

# Four Days in the Life of Satan

By David Hartsell

Satan is God's archenemy. Consequently, he is our most dangerous foe. **(Eph.6:12)** Christians are alerted that the Devil "walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." **(1 Pet.5:8)** The Bible reveals several things about Satan. In fact, it reveals four days in the Devil's existence that are interesting to read about. Let us consider each day in order.

The first day in Satan's life is the day Jesus was born. A virgin, Mary, gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem of Judea. Wise men from the East asked Herod, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?" **(Matt.2:2)** Inwardly, Herod was horrified. He imagined this king was a threat to his throne. Outwardly, he told the wise men to find the child and send word as to where he was. Herod pretended to want to worship Jesus. In reality, he wanted to kill the infant. Of course, the Devil was behind the effort to murder the babe. The Lord warned Joseph to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt. He also told the wise men not to return to Herod but to go back home. **(Matt.2:12-15)** When the king realized he had been deceived he killed all the male children two years old and under throughout the region of Bethlehem. Baby Jesus had been saved by God's warning to Joseph. Killing our Lord was not going to be so easy.

The next day in Satan's existence is when Jesus was killed. Our Lord lived in relative obscurity in Nazareth until He was about

thirty years old. However, when he began his personal ministry the Devil knew Him immediately. **(Lk.8:28)** Satan greatly tempted Jesus, knowing that any sin on Jesus' part would ruin God's righteous plans. **(Matt.4)** Our Savior was able to overcome every enticement. He seemed to always have the perfect answer and God's complete protection. Then Jesus looked like He made a mistake. He separated Himself into a secluded place. There He was arrested, put through a mock trial, and crucified. Finally, Satan had won. The Christ was dead!

Jesus' resurrection marked the third day in Satan's life. Peter preached that Hades (the grave) could not possibly hold Jesus' spirit. Why? "The sting of death is sin." **(1 Cor.15:56a)** The Devil never stung our Lord with sin. Therefore, Jesus' death was the perfect sacrifice for our sins. **(Heb.2:14)** The Devil learned too late that the day he thought was his greatest victory was actually the day of his ultimate defeat. Jesus now holds the keys to Hades and death. **(Rev.1:18)**

The final day in Satan's life is the Judgment Day. The Devil and all that is wicked will be destroyed on that great final day. **(Rev.20:10)** God's judgment might be delayed and seem like it will never occur but it will come as a thief in the night. **(2 Pet.3:10)** Are you ready for that day?



**Classes this Week**

**Kid's Class at the Building at 5:15  
All Are Invited**

**Sick**

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Pam Dial (Laura Weldon's Mother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Rubye Johnson (Erica Seymore's Grandmother)
Adriana Mininno (Haley Chittam's Cousin)	Dave and Betty Bradford
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	"Grandmama" Odessa Wyatt (Dyle's grandmother)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)
Johnny Adrian (Friend of Sullivan's)	Lori Holloway
Chick Wade	Jared Nixon
Ross Folmar	Mike Morrow's Mom

Congratulations to our Graduates!

Chris Davis  
Erin Zeanah  
Audra Hargett  
Jennifer Barbero  
Ben Coulston  
Chris Thompson  
Melanie Mitchell  
Sharon Lim  
Jared Ramsey

Our prayers are with you that you will be a light for the Lord wherever you go.

**News and Notes**

- Let's remember our expectant mothers: Laura Weldon, Anna Miller and Nicole Pender.
- Larry will in a Meeting at the Moody church in the Birmingham area May 23-26.
- The Spanish church will be having a meeting June 6-9.
- The LaGrange church will have a meeting with Greg Gwin June 6-11.
- Congratulations to Art and Melanie Davis on their wedding on Sat. Their new address is: 2330 Lee Rd. 137, Lot 54, Auburn, 36832
- Carmen Heard will be visiting in California until June 22.
- Audio CDs immediately available in the foyer.

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# The Auburn Beacon



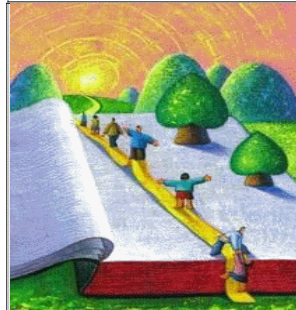
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **(Matthew 5:16)**

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## We Are Simply Christians!

By Dale Smelser



**Thought to Ponder**

God will have all, or none;  
serve him, or fall  
Down before Baal, Bel, or  
Belial;  
Either be hot or cold. God  
doth despise,  
Abhor, and spew out all  
neutralities.

**Do You Have a Bible Question?**  
Call (334) 734-2133 or  
E-mail:  
LarryRouse@aubeacon.com

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday**

Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**  
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse  
Evangelist and Editor

We read with interest the reports on every hand of the growing disenchantment with present religious forms which originated in the middle ages and have become meaningless to most. We hear of displeasure with denominational structures and their pronouncements which reflect only the preferences of an influential elite and ignore the convictions of the rank and file. Because of these aspects of modern religion some have decided that Christianity is not relevant to this day and age. We believe they have so decided because they are not sufficiently acquainted with the scriptures to be able to distinguish between the relevant gospel of Christ, and what men have added to religion since, and which truly are not relevant to serving God.

If some of these things have troubled you and you have felt an urge, or even a yearning, to return to the simple, uncomplicated religion of Christ, and if you have felt the desire to strip away all nonessential elements of religion and simply abide by the truths of

"If only such could be today," many exclaim. But it is! Free men and women over the earth have despaired of denominationalism, seeing in it no necessity or relevance and only a cause of division. They desire the simplicity of what Christ authored, and their number is increasing.

Christ, truths which alone can transform the soul and bind it to God, let us suggest that such a possibility actually exists.

Let us begin with one essential fact. Jesus Christ is the Son of God. His coming, His mission, and His new message were all foretold in the Old Testament **(Gen. 49:10; Isa. 53; Zech. 6:13; Jer. 31:31-33)**, which Jehovah used to govern Israel until the Christ should come and establish the New for all hu-

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manity (**Gal. 3:19, 23-24**).

The New Testament is the word of Christ. It reveals the religion of Christ (**Heb. 9:15-17**). By studying it we become aware that among the followers of Christ, no denominational organization existed whatever. All such began at a later time. We see people hearing the gospel and in faith obeying the conditions of God's grace. That is, they turned to God and were baptized in order to be forgiven of their sins. Being thus saved, they were added to the Lord's people or church (**Acts 2:36-47**). As the gospel spread, we find them assembling together in congregations in various localities. Each congregation was under its own elders (**Acts 14:23**) and no one else on earth. These elders could not make laws or be masters. They were given the responsibility of tending and caring for the congregation as shepherds would a flock (**Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Pet. 5:1-3**). The only headquarters those disciples knew was heaven, where their head, Jesus Christ, was and is (**Eph. 1:22-23**).

Their worship was something to participate in, not something to watch. On the first day of the week, for instance, they would eat the Lord's Supper and hear preaching (**Acts 20:7; 1 Co 11:23-29**). They would share their mutual responsibilities by sharing their prosperity, and we find contributions being collected on no other day than that (**1 Cor. 16:1,2**). Incidentally, no hierarchy could tax them or tell them how much to give. They had no organizations clamoring for their support. They gave as they individually purposed in their own hearts (**2 Cor. 9:6,7**). In their assemblies they all would sing (**Eph. 5:19**), and all pray with various ones leading (**1 Cor. 14:15-16**). In this they were all necessarily involved, for each person was a priest (**Rev. 1:5-6**). No one could perform his service or

worship for him.

They lived godly lives. They cared for their poor. They taught others. They sent out preachers where they could not go. With simplicity of faith and fervor there was no need of centralization. Without organized machinery the gospel was preached throughout civilization in a short time (**Col. 1:23**). These disciples were known as Christians (**Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16**). They wore no sectarian names. Their religion was not sensual or materialistic. They sought to impress God with the only thing that ever impresses Him - contrite obedience (**1 Sam. 15:22**). Their appeal was not social or recreational. They offered the gospel to a troubled world for it was God's power to save (**Rom. 1:16**), and any other appeal was beneath them.

"If only such could be today," many exclaim. But it is! Free men and women over the earth have despaired of denominationalism, seeing in it no necessity or relevance and only a cause of division. They desire the simplicity of what Christ authored, and their number is increasing. How many have taken such a stand? Who knows?! They are related and connected only in Christ and not some organization with machinery to keep a tally. It is virtually impossible to number a people spiritually belonging only to God. Some have attempted to number these people. Periodicals such as Time Magazine have listed the number in this nation alone in excess of two and a quarter million.

What is important is that a group of such people meet within minutes of where you live. They worship and serve God in the same way the early disciples did. Christ is their only creed and the scriptures their only guide. They are not members of any human denomination. They are simply a congregation, or church, of Christ. You too can be just a Christian and serve God without belonging to any denomination. If this freedom appeals to you, please contact us at (334) 734-2133.



## Is Love to Blame?

By Steve Klein

Have you ever known parents who claimed that they loved their children too much to spank them? Ever known someone who tried to justify having sex outside of marriage because they loved the person? Ever known a Christian who would not rebuke and correct religious error because they loved others too much to hurt their feelings in this way? I submit that in each of these cases, love is being blamed for something that it has nothing to do with.

The Bible plainly teaches that love motivates us to do exactly the opposite of what was described in each of the preceding examples.

**Love will cause us to discipline our children.** "He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly" (Proverbs 13:24).

**Love demands that we abstain from sexual immorality.** If we love someone, we are not going to participate with them in an act that will condemn their soul! If we do, we are being selfish, not loving. In **Ephesians 5:2-3**, God's word explains that walking in love involves avoiding fornication: "And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. But fornication . . . let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints" (**Ephesians 5:2-3**).

Love "does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth" (**1 Corinthians 13:6**). Real love will never be used to justify sin; rather, it will be used to help us identify what is what is right and good.

**Love will move of us to rebuke sin and correct error.** Love will not allow us to stand idly by and watch those we care about lose their souls by committing sin or believing doctrinal error. Jesus said, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten" (**Revelation 3:19**). The apostle Paul had strongly rebuked the Corinthians. In **2 Corinthians 2:4** he explains why: "For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you."

The right kind of love will never cause us to do the wrong kind of thing. Love "does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth" (**1 Corinthians 13:6**). Real love will never be used to justify sin; rather, it will be used to help us identify what is what is right and good. The Lord's will is "that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent" (**Philippians 1:9-10**).

Love always seeks the most lasting good for the one who is being loved. Momentary pain or pleasure is not love's greatest concern. Love is focused on the eternal welfare of the one who is loved. "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth." (**1 John 3:18**)

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