

San Juan church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About... Satan Understands the Bible

The thought that Satan knows what the Bible says is fascinating. After Jesus' baptism, He "was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1). During the temptation Satan quoted scripture to Jesus from Psalm 91:11-12. Satan knew what the scripture said, but he misused it. Jesus corrected him by saying "It is written" when Satan quoted scripture out of context.

Just as Satan misused scripture in the temptation of Jesus, he also uses false teachers to misuse the New Testament scriptures. Paul wrote, "For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore, it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds" (2 Cor. 11:13-15). The meaning of this scripture indicates that preachers can be Satan's servants and appear as righteous teachers. Many "pastors" will use certain scriptures to conform to what their particular denomination teaches. James wrote, "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment" (James 3:1).

Jesus corrected the Pharisees when He said, "Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?" He reminded them that "in vain do you worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men." Jesus told His disciples, "Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit" (Matt. 15:3-14). Paul reminded us to "Retain the standard [pattern] of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 1:13). Paul also said to "observe those who walk [obey] according to the pattern you have in us [apostles]" (Phil. 3:17).

Paul wrote, "Let no one in any way deceive you" which Paul called "the apostasy" [a falling away from sound doctrine]. He prophesied that those teaching false doctrine "are coming in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved" (2 Thess. 2:3-10).

When members of the San Juan church have studied with "pastors" or members of a denominational church, they are unwilling to accept sound doctrine from the complete word of God. Paul warned us of this when he said, "For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth..." (2 Thess. 2:11-12).

The question that needs to be asked is, "Does Satan know more about scripture than we do?" Remember, Jesus said, "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day" (John 12:48).

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:

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