

ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

August 28, 2016

Session 9 How can I resist Evil



WELCOME TO ALPHA – A SERIES OF INTERACTIVE SESSIONS TO DISCUSS LIFE AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN AN INFORMAL, FUN AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT.

After each talk, there is a time for discussion with the people in your pew, during which you can ask questions, delve into different issues and find out what others think.

This is your guide, so use it however you like. Write, scribble, note, jot, or doodle. Whatever helps.

After each discussion there will be a short time of worship and prayer during which you are invited to sing and pray along with the rest of the congregation, or if you prefer simply listen and observe.

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Where does evil come from?

- Triple alliance:
 - World—the enemy around
 - Flesh—the enemy within
 - Devil—the enemy above

1. WHY SHOULD WE BELIEVE THAT THE DEVIL EXISTS? (Romans 12:21)

- Scripture: The Bible presents a personal, spiritual being in active rebellion against God.
 - Old Testament (Isaiah 14; Job 1; 1 Chronicles 21:1)
 - Jesus (Luke 10:17–20)
 - Peter (1 Peter 5:8–11)
 - Paul (Ephesians 6:11–12)
- Tradition: Christians down through the ages have believed.
- Reason: It makes sense of the world we see around us.
 - Why do bad things happen?

Avoid two extremes: Disbelief vs unhealthy, excessive interest

2. WHAT ARE THE DEVIL'S TACTICS? (Genesis 3)

- The devil wants to destroy our lives. (John 10:10)
 - Doubt (Genesis 3:1, Matthew 4:3)
 - Temptation (Genesis 2:16–17)
 - Deception (Genesis 3:4)
 - Condemnation Creates doubt

But, “there is... no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
(Romans 8:1)

3. WHAT IS OUR POSITION? (Colossians 1:13)

- We are transferred from the dominion of darkness to the kingdom of Jesus.
- We experience God's love.
- It's a process—we won't be complete until Jesus returns.

4. HOW DO WE DEFEND OURSELVES? (Ephesians 6)

“Be strong in the Lord.... Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” (Ephesians 6:10–11)

1) Focus on Jesus – belt of truth (v.14)

“I am the truth.” (John 14:6)

Authenticity, integrity, openness in your life

2) Keep your relationships right – breastplate of righteousness (v.14)

Keep short accounts with God

Ask forgiveness from God and others

3) involved in service – boots of the gospel of peace (v.15)

The readiness to speak of Christ (Isaiah 52:7–10)

4) Trust God in difficult times – shield of faith (v.16)

The devil will challenge us with doubt, fear, anxiety, lust...

Keep trusting; don’t give up on your faith

5) Win the battle of the mind – helmet of salvation (v.17)

Salvation = freedom

Protect your mind: temptation starts with a thought, which leads to action

6) Know your Bible – sword of the Spirit (v.17)

Soak yourself in the Word of God

The only offensive piece of armor (Hebrews 4:12)

5. HOW DO WE ATTACK?

- Prayer: “Pray in the Spirit on all occasions....” (Ephesians 6:18)
- Action: “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21)

RECOMMENDED READING

The Screwtape Letters

C. S. Lewis

Café Theology

Michael Lloyd

We pray and give thanks for

International - Our Companion Diocese of Ho - Bishop Matthias

Mission of the Month - St Paul's VBS

Diocese - Our Bishop David and his wife Janet & Retired Bishops Harold, George, William and Claude.

Government - Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Brian Gallant, Mayor Ken Chorley and the town council

Deanery – Rothesay Netherwood & Retired Clergy: Rev. Dr. Lee Whitney

Parish - Rev. David & Family & Rev. Deacon Deborah Cochran & Family

St Paul's Prayer Corner

Raymond Bates, Don Buchanan, Bobbi-Jo Corner, Loretta Derrah, Barb Glauser, Rick Hatchette, Pat Keirstead, Dawn Lent, Paul Robichaud, Lloyd Ryder, Sue Scribner, Erika Wisted

September 4	10:00 am Morning Prayer <i>Alpha 10 Why and how should I tell Others?</i>
Music Leader	Glenna Geer
Layreader	Betty Kennett
Reader	Pat Mackay <i>Isaiah 40: 9-11</i>
Greeters	Lori Setzke / Lois Moore
A/V	Elaine Robichaud
Sunday School	Heather Crossman / Diana Bastarache
Chancel	Shirley Stanley / Betty Mitham
Counters	Kitty Martin / Glenna Geer