

The Camden Companion



"COME LET US REASON TOGETHER, SAYS THE LORD"

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The Future Today

Life is very hectic with many chores needing attention. Often people give little thought to the future and just try to survive day by day. Then, one day, they look around and discover that the future they taught so far away is here now. Regrets set in as lost opportunities are remembered. Whether we like it or not, the future is only one step away.

I saw tomorrow look at me from little children's eyes and thought how carefully we would teach if we were wise.

I don't know who wrote the above quote but it certainly speaks volumes. Parents who seek the kingdom of God first in their lives have a different mindset than others who care not for God. Their lives go in a completely different direction from those who are not spiritually minded. The difference is striking. Church services are not missed and there is much time spent in Bible study and prayer. Everyone, even their enemies are treated well. In short, the God-fearing father and mother look to heaven and are not centered in things of this life.

But this is a lesson best learned young. As parents, diligently seek God but don't forget to teach your children along the way. They will be adults before you know it and you may find you and your child on different paths unless you are wise in this.

The Devices of Satan (Part 5)

Hopefully we have learned many things about our adversary and how to not fall prey to him over the last four weeks. In this fifth and final installment of the series we will look at how Satan seeks to use religion as a way to cause people to fall.

Yes, that's right. Satan can use religious tendencies to sometimes cause good meaning folks to go astray. Certainly our study of pride from the last issue comes into play. Many a preacher has fallen prey to feelings of superiority as they have made a name for themselves. Perhaps they have been featured at some well known lectureship attended by many from across the country. Or perhaps they are featured in a "brotherhood" paper. Sometimes, such feel the need to "regulate the brotherhood" or interfere with the local autonomy of churches by seeking to impose their will where it should not be imposed. Remember Diotrephes? (3 John 9.)

One of Satan's greatest weapons is compromise. The result of the compromise of spiritual principles has led to a mess in the religious world and there is no shortage of examples. We hear the invitation to go to "the church of your choice" rather than to the church Jesus built and died for (Acts 20:28.) Salvation by "faith only" seeks to nullify what Jesus said in Mark 16:16, "*He who believes AND is baptized shall be saved.*" The bottom line is that spiritual compromise offers religion through honesty and sincerity rather than through faithful obedience to the word of God.

James reminds us, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7.) We must beware of how Satan operates in order to resist him but he will flee from us. At least until he discovers another weakness in us he can exploit. And so the battle goes on...