

If I Were the Devil

I want to preach to you on a subject that I consider to be very important for this time in which we are living. If I were the devil. I would like to read from I Peter chapter 5 verses 6-11. "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be on alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Joking About the Devil

I'm sure that many of you used to watch the Flip Wilson television program. How many times did you hear him make that remark, "The devil made me do it"? Everybody would

roar with laughter. Well, the Apostle Paul tells us that we should not be ignorant of the devil's devices. I want to talk to you on this subject of the devil. Many jokes are made about the devil and yet the devil is no joke.

The World Turns to the Devil

A short time ago if I would have spoken on this subject to university students, well they would have laughed, but not today. Today, university students want to know about the devil. They are studying about witch craft and about the occult. I have traveled to Haiti many times. Haiti is a place where the devil is worshiped. Voodooism is the religion of those poor, superstitious people who live on that island. But, it is not just the poor, ignorant, superstitious that are thinking about witchcraft and the occult today, it is also the rich, the intelligent, the highly educated. The word "occult" that we hear so often, what does it mean? It means hidden knowledge, secret art, unexplainable phenomena. Occult bookshops are engaged in a tremendous business throughout the western world. Ritual robes, amulets, special incense made from herbs, crystal balls, and best selling books on the subject are on sale everywhere. Some bumper stickers that I have read say, "I am a warlock". Motion pictures on the subject of the devil are proliferating. A monthly magazine called, "The Occult Trade Journal" is now being published. An American airline is offering physic tours of Great Britain. In Germany, the most intellectual and sophisticated nation of the world, it is reported that there are 3 million satan worshipers and 7 million satan sympathizers. In France, there has been a revival of the black mass and the black magic. Here in America, we do thank God for the young people who have been turning to Jesus Christ in record numbers, but at the same time a satanic revival has been taking place in young people. Recently, in Miami, Florida a 22 year old girl stabbed to

death a 62 year old man. She stabbed him 46 times. She was convicted of man slaughter and was given a 7 year sentence. After her conviction, she smiled and said a prayer to the devil and thanked him for her light sentence. She then talked to newspaper reporters and told them she enjoyed the murder that she had committed. Many people do not know they are turning to satan. They are being deluded, because according to Jesus Christ, Satan is the greatest liar of all times. He is called the father of lies. He is called a deceiver, not just those of the ignorant and the poor like those in Haiti, but he is also deceiving lawyers, doctors, and educators, and even some clergymen have been caught up in this revival of satanism. All of you know that there is a satanic bible that is being used today.

There are still some people that would deny the existence of the devil. There are others who would simply try to identify the devil with some living person. The common conception created by many liberal Theologians is that the devil is somebody who disagrees with me. My friends, the devil as he is revealed to us in God's Holy word, is a living being with definite characteristics. He is described as the angel of the bottomless pit. The Bible calls him, "The prince of this world", "The prince of darkness." In our text, I Peter 5:8, he is called a "roaring lion", a "deceiver", a "liar", and a "serpent". It is amazing the misconceptions that people have about the devil.

The Complaining Church Member

Have you ever heard the story about the preacher who had a big problem? Most preachers do have problems, this preacher did have a big problem. One of the church members went out the door after every service complaining. That is one of the big problems preachers face. This complainer was really bad, he'd always go out the door, shake hands with the preacher and in a whiney voice he would say, "Well, Preacher, it was a pretty

good sermon, but . . .”. Then he would start in and just rip that preacher’s sermon to shreds. It was giving the poor preacher an inferiority complex and it reached the place where he didn’t even like to stand at the door and shake hands because he always had to face that same old grouch. The preacher said, “This has got to stop! I have got to put an end to this griping somehow, somehow.” He decided on a plan. He would preach on Heaven because how can anyone complain about Heaven? So he worked about six weeks and he finally got his sermon worked up on Heaven. He stood up the next Sunday morning and he preached on the subject and he preached it so beautifully that everyone in the congregation wished they could go to Heaven right away. If he ever preached a sermon, it was a good one that day. When he went back to the door, he couldn’t help but congratulate himself because he knew it was a good sermon. He stood there and waited on the people to come out and shake hands and they just heaped the compliments on him that day, “Good sermon, Preacher. My that was great preaching today, Brother. Oh it was beautiful how I want to go to Heaven.” But, all these compliments went in one ear and out the other because he was waiting on the old grouch. He was just about to have a heart attack waiting on this old griper to come, because he thought, “I wonder if his face will crack when he smiles for a change. I wonder how it will seem to hear him say something good instead of something bad like he always says.” He stood there waiting and waiting and the people kept coming and he thought, “Is he ever going to get here?” Finally, before he had nervous prostration, the man showed up. The last one to come out the door. The preacher stood there expecting something nice for a change. The old grouch walked up and it was the same old thing, “Well, Preacher, it was a pretty good sermon, but . . .”! The preacher said, “But what? What could possibly be wrong with that sermon today?” The old grouch said, “You never did explain to us how when I get to Heaven am I going to get my coat on over my wings!” Well, the preacher lost his temper and

said, "Where you are going you are going to have to get your hat on over your horns!"

Is the Devil Ugly?

Now, I think that is just about the conception that most people have of the devil. They think the devil has horns coming out of his head and maybe a pitchfork tail and that people would be frightened to death if they saw the devil. Do you think he looks like that?

The Drunken Husband

I heard about a housewife. That is exactly how she thought the devil looked. She also had a problem. Her problem was her husband came home drunk every afternoon. That would be a terrible problem, worse than the preacher's problem. The housewife thought, "What can I do to stop my husband from this horrible drinking?" She finally decided on a scheme. The next afternoon she looked out the window and there he came wobbling down the sidewalk drunk as usual. So, she put her plan into operation. She ran to the closet and put on the devil's suit that one of the children wore for Halloween. She put that costume on. It had a pitchfork tail, horns sticking out the top, it was an awful looking outfit. She put it on including the mask and she ran outside and hid in the bushes by the front porch. As her husband came wobbling up the front porch she jumped out in front of him and said, "BOO! I'm the devil!" He stood there for a moment and wobbled around then he stuck out his hand and said, "Pleased to meet you. I married your sister!"

The Devil Is Handsome!

Well, that is the way some people picture the devil. Sort of

like the church member that tormented the preacher. Horns sticking out the top. Or, like the housewife, the red devil suit. Do you think the devil looks like that? Do you think he is ugly? Do you think he has horns and fire shooting out his mouth? Do you think if you met the devil you would be afraid? I don't believe that is what the devil looks like at all, not at all. I believe that the devil is handsome, attractive, alluring, and when you meet him you are not frightened at all, you want to put your hand in his hand, you want to go where the devil wants you to go, you want to do what the devil wants you to do. He is such a deceiver that he makes wrong look right and right look wrong. He is such a deceiver that the Bible calls him the "god of this world". In II Corinthians 4:4 the scripture says, "In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God should shine unto them."

A Dog

The devil is compared to a dog. I know that the dog is supposed to be a man's best friend. Some of you are dog lovers. So, I say this with fear and trembling. But, you know what these dogs are like that sneak up behind you and when you least expect it, "RUFF!" and then they grab you. That is the kind of dog the devil is.

A Snake

The devil is compared to a snake. What is any worse than a treacherous water moccasin? Or rattle snake? Or copperhead? They lie and wait and when you least expect it, they reach up and bite you and poison you. That is the kind of snake the devil is.

In the book of Job, God teaches us that the devil is a living personality working and operating in this present world on human beings like you and me. Yes, since I am a human being I am one of the tools through which the devil has sometimes worked to accomplish his purposes. Since you are a human, you are also one of the tools through which the devil has sometimes worked.

The First Lie

In the beginning, do not forget that it was the devil who caused the world's first man and woman to hear a lie, to believe a lie, to obey a lie, and that constitutes the first sin, the first mistake. The mistake that God has been trying to correct ever since, namely to get us to hear the truth, to believe the truth, and to obey the truth, that we may be brought back along the same road which we went to ruin and to destruction. Please notice with me that the world's first woman had no fear of the serpent until the devil used that serpent for the first temptation. We see that sin was begun by the devil in a cunning, insidious, unsuspecting manner as he approached Mother Eve there in the Garden of Eden and said, "Hath God said, 'Thou shalt not'?" Don't you see how clever the devil is? He didn't begin by simply denying God's existence. Neither did he begin by denying God's word. He began by simply questioning God's word, "Did God say not to do this?" That is the same way the devil works today. He simply puts a question mark after the word of God. Behind every sin, behind every lie, behind every crooked deed, and every denial of the Lord Jesus is the leering visage of that evil one, who long ago approached Mother Eve in the Garden of Eden and simply questioned God's word. Now if I were the devil, that is what I would do. I would continue to meet men and women, boys and girls at every milestone and at every turn, at every precipice and I would put a question mark by the word

of God.

I. I WOULD GO TO SCHOOL

You know how I would start out if I were a devil. I would get in the public schools. I'd make sure there was at least one school teacher in every public school in America who was an atheist, who would stand up in the class room and question the word of God. If I were the devil, I would have the teacher do it like this: I'd have the teacher say, "Boys and girls, do you really believe that the Bible is true? Do you really believe that God made the Heavens and the earth like the Bible says?" And all of our boys and girls would say, "Yes, teacher, we believe in the Bible." If I were the devil I would have the teacher laugh and say, "Well, we can't believe everything that is in the Bible, because after all there are a lot of fairy tales, allegories, legends, and things we know aren't true, because they aren't scientifically possible. Now boys and girls, do you really believe when the Bible says that God created Adam and Eve and put them in this Garden of Eden, is that the way everything came to pass? Do you really believe that?" Of course, our boys and girls would say yes. If I were the devil, I would have that school teacher say, "You know boys and girls, science has proven that is not true. Science has proven that earth flew off the sun and it took several million years to cool down and in the cooling process great cracks appeared on the earth's surface and that's where our lakes and rivers and oceans came from. Then after a few more million years there was finally a one celled amoeba that came from nothing. That one cell divided and became two and the two divided to four and finally there was a tadpole. That little tadpole went swimming around having a great time, then one day a tadpole flipped up on the bank and scratched its stomach on the sand and grew legs and arms and became a monkey. Then for millions of years our ancestors were monkeys and they swung around in the trees by their tails having a great time. Until, one

day a monkey took a walk and he saw his reflection in the water, he didn't like it so he picked up a sharp stone and shaved the hair from his face and stood up on his hind legs and became a man. So boys and girls, that is where we came from. Science has proven that we evolved from monkeys therefore we cannot believe the Bible.' If I were the devil, that is what I would have the atheistic public school teacher teach our children. Isn't that about the stupidest thing you've ever heard of in all your life? Why not even the monkeys believe a stupid tale like that.

The Monkey's Viewpoint

Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree one day discussing things as they're said to be.

Said one to the others—

“Now listen you two, there's a certain rumor that can't be true — that man descended from our noble race!

“*Why the very idea is a dire disgrace!*

“No monkey ever deserted his wife or starved her babies or ruined her life — and you've never known of a mother monk to leave her babies with others to bunk — or to pass them on from one to another till they scarcely know who is their mother.

“And here's another thing a monkey won't do — and that's to build a fence around a coconut tree forbidding all other monkeys a taste — allowing all the coconuts to go to waste!!! Why if I did build a fence around this tree, starvation could never force you to steal from me.

“Here's another thing a monkey won't do — that's to go out at night and get on a stew — or use a gun or a club or a knife to take some other monkey's life!

“Yes, man descended the ornery cuss — *but brother he didn't descend from us!!!!*”

There is the monkey's viewpoint. Even the monkeys don't believe that stupid tale of evolution. Isn't it ridiculous? It is intellectually dishonest for the school teacher to stand up and

teach the theory of evolution to our children for a fact. Evolution has never been anything except an unproved theory, but these school teachers are so intellectually dishonest that they have taught it for a fact. That is really criminal. If I were the devil, that is exactly what I would do. I would begin in our public schools and undermine the faith of our boys and girls by teaching that ridiculous tale of evolution. Of course all of the boys and girls would not believe that. Those who have Christian parents and those who are firmly grounded in the word of God would be able to stand up against this atheistic teaching.

II. I WOULD GO TO HOLLYWOOD

But if I were the devil I would not give up. I would have a few more tricks up my sleeve and the next thing I would do is to go to the directors out in Hollywood. I would offer them millions and millions of dollars if they would put this one little thought in their movie script over and over again, "How about a drink?", "How about a high ball?", "Wouldn't you like a shot of gin or a glass of whiskey?" Yes, in every movie made in Hollywood I would include those scenes of liquor drinking. I would do my best to undermine Jesus Christ and His church, by suggesting everything immoral that I could think of through the movies. I would be sure to put out a lot of the X movies and the R movies, because that is the main thing the young people want to see. Older people think that it's just the adults that are going to those movies. But what a shock it is to find out that it is the young people.

X-Rated Movies

They started showing those low-down, filthy, vulgar movies in our little town of Miami, Oklahoma. Our preacher put a stop to it very easily. He went down and spoke to the manager of the

theater. He said, "Is it true that you have to be 18 years or older to see these low down, filthy, vulgar, vile movies that you are showing with an X after them on Saturday night?" The theater man was so embarrassed and said, "Oh preacher, we're so ashamed that we have to show such trash, but it is what the people want to see. We've got to give the public what they want." Our preacher said, "Never mind about your excuses you just tell me is it the law that they have to be 18 or older?" The theater manager said, "Oh, yes that's the law." Our preacher said, "Good! Next Saturday night two of our church ladies are going to be standing here at the ticket counter. They know every kid in town, even their birthdays. You better not break the law next Saturday night." Our preacher had been watching and the kids lined up for over two blocks to get in those X movies. They were letting them in, almost every kid going in was under 18 years old. Well, the next Saturday night our two church ladies took their stand at the ticket counter and they sold two tickets that night. Everybody else that lined up were under age. Two people, that was all that got in. That ended the X movies in Miami, Oklahoma.

I believe it is time for Christian people to take a stand. I think it's time for members of the church to help protect our young people against this evil that has invaded our land. There is no doubt about it that the devil is using curiosity through the use of that R and X to attract the minds of the young people. They want to know, "What is this that I am forbidden to see?" When they put that X and R that is just an invitation for them to want to go and they will try every way possible to get in to see if it can possibly be any more filthy than the last one. Oh, how the devil can corrupt the minds of people through those filthy films coming out of that cesspool called Hollywood, California.

III. I WOULD GO TO CHURCH

But if I were the devil I would not give up even on the filthy

movies. The next thing I would do if I were the devil would be to come to church. Did you know the devil attends church? Oh yes, the devil attends church more regularly than the church members, because the devil never misses a service. If I were the devil I would be sitting right beside you, unseen, but I would be whispering to you. I would say, "Listen, in a little while when they sing that invitation to go down and accept Jesus, don't you do it! Don't you go to the front! Why, you'd have to be perfect, you could never live up to it and besides you are young, you have years and years to prepare and think about meeting God. Don't you go down there because you wouldn't be able to smile or laugh any more or have any fun, you know, Christians have to go around frowning all the time. Don't you go down there because you are a sissy if you go down there! You big Sissy!

Repentance Not Necessary

Of course, I wouldn't be able to convince everybody with these arguments. There are some who would truly and sincerely step to the front to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. But if I were the devil, I would walk right down here to the front with you. All the way down I'd be whispering, "You don't have to repent. It's not necessary to repent of your sins. You can go right on hating. You can go right on gossiping. You can go on cursing and taking God's name in vain. You can go right on drinking and gambling. You can continue to do the same old sins that you have been doing all along. The only thing that is important is to join the church."

Baptism Not Necessary

Of course, I wouldn't win everyone with an argument like that. Some would sincerely repent of their sins and come to the front to accept Jesus as their Savior. But do you think I would

give up? Oh no! If I were the devil, I would start arguing with you saying, "You don't have to be baptized. You can be saved without baptism. Now that you have gone forward you are saved. There is nothing more to do, so don't let them talk you into being baptized."

Of course, I wouldn't win everyone with that argument, because lots of people would read the word of God on the subject of baptism. They would read for example Jesus teaching in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." They would read what the Holy Spirit said through Peter on the day of Pentecost, "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins." They would read what Ananias said to Saul of Tarsus at the time of his conversion, "Why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins calling on the Lord." So some people would say, "I am going to be baptized. I know that Jesus commanded it. I know that it is necessary."

Immersion Not Necessary

So, if I were the devil, I would say, "Okay, okay but you don't have to be put under the water. Have a few drops sprinkled on your head, that will be just as good. It is not necessary to be immersed to be baptized."

I wouldn't win everyone with that argument, because lots of people would read in the scriptures about how Jesus was baptized in the Jordan and "came up out of the water". Many would turn there to Acts 8 and read how they went "down into the water and came up out of the water". They would read in Romans 6:4 that we are to be "buried in baptism". So many people would go ahead and be baptized in the Bible way.

Be Good In Front of the Preacher

But if I were the devil, I wouldn't give up. I would be waiting

right there for you on the edge of the baptismal waters. Even as you came up after having put all your sins away through the blood of Jesus, I would say, "Now that you're a Christian, the only thing you really need to do is be good in front of the preacher. As long as you make the preacher think you are a good Christian then everything will be fine." Isn't it amazing how many people practice that kind religion? Just be good in front of the preacher or be good in front of the elders or the main members of the church and the rest of the time you can live like the devil. I heard about a mother who was always drilling this thought into her children. "Now children, you must be good in front of our minister, because we want our preacher to know how much we love God in this house. Now children, whenever the preacher calls at our house you show him God's Book. Now children, when the preacher comes, I want you to be sure and say your prayers." Well, one day the preacher called quite unexpectedly. The little 8 years old boy was in the backyard playing in the sand pile. He had no idea that the preacher was within ten miles of the place. While the preacher was having a lovely visit all at once there was a piercing scream that rang through the air and the poor mother shuddered, because she could hear him coming from all the way in the backyard shouting, "Oh boy, oh boy, Mom, look what I got. I saw this old, dirty, filthy rat running through the garden so I grabbed a 2x4 and I whopped him over the head. Oh just look at him Mom! I caught him by the tail and I smashed him all to pieces with my feet. Look at this bloody mess!" By then he was in the living room face to face with the minister. He knew that he'd pulled a boo-boo. But he quickly recovered, he tenderly laid the rat down on the floor, walked over to the coffee table and got the Bible and said, "Until God took his soul home to glory"!

Little Sins Okay

If I were the devil that is exactly what I would teach people. I

would say, "Oh, you must be good in front of our preacher. You must be sure and be very religious, but then the rest of the time you can do as you please." In other words, if I were the devil I would tell people that it was alright to commit little sins. I would say, "You don't have to go to church every Sunday. If the preacher says anything about you being absent, just tell him your big toe ached and you didn't feel like coming. Tell him your parents made you go too often when you were young and now that you are grown up you don't want like to be obligated." If I were the devil, I would tell people that it was okay to cuss a little bit especially if you hit your thumb with a hammer. I'd say it was alright to lie a little bit. Somebody knocks on our door and you don't want to see them, well, just send one of your children to the door to say, "Mama's not home". You'd be surprised how that one can backfire. I knocked at the door one day and the sweetest, blonde haired girl answered the door. She had a smile a mile wide and she said, "Mama says she's not home"! I was so glad that mother got caught in her lie. That's such a terrible thing the way parents will teach their children to tell lies. If I were the devil well I would say, "It's alright to take a glass of beer now and then. Of course, not in front of Brother Joe, but my goodness whoever respects God enough to know that he will care."

Tithing Not Necessary

Here's another thing that I would do if I were the devil, when the preacher preaches on tithing and when he says, "Now folks, quit cheating God." If I were the devil I'd say, "Don't let the preacher get into your pocketbook. Don't let him get you in this money business. Look at all the things you buy with the tithing money. You've been wanting a new automobile, well this tithe would more than make the payments. You need some new clothes, while this tithe money will purchase these clothes.

You've been wanting to redecorate your house, well you could borrow the money pay it back with the tithe money. Well, you've called yourself a Christian all these years without really paying God what you owe Him, now don't be a fool about it. What if the Bible does say, 'Bring all the tithe into the storehouse.' So what! What if Jesus did say in Matthew 23:23 not to leave the tithing undone. What if the Bible does say there in I Corinthians 16:2, 'Upon the first day of the week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come.' So what, nobody knows the difference but you and God. Even if you fall \$2000 behind in your tithing, God's not going to send an angel from Heaven to garnish your wages, at least not yet."

Have A Church Fight

Here's another thing if I were the devil, I would beg members of the church to get angry with one another and to get peeved with the preacher and to quit attending. Do you know why the devil stirs up fusses like that in the church? Because if he can get people to quit attending and they don't meet Jesus around the Lord's table on the first day of the week, what happens? They backslide. Jesus plainly said in John the 6th chapter, "If you do not eat My flesh, if you do not drink My blood you have no life in you." One of the main things the devil tries to accomplish in the church is to stir up a little fuss now and then and get somebody to lose their temper and have somebody quit, so that he can claim one more backslider.

Time Is Running Out

Oh, if I were the devil, there are so many more things I would do, but time forbids me from mentioning them.

Remember this, the devil is working against tremendous odds and time is running out on him and has been running out ever since that day Jesus asked His disciples, "Whom do men say that I am?", and Simon Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God." Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." Now the devil, who represents the very gates of Hell, realizes that he cannot win against Jesus.

Do you believe there is a God? James says, "Thou doest well." The devil also believes and trembles. Little wonder that John writing there on the island of Patmos off the coast of Greece, prophesied, "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and false prophet are and shall be tormented day and night forever more." The warning words of the scriptures are watch and pray for ye know not the day nor the hour when the Son of God shall come. That day, that hour, that minute, that second the curtain will fall across the world's vast stage of eternity and life's little play will be ended and God will carry out His promises. Truly the devil is a roaring lion and he walketh about seeking whom he may devour.

A True Story

Years and years ago I was holding a revival meeting at Heltonville, Indiana and there was a delegation from Mooresville who were there in the audience and some of the people verified the truthfulness and the accuracy of this true life story of little Johnny.

Johnny Came Forward

The Christian Church of Mooresville, Indiana was in revival

meeting and little Johnny heard the Gospel, he was faithful in Sunday School and he decided he wanted to be a Christian. When the invitation was extended, Johnny stepped out and started to go down to the front, but there was one man in this church who did not believe in children becoming Christians and this man reached out and grabbed Johnny and pulled him back and he said, "You are too little! You don't know what it's all about; wait until you are older." And he held him back all through the invitation. Johnny was very upset. He was 10 years old, old enough to hear the Gospel, to understand, to believe. He was very upset, but he came back the next night and he listened to the next sermon. He believed with all of his heart what the preacher preached and he wanted to accept Jesus and become a Christian. Once again, that second night he stepped out and started to go down and that same man grabbed him again, he said, "You are too little! You do not know what you are doing, wait until you are older." Johnny was very disappointed, but he came back the third night. He listened again to the preaching of God's word, he believed it and he really wanted to be a Christian. He stepped out and started to go down and again that same man grabbed him and held him back again. But that night, Johnny began to cry and he left the service crying like a baby. He was so bitterly disappointed. Most of the members of the church were also very upset, but nobody did anything about it. Nobody had the courage to go to this man and show him how wrong he was. Instead they stood around and whispered in little groups. Finally the last group left the building, the lights were extinguished, the windows were closed, and finally the door. As this last little group started to walk away from the building, they started to cross the road, little Johnny was on the other side of the road lying in a ditch. That night when he had run out of the building, crying, he had crossed the road and stumbled and fallen in the ditch. He was so broken hearted that he had laid there all that time crying his eyes out.

To Hell With the Church

Now that the last group was leaving and he saw them coming across the road he thought they had seen him. So his attitude changed. He jumped up red and hot with anger and he scooped up two hands full of gravel and he threw the gravel towards the people and the church house and he screamed, "To Hell with the church. If the church don't want me, I don't want the church." Then he ran down the street crying his eyes out.

The Worst Criminal

What happened to little Johnny? My friends, I am sorry to tell you that is the true story of the life of John Dillinger, one of the worst criminals that we've ever known in the United States. A bank robber, a murderer, who was finally shot by an officer of the law in Chicago, Illinois. To think when John Dillinger was a boy, he was regular in Sunday School and he wanted to be a Christian, but somebody held him back.

The Devil's Trick

If I were the devil, that is the main trick I would use on you tonight. I would try to hold you back and keep you from coming down here to give your life to Jesus. One way or the other I would try to hold you back, if nothing else worked I would say, "Wait until tomorrow night. There's no hurry. You don't need to go down there tonight. There's plenty of time."

Another Voice

There is another voice calling you tonight, and that is the

MY FAVORITE REVIVAL SERMONS

voice of God. God loves you. God speaks the truth. God wants you to be saved. God says, "Come now and accept My Son Jesus." The devil hates you. He is your enemy. He is a liar. The devil says don't go, wait awhile longer. It's up to you on whose voice you are going to obey.

The idea for this sermon came from James Rutherford, Sr.