

The Master Tailor

There is a tailor among us who is indeed a true master of his profession. He customizes the material, color, style and fit of every garment so as to most please his clients. Through his genius, his garments provide enhancements to the wearer's proudest qualities and can even obscure any negativity the tailor chooses to hide. His garments are capable of providing the appearances of beauty, charm, intelligence, wisdom and piety as well as religious fervor and righteousness. He will even customize the very fabric to best serve his goals, using Scriptural based material where necessary and appropriate. In fact, in many circumstances this is his favorite fabric. He weaves, cuts and sews this fabric with great care making certain that because of its apparent supreme quality, the world will perceive the wearer to be whatever the tailor has chosen him to be.

When plying his trade with Scriptural fabric he is especially attentive to detail, being sure to carefully cut a little here, or add a little there, where such alterations are almost impossible to detect. Thus the garment is not only comfortable and pleasing to behold, but it also conveys the appearance of the true Word. It can be slipped into and out of easily, so as to accommodate any and all circumstances that the owner may encounter or choose to create, especially where the appearance of piety is desired. Most of the world wears his label. Many wear simple earthly garments fashioned by his legion of assistant because he personally attends only to those he perceives to have special qualities useful to him, or to those whose potential he fears and seeks to obscure or destroy.

By now it is evident that the master tailor is the prince of this world, the angel of light, Satan, himself. As with any analogy, there is a limit to its effectiveness in expressing an item of truth. But surely Satan does fashion the images worn by much of humanity. Sadly, however, he often does this, not from the outside, but by boring deep into the individual's soul where he injects his venom of deceit. From there, the poison spreads outward as it forms the external appearances and qualities which become the composite attire Satan has planned for the individual. It manifests in their thoughts, emotions,

desires and attitudes as well as their countenance and behavior. As the master of deception and imagery, his handiwork is often very subtle. He can counterfeit almost anything. Many of his garments are so close in appearance to God's own handiwork that they can sometimes, for a while, fool even the elect. His label has been known to be on garments worn by the whole spectrum of humanity from presidents, popes, and politicians, to pastors, priests and peasants. Only those truly born of the Spirit are immune to his cloaking. However, they are far from being safe from his attacks and attempts to control or destroy them.

So far we have spoken only in generalities and through the likeness of Satan as a tailor, fashioning the appearances and actions of those he selects as his clients. These are his chosen from among the unsaved multitude. They are those of the world whom he can use, and who can be tricked or purchased through worldly rewards and the "good life." Many of these are the "great, the rich and the famous" of the world. He doesn't bother with the rest of humanity who are already his by default (John 1:12-13, 3:3, Matthew 12:30, 1 John 3:8-10). However, if he sees any choosing to seek the Lord, toward these he has a totally different agenda and strategy.

I said that only those born of the Spirit are immune to his cloaking. But they are also the ones who get the most of his personal attention. Satan hates Christians with a vengeance. He also fears them! Satan fears Christians? How can one say that this prince of the world who controls all of the principalities and power on earth, this super angel who can produce great signs and wonders, actually fears Christians? He fears them because those who are truly born of the Spirit are sons and daughters of God (Romans 8:14). They have been saved from him, and their souls are immune to his objectives. Therefore, he cannot shape a garment to fit a Christian, in spite of his tailoring genius. While all of this is more a matter of frustration and anger to him, the actual fear is in the fact that each new Christian is like a marble added to a nearly full jar. When the jar is full, when the "fullness of the gentiles (Christians) become in" (Romans 11:25), his number is up. The count down to his demise is at hand. Each new Christian is also like another nail poised and ready to secure the cover of his coffin. No one knows when that jar will be full, but

we know that when it is, our Father will send Jesus back here to bring His family home. (1Thessalonians 4:16) This will usher in the 7-year great tribulation, which will be Satan's last hurrah, his "last supper" (Daniel 9:27).

Although he knows the Scripture and these prophetic passages as well as or better than anyone, he nevertheless retains the hope, and probably the belief, that somehow he can yet thwart God's plan and change the inevitable. Why else has he struggled so tenaciously throughout history to corrupt, subvert and remove God's chosen? This is evidenced over and over again. First it was in the pollution and wickedness he wrought on mankind through the Nephilim (Genesis 6), which resulted in the wiping out of all but eight by the flood. Then, in an attempt to preclude the advent of Jesus, he enlisted Pharaohs in the killing of all male Hebrew babies and again motivating Herod to do the same thing when it was evident that the child Jesus had come. Then there is Haman in the Book of Esther, who was groomed by Satan as his agent through which the entire Jewish race was to be exterminated. The calamity of 70 AD and the modern day holocaust in Germany are but two more of many other genocidal attempts by Satan against those chosen to have a destiny in God's plan.

Today, the Christian born of the spirit is the prime focus of Satan's attention for reasons already given. He cannot destroy the true believer, but he is a master at destroying his or her usefulness. I have personally witnessed such destruction. He has had thousands of years to observe mankind, to learn of every category of man's strengths and weaknesses, physical and spiritual as well as mental and emotional. When he sees someone who is being fruitful for our Lord, his attention and study is immediately focused on that individual for the purpose of eliminating that effectiveness. He can use loving strokes as effectively as severe trials, tribulations and adversities to bring him or her down. He can do this with such subtlety that his victim is totally unaware of whence or why these things happen. He can even make it impossible to distinguish between cause and effect, thereby so obscuring his involvement that we never even suspect that he played any part in the matter. In sizing up his victims, he knows exactly what their strengths and weaknesses are. While our weaknesses are obviously his favorite areas of attack, he will at times

even make a mockery of our strengths in order to exhibit his superiority as he did with Peter. This, the bravest of the Apostles, collapsed into cowardice when he denied Jesus three times after his capture. Look how he humiliated Sampson, and how he made a spectacle of David's high moral standards through Bethsheba.

Satan's favorite being is the false Christian, especially the one who believes he is a real Christian. He delights in all of the false beliefs and religions he has so masterfully contrived or has gleefully seen man fashion for himself. But to see a person falsely and complacently believe that he or she has been born again, gives him the greatest pleasure. Perhaps this is because he knows that he doesn't have to keep his eye on them as much as he does others who might somehow see the error of false doctrines and actually seek the true way to salvation.

What is a false Christian? Surely there are several possible responses to this question. But for present purposes, it seems appropriate to mention only two. First, there are those who recognize Jesus for who He really is, and that He did die to save us from our sin, but they also believe that they themselves must do something else in order to earn their salvation. They believe that Jesus' death on the cross was not in itself wholly sufficient. The official doctrines of the Catholic Church, for example, teach the insufficiency of the cross, that we must also do things ourselves as payment for our sins. This kind of false Christian has not studied the Scriptures, or else does not understand them, especially such passages as Ephesians 2-8, Galatians 2:16 etc. Salvation is free, given by God's grace; to receive it we must accept it as a gift through faith, that it is free to us because Jesus already paid for it in full on the cross. You see, salvation is not really free. God's justice demands a payment, but it's a fine much bigger than anyone could ever afford. So because of Jesus' great love for us, He paid our fine in full. When we acknowledge this through absolute faith in Him and His act as documented in the Scripture, then we are born again and are assured eternal life with Him in heaven.

