

II. OUR SPIRITUAL ENEMY: THE DEVIL

A. The Name by which our Spiritual Enemy is Called

1. The name Devil (diabolos) which describes our spiritual enemy means "Accuser."
2. Notice this is the same name which is applied to those whom Satan uses to slander others (I Tim. 3:11; II Tim. 3:3; Titus 2:3).

B. The Notions that some People Have

1. Some people imagine if you serve God and live right no one will ever say anything bad about you.
2. Some people are naive to the fact that the devil works through other people to gossip and accuse believers for the purpose of injuring their character and reputation and destroying them spiritually.
3. Notice the Bible is replete with examples of how the devil used people to slander and malign others (Dan. 3:8; 6:24; Acts 24:2-9).

Satan even used certain persons to falsely accuse the Lord Jesus (Matt. 12:24; 26:60,61; 27:12; Mark 15:3; Luke 23:10).

C. The Nature of our Spiritual Enemy which is derived from this Name

1. The name "devil" intimates that it is the nature and purpose of our spiritual enemy to slander and malign one's character and thereby bring personal injury.
2. Since Satan is the enemy of both God and man he works in a two-fold way: Firstly he accuses God to man for the purpose of trying to impune God's character. This is illustrated in the temptation of Eve (Gen. 3:4,5). Secondly he accuses man to God (Job 1:6-11; 2:1-5; Rev. 12:9,10).

D. The Necessity for Defending Ourselves against the Accuser

1. Believers should realize that gossip and tale-bearing are sinful and to engage in these is to be used of the devil (Lev. 10:16; Prov. 11:13; 26:20; I Tim. 5:13; I Pet. 4:15).
2. Believers should realize the potential harm which can result from slandering and accusing others. Some people have been used of the devil to destroy the ministry of some of God's choice servants. The old saying that, "words will never hurt me," is not true (Prov. 18:8).