

BEACON

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Satan's Meeting (Read—Even If You're Busy)

Gary W. Summers

Satan called a worldwide convention of demons. In his opening address he said, "We can't keep Christians from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. We can't keep them from being saved. Once their sins are cleansed by the blood of Jesus, our power over them is broken. So let them go to their churches; let them have their potlucks; **but** steal their time so they don't have enough to grow and mature as a Christian. This is what I want you to do," said the devil: "Distract them as much as possible throughout their day!"

"How shall we do this?" his demons shouted. "Keep them busy in the non-essentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds," the devil answered. "Tempt them to live beyond their means. Persuade the wives to get jobs and for husbands to work six days a week (on Sundays, if possible) to afford their lifestyles. Keep them from spending time with their children. As their families fragment, their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work! Entice them to talk on their phones whenever they drive and to keep the entertainment center going constantly in their homes. Bombard their minds with the news 24 hours a day. Promote materialism. Make sure they have an Amazon Prime account. When families watch television, keep beautiful, attractive women on all the shows so husbands believe that outward beauty is what's important; let them become dissatisfied with their wives. Keep the wives too tired to love their husbands at night. Give them headaches, too! Make sure that men think that fictional women are as attainable as actual women. Emphasize recreation. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, plays, concerts, and movies instead. Keep them busy, busy, busy!"

"Give families Santa Claus to distract them from teaching their children about the virgin birth of Jesus, that was prophesied 700 years in advance. Give them an Easter bunny so they won't talk about Jesus' resurrection and His power over sin and death. And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so they leave with worldly concerns rather than spiritual. Crowd their lives with so many good causes they have little time left for Jesus. Soon they will be working in their own strength and sacrificing their health and family for the good of 'the cause.'"

The demons determined that this plan would work and went to their assignments, causing Christians everywhere to get busier and more rushed, going here and there, having little time for their God, their families, or to tell others of the Gospel. Has the devil been successful in his schemes? You be the judge!! Remember, BUSY just might mean:

B-eing U-nder S-atin's Y-oke.

Winter Park, FL

When Your World Comes Crashing In

Scott Lambert

Insurrection is never a good thing for the King or his people. But how much worse is it when the King's own son mounts the insurrection? This is exactly what David was dealing with when he penned Psalm 63. Absalom grew up in a family that could be described as "dysfunctional." Couple that with the responsibilities he had as king and you get the picture of an overworked man. On one occasion, one of his sons, Amnon, raped his own sister—a half sister who was born to the same mother as Absalom. David, not handling the situation like a good father should, prompted Absalom to take things into his own hands. Two years after the sexual crime was committed, Absalom had Amnon murdered and consequently fled from his family for the span of three years, bitter and full of anger towards his father.

After the time of running was over, Absalom came back to Jerusalem with an agenda to accomplish (2 Sam. 15:4). The text informs us that he stole the heart of the people (15:6) and forced his father out of the city. The text says, "David went up by the Ascent of the *Mount of* Olives, and wept as he went up" (15:30). You can imagine the pain and agony that David must have been experiencing as he ran from his own throne. This is the background that prompted the writing of Psalm 63. It is during these times that we find ourselves in our own wilderness, and some self-inventory of the things that are important to us is needed. Can we acquiesce with David?

I still have God (Psa. 63:1-2). Despite what circumstances plague our lives, the Lord is always near to us when we long to find Him (Mat. 7:7). The propensity of humanity, however, is to do the exact opposite. We often sing, "Where Could I Go But to the Lord," but I suspect it is easier to pay lip service than life service to this principle. We like picking ourselves up by our own bootstraps instead of depending on the Lord (2 Cor. 3:5).

I still have a song (Psa. 63:3-4). Let us be honest; it is hard to have a song in our heart when we have turmoil around us. However, when we sing the Lord's praise, our spirit is nourished (63:5) and circumstances seem to be put in their proper perspective. One of my favorite hymns is "Count Your Blessings." It sure is hard to get down and stay there with that kind of perspective and that kind of God (Eph. 3:20).

I still have joy in the Lord (Psa. 63:6-11). If you cannot rejoice in your situation, you can always rejoice in your Savior! Because of His past help (63:6), His present protection (63:7), and His future help (63:8), we have nothing to fear. The problem is that we do not see it as short term. But when we place things in the perspective of Paul—"our light affliction that is but a moment" (2 Cor. 4:17)—we can endure, all the while knowing **our God loves and sustains us** (Phi. 4:19).

Oh yes, things will be tough. The Lord never said Christianity was easy. But compared to the alternative, it is the only way! Look at what we have in Him!

Copied

Gospel Meeting
with
Gilbert Gough

Lessons available on the website.

https://www.bellviewcoc.com/meeting.html

W. E. Vine on the Original Manuscripts

W. E. Vine

In speaking of these supposed inaccuracies [in the Bible] we are of course referring to the original autographs and not to translations. Considerations of the subject of Inspiration must be based upon the originals as now represented in the ascertained texts, always bearing in mind that extant manuscripts are copies of copies of the originals. For the purpose of giving a written revelation to mankind, God chose the Hebrew and Greek languages, and to a small extent the Chaldaic, in which latter a portion of the book of Daniel was written. Though the autographs themselves do not exist, the evidence goes to show that the resultant text arrived at by the collation of the best manuscripts practically represents the originals.

The importance of most of the variations in the manuscript reading has been greatly exaggerated. Westcott and Hort tell us that the

> proportion of words virtually accepted on all hands as raised above doubt is very great, not less, on a rough computation, than seven-eighths of the whole. As to the remaining eighth, the variations here are formed in great part by changes of order and other comparative trivialities.

These writers further tell us that "the amount of what can in any sense be called substantial variation…can hardly form more than a thousandth part of the entire text." There is no doctrine in Scripture which would be affected if all the disputed words, or those about which there is any doubt, were omitted.

From: *The Divine Inspiration of the Bible*

Deceased

The Claims of the Bible

Foy E. Wallace, Jr.

The Bible claims to be the Word of God. And not that only; it claims to be the inerrant Word of God, the infallibly and verbally inspired Word of God. "All Scripture is given by inspiration"—*theopneustia*, God-breathed words. "Unto us God revealed" these things "through the Spirit…Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth; combining spiritual things with spiritual *words*" (1 Cor. 2:10-13—ASV). Divine thoughts and words used to convey them is Paul's statement, with emphasis, of the verbal inspiration of the Bible.

Who says it is not the inerrant Word of God? The devil (Gen. 3:3-4) and worldly-wise men of today (Rom. 1:22). But we are warned against such and should shun them, for they cannot be converted (2 The. 2:10-11) and may destroy faith in you "through philosophy and vain deceit" (Col. 2:8).

Deceased

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Linda Parks
Patricia Grim
Jenny Sheline

Please Remember

November 15
Birthdays and Anniversaries Get-together will be held in the zone room after the afternoon service.

November 29
Fifth Sunday singing and a devotional service at 1:00 pm.

Weekly Services

Sunday
Bible Classes for all ages — 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.
Afternoon Worship Service — 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday
Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

Bellview Church of Christ

Bishops: Paul Brantley
Michael Hatcher
Bill Busch

Minister: Tim Cozad