

Satan's Opposition Towards Evangelism

Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:7-15

Introduction: Satan hates mankind and is committed to its destruction. Satan knows his destiny and is determined to take as many people with him as possible. God, on the other hand wants no one to follow Satan to their doom and is committed to rescuing them. However he has decided to depend on us. This leaves us with a heavy responsibility. Satan wars against our efforts to obey God. Here are some of the ways in which he does this:

Satan hinders evangelism by keeping men blinded to the truth – 2 Cor. 4:3, 4

- Our job is to turn them from darkness to light and from Satan's power to God's (Acts 26:18)

Satan hinders evangelism by stealing the Word from the heart of those who we share it with – Luke 8:12

Satan hinders evangelism by giving us numerous excuses for not doing it – John 4:34-38

Satan hinders evangelism by moving us towards theological, philosophical and ideological ideas that tend to dampen desire for evangelism (Calvinism, Universalism, etc.).

- When we spend our times in debates over predestination and other subjects rather than reaching the lost, Satan has been successful.
- When we believe, due to a certain theology, that some are already predestined and others are not, then it could make us unconcerned for the lost and destroys any real burden for them.

Satan hinders evangelism by making us ashamed of the gospel – Rom. 1:16

Satan hinders evangelism by giving us wrong motives for it

- More concern for the growth of our church than for the salvation of souls.
- More concern for looking great and spiritual in the eyes of others as they see you as a "soul-winner."
- Unless we have the same love for the lost that God has (John 3:16) and our burden is to see them delivered from a horrible destiny (Mat. 25:41) then we are not guaranteed success because our motives are wrong.

If Satan cannot completely hinder us from doing evangelism then he will tempt us to do it in our own power.

- He works to prevent prayer (Luke 10:1-2; Eph. 6:18-20; 1 Tim. 2:1-6) .
- He prevents us from receiving the power for Evangelism (Acts 1:8)