

THE DEVIL IN DISGUISE

II Cor 11:14, "Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." (read vs. 3-9, 13-15)

I. The Necessity of the Disguise.

- A. If evil were as frightful in its outward appearance as it really is, we would be in little danger of it.
- B. We shrink from a tiger, rattlesnake, or vulture; but just as the Oriental invests certain destructive beasts with glamour, so Satan makes sin and temptation glamorous in our eyes.

II. The Use of the Disguise

A. In the Garden of Eden

B. In the Temptation of Christ in the wilderness

C. In the False Brethren in Corinth & Galatia.

- 1. The Prince of Darkness puts on the garb of light and sets the fashion for his followers in the masquerade to deceive the saints.

"Like Master Like Man."

See II Cor. 2:11

and Gal. 1:8

This terrible portrayal reveals the depth of Paul's feelings about the conduct of the Judaising leaders in Corinth.

- 2. v. 13, "fashioning themselves" (this word used here three times, vs. 13, 14, 15)

"meta-schematizo" - changing the form of a thing. Masquerading as apostles of X^t by putting on the outward appearance, posing as ministers of X^t.

This transformation spoken of is such as to take on the appearance and not the REALITY.

They are NOT apostles, but put on APPEARANCE of Ap

D. In Every Anti-Christian influence, (see II Thes. 2:4)

III. Satan as an angel of light

A. The great extreme of this change

1. The Element of all holy natures is light.

See I Jn. 1:5,7; Lk. 2:32; Jn. 1:4,5,7,8,9; 8:12
and Eph. 5:8

2. Darkness is the element of Evil.

See Lk. 22:53; II Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:8; 6:12

3. The change indicated, therefore, is extreme

B. The Message He preaches in this disguise

1. Philosophy instead of simplicity
2. Morality instead of spirituality
3. Expediency instead of principle
4. Ceremonies instead of personal experience

C. The Methods He uses

1. Counterfeiting genuine graces of Xty
2. Appeal to imagination or
taking advantage of emotional disorders
3. Making sin glamorous, attractive, thrilling
On the banks of the Amazon there is a brilliant
spider that spreads itself out like a flower,
and the insects lighting upon it find death.
4. Mis-using the name of reason, liberty, & progress
5. Denying the existence of evil, or of any real
standard of right & wrong.

IV. The Path of Safety Amid these Dangerous Disguises

A. Be constantly alert to the danger of deception.

Satan conceals his evil purposes as the Greek assassins
did their daggers in myrtle branches.

B. Let us be Sincere in Soul.

Under ALL deception is SELF-deception--- a secret
willingness to be deceived because you have
pleasure in unrighteousness.

C. Respect the Written Law.

The Bible destroys the glamor of sin.

It reveals openly:

1. Its deceitfulness
2. Its horror
3. Its fruit