

DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Know Your Enemy (Part 2) ... by Nora'h

- In part one we looked at:

The enemy's strategy: To destroy God's masterpiece – mankind ; *John 10:10*

The enemy's nature: Liar, Murderer, Accuser, Slanderer; *John 8:44*

The enemy's tactics:

- To use our innate pride against us. Jealousy/selfish ambition
- Accusations/slander/lies.

- We continue with another of his tactics which we will see in *Matthew 13:24-30, 37-43*. Satan has 2 objectives in planting these 'weeds.'

To prevent people coming to Christ. Substituting another gospel.

To confuse and discourage believers and to make them ineffective.

- Most commentators believe that the weed referred to in the passage is darnel. Darnel is known as wheat's evil twin. Its official name comes from a Latin word for "drunk".

- **Properties of Darnel:**

It is poisonous. In small doses, it gives bread/beer a special kick. It makes one dizzy, off-balance and nauseous.

It messes with a person's vision and speech. It has mind-altering properties.

It is a mimic plant. Appears to be genuine wheat until the head forms. At this point it is obvious as the head is infected with mould and becomes poisonous.

These people will closely resemble real believers. They talk the talk so to speak. They might be very religious. They can be very nice, kind people.

The New Testament talks about false prophets, messiahs, teachers, arguments, apostles and believers. They have one thing in common. They all seem at first to be genuine.

- In the parable, the weeds remained unnoticed until they began to produce grain. What are we to do about the weeds?

We must be alert and keep our eyes open. If the workers in the story failed to spot the darnel among the wheat the entire crop would have been contaminated.

The disciples went to Jesus to understand the parable. We must get to know the truth. Both the Person and the Word.

We must be patient. Wait on God's timing. (e.g. Saul) We judge the teaching not the teachers. God may yet bring these people into His Kingdom. Jesus alone is the Judge.

There is a judgement day.

Those still not trusting in Jesus alone for salvation will find themselves, as the weeds in the parable, heading for the furnace. Today is the day of salvation. Make sure you are among the wheat which will be taken into the Master's barn. ■

WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Acknowledgement

The McDermott family would like to thank the congregation of Christian Assembly for all their support during Sean's illness and in the weeks and months since then. We, and Sean in particular, were overwhelmed with the outpouring of love and prayer support during this time. We also want to thank those of you who attended the funeral home and Thanksgiving Service and provided the music for the songs that Sean had requested. We are also grateful for those of you who provided refreshments after the Service. A special word of thanks to our pastors, **Billy and Gareth, who spoke from God's Word on the day and reminded us of His wonderful gift of forgiveness and everlasting life.** Lastly, we want to say that we are very appreciative for the generous contributions which **have been made to Tiglin at Sean's request.**

With grateful thanks and appreciation.
Dolores, Claire, Jean, Stephen and Liam

*'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace'.
Numbers 6:24 -26*

Events /Notices

- ▶ Next Bible Study will take place on Friday the 4th of May at 7pm in 110
- ▶ Week of Prayer beginning Sunday 22nd @7pm each evening until Wednesday 25th April
- ▶ Church Weekend in Castledaly Manor will take place from Friday the 8th to Sunday the 10th of June. This weekend will be a time to strengthen your faith and an opportunity to go deeper with God.

