

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

JESUS WAS TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL – PART III

Luke 4:9-12 “Then the devil took Him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order His angels to protect and guard you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’ ” Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the LORD your God.’”

The Devil knows what the Holy Scriptures say. Today’s devotional thought finds the Devil quoting the Scriptures to Jesus. However, the Devil used the Scriptures not for God’s purpose, but rather to tempt Jesus to mis-use it in a way that would not be according to God’s will.

Jesus responded to the Devil by quoting another Bible passage, “You must not test the Lord your God.” Jesus is saying to the Devil that he is misusing the Psalmists words. A true believer trusts in God with all of his heart, soul, mind and spirit, but does not use this trust in foolish or improper ways. God did not give His promise of guardian angels for His children to become “daredevils.”

One of the most common misuses of the Scriptures by the Devil is to quote passages of Scripture that promise God’s forgiveness of all your sins. The Devil says, since God promises to forgive all your sins there is no reason for you to obey His commandments. The Devil says, “go ahead and _____ (sin) because you know God forgives your sins.”

Of course, like with Jesus, the Devil leaves out the complete message of God’s word to you about His forgiveness. Hebrews 10:21-23 exhorts, “let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” Acts 3:19 “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out. . .” Acts 16:31 “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.” Indeed, “God is ready to forgive. . .” (Psalm 86:5)

Prayer: Lord, guide me through Your word that I use it properly in times of temptation to be a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (Psalm 119:105)
Amen.

O God of light, Your Word a lamp unfailing,
Shall pierce the darkness of our earth-bound way
And show Your grace, Your plan for us unveiling,
And guide our footsteps to the perfect day.

From days of old, through blind and willful ages,
Though we rebelled, You gently sought again
And spoke through saints, apostles, prophets, sages,
Who wrote with eager or reluctant pen.

Undimmed by time, those words are still revealing
To sinful hearts Your justice and Your grace;
And questing spirits, longing for Your healing,
See Your compassion in the Savior's face.

To all the world Your summons You are sending,
Through all the earth, to ev'ry land and race,
That myriad tongues, in one great anthem blending,
May praise and celebrate Your gift of grace.
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