE TRUMP.

In religion the Devil gets men to believe that they can be saved by their works. This is just the opposite of salvation by grace. Religion is man doing the work. This is salvation by works. Christianity is God doing the work. This is salvation by grace.

Religion is the Devil's counterfeit system.

He has a counterfeit gospel. 2 Cor. 11:3 and 4.

He has counterfeit ministers. 2 Cor. 11:13-15.

He has counterfeit doctrine. 1 Timothy 4:1.

He has a counterfeit communion table. 1 Cor. 10:19-21.

He has counterfeit spirituality. Galatians 3:2 and 3.

He has a counterfeit righteousness. Matthew 19:16-23.

He has a counterfeit method (whitewash). Matthew 23.

He has a counterfeit power. 2 Thess. 2:8-10.

He has a counterfeit God. 2 Thess. 2:3 and 4.

VII. SATAN HAS FALSE TEACHERS AS A PART OF HIS SYSTEM.

Eabakkuk 2:18 and 19.

He presents a phony facade. Matthew 7:15.

He even courts believers. Galatians 4:17 and 18.

He appeals to the ego. 2 Cor. 10:2.

He will continue all through human history. 1 John 4:1.

So the message is clear--If you learn doctrine and erect this great doctrinal structure in your soul, then you won't rent any rooms to the Devil.