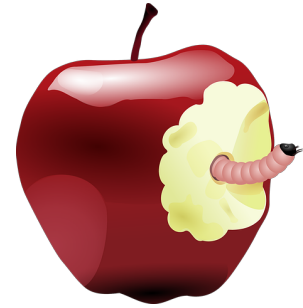


ALL THE DEVIL' S APPLES HAVE WORMS

TEXT: Genesis 3

The devil's apples are nice to look upon, but you will find that after you bite into them, there will be half a worm left.

It is a notable fact that all the poisonous fungi are scarlet speckled, and that the wholesome ones are brown or gray, as if to speak a message from the Lord Creator that *sin is enticing, but it is deadly.*



Many of you are familiar with the powerful dread and terror which birds and squirrels have for a rattlesnake. Mr. Murray states: When the piercing eye of the rattlesnake is fixed upon birds, terror and amazement render them incapable of escaping, and while involuntarily keeping their eyes fixed on those of the snake, they begin to weave, and finally drop into its mouth as if paralyzed. Squirrels will run down the tree and into the jaws of the expectant devourer. Many a child and woman has been charmed in our country by snakes.

So, in like manner, the desire for a thrill and/or an evening of pleasure has caused many a precious soul to fall into the jaws of sin because they became fascinated and overcome.

Many times young people have come at me with the accusation: *"You teach that a Christian shouldn't have friendship with the unsaved boys and girls -- but I have found them so much fun. Christians seem dull and restrained. You say we shouldn't go to amusements or dress modern, but now we're more popular and we just think you are trying to keep us away from having a good time."* Don't forget that all the apples of the devil have worms. *"But I don't see anything wrong with that"*. You told the truth — you don't SEE.

James 1:5: When lust hath conceived IT BRINGETH FORTH TO SIN.

Once you taste the forbidden fruit, as Eve did, the devil will help make it more appetizing. It seems so innocent and pleasant — but do not forget that sin deceives, hardens the heart, and sears the conscience so much that it is fascinating, but it is the devil's bait for your soul.

The fishing frog (sea devil) allures little fishes by means of worm-like appendages at its mouth. How many clubs, free suppers, and amusements the devil has. He will paint Hell as a comfortable and respectable place. He will tell you God is so kind and courteous that He would not hurt us, that He's too polite to punish us, and that sinners are too good to be tormented.

I. ADAM AND EVE

Adam and Eve come to the witness stand. Now we shall hear their own testimony of how the devil worked on them and what the results were. Satan started his lies in the Garden of Eden, just like he is telling lies today. He said:

Genesis 3:1-5:

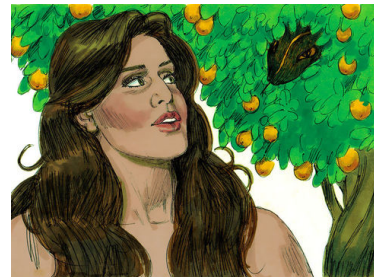
1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the Garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the Garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the Garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.



That is the way the devil operates: 'You don't want to get drunk. Just take a little drink for sociability. You don't want to be an old kill joy.' The devil was the original dirty liar who made fun of God's Word and made sin appear cute and alluring



Did you ever wonder why the devil worked on Eve first? She was not a bit selfish with the forbidden fruit.

Genesis 3:6: And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

II. CAIN

We learn an awful lesson from Cain. It is a picture of rejecting the blood atonement. Today, many say it is an ugly doctrine, which makes the blood in my veins curdle. Because of the blood atonement, some say Christianity is a slaughterhouse religion, and that the preaching of holiness cramps a person's wishes and desires. Cain bit the devil's apple, and afterward the worms of sin — sorrow, disappointment and punishment — were more than he said he could bear. His sin led to hatred, jealousy, murder of his brother Abel, lying to God about it, and then remorse.

Genesis 4:8-13:

8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

10 And He said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto Me from the ground.

11 And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

12 When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

13 And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.



III. SAMSON

The lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb. Isn't she sweet? Aren't her kisses simply intoxicating? And there is the allure of her arms about him — the sweet perfume, her soft hair and eyes, her lovely skin. But the end is as bitter as wormwood — her feet go down to death, her steps take hold of Hell.



Sin is pleasant when it begins. However, it can soon give way to sexual passion, maybe to necking or petting. Maybe it is the lewdness of a dirty movie, or the enticement of the dance

floor, or mix bathing that leads you down to the devil's Hell. Sure, you are having a good time, but the devil's apple is partly eaten when you find worms!

IV. ANANIAS and SAPPHIRA

Their love of money caused them to lie to the Holy Spirit which cost them their very lives.

Acts 5:1-3

1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,

2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.

7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.



Ezekiel 7:19:

They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD: they shall not satisfy their souls,

neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity.

1 Timothy 6:10:

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

V. THE RICH FOOL

The rich fool had enough goods stored up for years and decided he would take it easy now and eat, drink, and be merry. He didn't know that his soul would be required of him that night.

Luke 12:16-21:

16 And He spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.



20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

As in the days of Noah, so it will be before the Lord returns. Men will be eating and drinking, enjoying the pleasures of life with no concern or regard for His soon Return.

Matthew 24:38-39:

38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the Ark,

39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.

If I could take you to the rescue missions and show you how that dirty, old booze has wrecked thousands, or take you to the insane asylums where the mental wrecks of society are cast, you will see that satan's apples have worms!

VI. THE PRODIGAL SON

“Father - it's too dull around here. I want my own way and want to do as I please. I don't want anybody telling me the company to keep and the things I can't do.” The devil says there is an easier way to get money — horse racing and gambling. The devil says — run away to a far country; there won't be anyone to watch you like a hawk. The music is wonderful, there's dancing with beautiful girls, there are plenty of drinks, and there are no rules.

Luke 15:11-16:

11 And He [Jesus] said, A certain man had two sons:

12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.



Satan has trotted out the “beautiful apples”, and has plenty of alluring appeals to young people. However, his apples have worms. The prodigal son's substance was wasted in riotous living, his far-weather friends were gone. Yesterday there was laughter in the ballroom and bar room, but now time has told another tale: worms are in the apples.

He makes a sucker out of you — a drunkard, a dope-head, a broken-up home. He sends you down to skid row. Satan has no happy old people.

The Prodigal is now begging for a handout, and finally ends up in the hog pen. There he comes to his senses. He threw the devil's apples away, finding out — almost too late — that the devil is a liar and a deceiver.

Pleasures only endure for a short season and make a fool out of the indulger. He sees the yawning hell ahead of him, and God's arms of mercy stretched out still.

Luke 15:17-20:

17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.



To the devil, he paid dearly; but God gives a warm welcome, new attire, a new position, joy, and making merry.



Luke 15:22-24:

22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

There is more joy in the Presence of God over one sinner repenting.

Luke 15:7: I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Did anyone ever tell you the devil's crowd is friendlier than the Lord's? The Lord gives His portions freely, and a New Life is received:

In **1 Corinthians 4:14** Paul said:

1 Corinthians 4:14: I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you.

And so do I. All the devil's apples have worms!

Akron Shalom Bible Learning Center
www.AkronShalomMinistries.org