

## Doctrine of the Depths of Satan

1. There are two ways to know evil or injurious behavior. One way is by objective knowledge such as the knowledge God has. Another way to know evil is experientially.
2. While it is possible for professing Christians to know experientially the depths of Satan, and therein is the danger to faith, divine commendation comes when the depths of Satan are not known in this way.
  - *Revelation 2: 24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.*
3. Objectively, it is important for Christians to be aware of what is meant by the depths of Satan.
  - *2 Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*
4. However, such spiritual knowledge does come with a warning.

What Christ calls “the depths of Satan” refers to “satanical delusions and devices, diabolical mysteries; for there is a mystery of iniquity, as well and the great mystery of godliness. It is a dangerous thing to despise the mystery of God, and it is as dangerous to receive the mysteries of Satan” (Matthew Henry).

5. To receive the mysteries of Satan as true truth will lead to the destruction of the soul.
6. Among the depths of Satantic teaching are the following concepts.
  - God lies. *Genesis 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*
  - There is no consequence to disobeying the known will of God. Genesis 3:2 “*Ye shall not surely die.*” “Satan teaches men first to doubt and then to deny; he makes them skeptics first, and so by degrees makes them atheists” (Matthew Henry).
  - God is withholding power and pleasure from men. *Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

- It is possible for men to become gods. Genesis 3:1-5 "*You shall be as gods, as Elohim, mighty gods; not only omniscient, but omnipotent too;*" or, "*You shall be as God himself, equal to him, rivals with him; you shall be sovereigns and no longer subjects, self-sufficient and no longer dependent*" (Matthew Henry).

One man who believed this lie of the devil was Joseph Smith, who has taught it to millions of others. Said the false "Prophet" Smith (December 23, 1805 – June 27, 1844),

"First, God himself, who sits enthroned in yonder heavens, is a man like unto one of yourselves, that is the great secret...I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined that God was God from all eternity...God himself; the Father of us all dwelt on an earth the same as Jesus Christ himself did...You have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves" (*Times and Seasons*, vol. 5, Pp. 613-14).

- God is a man. The Mormons teach an eternal law of progression summed up in this way: "As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become." But what saith the Scripture? *Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*
- It is possible to cover up sin. *Exodus 2:12 And he [Moses] looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.* Upon hearing this story in Sunday school, a little child raised his hand and said, "Teacher, Moses 'looked this way and that' but he forgot to look up!"
- It is permissible to worship idols and even to offer child sacrifices. *1 Kings 11:7 Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. 8 And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.*

According to Jewish tradition, the image of Molech was of brass, hollow within, and was situated without Jerusalem. "His face was (that) of a calf, and his hands stretched forth like a man who opens his hands to receive (something) of his neighbor. And they kindled it with fire, and the priests took the babe and put it into the hands of Molech, and the babe gave up the ghost" (Smith's Bible Dictionary).

- The devil can legitimately offer the kingdoms of this world to others. *Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.* This claim by Satan is part of the depth of his deceptive nature.

Moses. *Exodus 9:29 And Moses said unto him, As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the Lord; and the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail; that thou mayest know how that the earth is the Lord's.*

David. *Psalms 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.*

Paul. *1 Corinthians 10:26 For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof. 27 If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake. 28 But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake: for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof:*

- *Inappropriate sensual activities will bring lasting pleasure. Revelation 2:20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.*

7. Spiritual knowledge sustained by personal holiness is essential for Christian maturity.

- *1 Corinthians 14:20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.*
- *1 Peter 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*