

What the Devil Knows

Matthew 4:1-11



What Do We Know About The Devil?

- Devil - “diabolos” - An accuser; a slanderer
- Satan - “satanas” - An adversary
- He is incredibly intelligent and cunning.
- An opponent who does his homework; who studies us and the book by which we live.
- He knows the Bible - Matt. 4:1-11
- We are warned to beware of him - Eph. 6:11
- He lives to destroy the faith of God's people.

Knows That God Is And That Jesus Christ Is His Son

- Psalm 19:1-3 - “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard.”
- Psalm 139:14 - “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.”

Knows That God Is And That Jesus Christ Is His Son

- Psalm 19:7-11 - “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.”

Knows That God Is And That Jesus Christ Is His Son

- Rom. 1:20 - “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse”
- James 2:19 - “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble!”
- James 1:6-8 - “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

Knows That God Is And That Jesus Christ Is His Son

- Heb. 12:12 - “Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees”
- Heb. 10:38-39 - “Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”

Knows That God Is And That Jesus Christ Is His Son

- Acts 2:36-37 - “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”
- Heb. 3:18-19 - “And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”

Knows That God Is And That Jesus Christ Is His Son

- 1Peter 2:6-8 - “Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame. Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone, and A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense. They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.”
- Satan knows there is a God and that Jesus is His Son; and, he acts on it.

Knows That Religion Is Not Enough

- Cornelius was religious
 - Acts 10:2 - “A devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.”
- Yet he had to obey the gospel in order to be saved
 - Acts 11:14 - “Who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved”
- Ethiopian treasurer was very religious, but he was not saved until he had obeyed the gospel
 - Acts 8:27-39

Knows That Religion Is Not Enough

- Matt. 7:21-23 - “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'”
- 2Thes. 1:7-8 - “and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, & in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Knows That Religion Is Not Enough

- Satan doesn't mind if we are religious.
 - Matt. 23:28 - “Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”
 - Matt. 23:15 - “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.”

Knows That Religion Is Not Enough

- He knows that we will be lost if our religion does not conform to the word of God.
 - 1Peter 4:11 - “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.”
 - Col. 3:17 - “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Knows The Power Of The Gospel

- Rom. 1:16 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”
- 1Cor. 1:18, 21 - “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”

Knows The Power Of The Gospel

- Isa. 55:10-11 - “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

Knows The Power Of The Gospel

- Changes vilest of men into saints; can you name something else that can do it?
 - Saul of Tarsus, chief of sinners (1Tim. 1:15) into...
 - Apostle Paul, chief among Christ's servants (1Cor. 15:10)

Knows The Danger Of False Doctrine

- Has a few catch phrases:
 - "Tread lightly"
 - "Don't say things that will upset folks"
 - "Stop stirring up trouble"
 - "Just let things be"
 - "Watch what you say or they won't come back"

Knows The Danger Of False Doctrine

- Gal. 1:10 - “For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”
- 1Tim. 4:1-2 - “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron”

Knows The Danger Of False Doctrine

- Jesus despises false teaching
 - Rev. 2:12-17
 - Matt. 16:6-12
 - Matt. 15:8-9, 13-14
- Satan knows what a little false teaching can do to a Church; if uncertain sounds continue, he wins.

Knows What A Little Sin Can Do

- Satan tempted Adam and Eve into committing one sin.
 - Gen. 3:1-6, 2:17
- Knew if they committed one sin, they would commit more
 - John 8:44 - “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.”

Knows What A Little Sin Can Do

- Satan trained people to lie, the easiest sin to commit
 - Acts 5:1-11
- Sins of weakness will cause one to be lost
 - Gal. 2:11-13 - “Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.”

Knows What A Little Sin Can Do

- Sins of ignorance will cause one to be lost
 - Acts 8:18-24
- Not only will a little sin defile the man, but it can corrupt the Church.
 - 1Cor. 5:6 - “Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?”

Knows The Danger Of Evil Associations

- Satan wants us to view worldliness as pleasure, rather than destruction.
 - Heb. 11:25 - “choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin”

Knows The Danger Of Evil Associations

- Progression into sin is gradual.
 - Psalm 1:1 - “Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful”
 - Start by observing it -- initiates tolerance
 - Move to proximity -- breaks down resistance
 - Progress to participation -- sinning

Knows The Danger Of Evil Associations

- First step on road to hell isn't sin; it's bad judgment.
 - 1Cor. 15:33 - “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits”
 - Eph. 5:11 - “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”

Knows What Missing Services Will Do

- Heb. 10:23-26
- Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Do We Know As Much As Satan?

- He knows there is a heaven and hell.
- He knows there is a Judgment Day.
- 2Peter 2:3-11
- 1Peter 5:8 - “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”