

**SECTION 1: THE KNOWLEDGE AND
EXPERIENCE OF DEMONS**

|
CHAPTER 1: WHAT DO DEMONS KNOW?

|
CHAPTER 2: IS SATAN A CALVINIST?

|
**CHAPTER 3: EXPERIENCE OF DEMONS AND
THE CONDEMNED IN HELL**

SECTION 1

THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES OF DEMONS

You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe---and shudder!

-The Holy Spirit through James (2:19)

What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are---the Holy One of God.

-Demon (Mk. 1:24)

That which is in the devils is no certain sign of grace.

-Jonathan Edwards

The devil is a great student in divinity.

- William Gurnall

There is many a learned head in hell.

- John Flavel

CHAPTER 1

WHAT DO DEMONS KNOW?

When approaching the question, “what do demons know,” it must be understood and recognized that Scripture has to be the sole source for our answers. We must not speculate or let our imaginations over-rule or damn our God-given springs. Scripture alone is our authority; there is no room for idle curiosities, fables, or the like. With that being said, there is an element of mystery involved. The Bible is not a systematic theology with a section on demonology. What is known must be pieced together from several authors, involving different contexts, and written for diverse reasons. With this in mind and accomplished, we are still left with more questions than answers, but we can build a foundation which will serve well enough to meet our objective.

What is our goal? The purpose is to show that anything that a demon knows, believes, or experiences that is found in or shared by a person, is not nor can it be necessarily equated to saving grace and conversion. In other words, if a person thinks that he or she is a converted, born again, believer, then the evidence for this must go beyond what is common to Satan and demons. If all that a “Christian” possesses is shared by the entire demonic world, then this faith is not saving; it is spurious. This is not true, saving faith by definition or biblical revelation. I am not splitting theological hairs. We are discussing God’s salvation and eternal matters. Souls hang in the balance and we cannot be too careful. This is indeed holy ground; we must remove our shoes and proceed humbly and reverently.

The word of God reveals a great deal of the knowledge exhibited by demons. Among the most revealing are the dialogues between Jesus and demon possessed people.

Matthew 8:29- And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?"

Mark 1:23-24- And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are---the Holy One of God."

Luke 4:33-34- And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are---the Holy One of God."

GOD

Satan and his minions know a great deal about God. Jonathan Edwards says, "The devil has undoubtedly a great deal of speculative knowledge in divinity, having been, as it were, educated in the best divinity school in the universe, the heaven of heavens."¹ The apostle James wrote, "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!"² They have gained this knowledge because they were at one time in the very presence of God. Now fallen, sin and its subsequent effects on the nature does not erase speculative knowledge. They would have retained what was learned, known, and experienced.

The realization that demons were in God's presence can be deduced from the fact that they are among the created order and were at one time un-fallen, holy, and good angels. Having been created good (Gen. 1:1, 1:31), they would have sung God's praises with the rest of the heavenly choir. Job 38:7 reads, "When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy;" this verse then would include what are now fallen angels. Another proof that proves

¹Jonathan Edwards, "*True Grace Distinguished From The Experience of Devils*" in *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, 2 vols. (Hendrickson, 2004), 2:43.

²James 2:19

demons were in God's presence is that demons were cast out of heaven. In order to be cast out, one has to be in.

Part of the angelic population (exact numbers are not revealed in Scripture) rebelled against God and his sovereign rule. Answers to our many questions are not given; we must simply trust God and be content with what he chose to unveil. How can creatures that were created good by a good God fall and commit treason against an all-knowing, all-wise, and supreme King? The answer is simply not explained; it is a mystery we cannot speculate on or peer into.

2 Peter 2:4 says that God "cast them [angels that sinned] into hell" and "committed them to chains." Jude 6 shows that these angels "did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling" and that they are "kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness." At one time, they enjoyed God and worshiped with the heavenly host. They then, becoming unholy and unworthy of God or his blessings and glory, were cast from his presence and consigned to eternal torment. Further proof of this (being in God's presence) is seen in Job 1 when Satan presented himself before God and received permission to act against Job.

The point being made is that these heavenly creatures would have learned and witnessed much about God. They saw him create and sang his praises. These future rebels witnessed him making man and covenanting with the new being. The amount of speculative knowledge that they possess cannot be measured or fully understood. They saw and heard things that any believer would be envious of and trade a thousand years on this earth for a moment before time. Demons have a great knowledge of God, and this would not be diminished in the least by a fall. Sin does not erase the memory or efface knowledge acquired.

Due to the fact that they had been occupants of heaven for a time and were before the face of God, Satan and his demons would know that God is triune. They would have an intimate and

working understanding of a plurality of Persons within the Godhead. The Spirit is mentioned in the very beginning of the creation account. Genesis 1:26 and 3:22 uses plural language when God is speaking to himself. There is also a glimpse of the pre-incarnate Christ in Genesis 3:8 and 3:14-15. There is no doubt that the devil knows of the Trinity.

Demons are also certain of the attributes of God. If man can know God's characteristics from nature and the word of God, then the spiritual beings that were at one time occupants of heaven and before the very face of God would know a great deal more. In the information that follows, the verses used are references to the many attributes of God as revealed in differing contexts by various biblical authors and for multiple reasons. They do not directly mention demons and or Satan, but the idea is that if man has this knowledge, whether it is gained from creation or the direct revelation of the word of God, then angels are also privy to the concepts taught.

Before proceeding further, let us stop and ponder the magnitude of what has transpired. Angels witnessed God's mighty act of creation. They heard his voice, saw worlds pop into existence, stars burst into the void of space, and nothing became something. They would have seen God stoop down and fashion man from the dust of the earth and breathe life into the clay; thereby setting him apart from the rest of creation. Further still, the angelic hosts witnessed God putting Adam into a deep sleep, removing his rib, and then fashioning a woman to be his helpmate. Even more, they worshiped and enjoyed fellowship with this Creator. They knew him and he knew them; they had a relationship with the Almighty. These angels were sinless and not limited by bodies. We would also conjecture that the minds of these beings were well beyond ours; who could begin to imagine their thoughts and the praises that flowed from their sanctified lips (spiritually speaking of course). But, alas, they fell. Let the enormity of these words sink in.

They fell. These creatures, who were created so high, fell to depths that our mere human minds cannot comprehend. Furthermore, if we are honest, why would we want to try to understand the profound collapse that took place?

Having seen and heard all of this and much more, it is reasonable to surmise that demons know much of what is generally referred to as the attributes of God. Demons are very aware that God is *holy* (Ps. 5:5-6, 99:9; Ex. 15:11; Rev. 4:8, 15:4), *powerful* (Jer. 32:17-22, 27; Job 9:4-10; 1 Chron. 29:10-13; Ex. 7-11; Is. 10:5-19; Ps. 78:42-55, 145:7), *wise* (Job 12:13; Ps. 104:24; Rom. 11:22-33, 16:25-27; 1 Cor. 1:18-31), *wrathful* (Rom. 1:18; Ps. 11:5-6, 75:7-8; Gen. 7 and 19; Rev. 11:16-18, 15, 16), *omnipresent* (Ps. 139:7-10; Prov. 15:3), *omniscient* (Ps. 49:20-21, 147:5; Heb. 4:13), *gracious and loving* (Ps. 30:4-5, 86:15; Tit. 2:17; Eph. 1:7; Jer. 9:24; 1 Jn. 3:1; Rom. 5:8; Neh. 9:17-20), *merciful* (Lam. 3:22-23; Ps. 165:5; Dan. 9:18; Tit. 3:5), *truthful* (Ps. 25:4-5, 117:2; Tit. 1:2), and *sovereign* (Ps. 33:4-15, 46:10, 93:1-2, 135:6, 86:8-13; Prov. 21:1; Dan. 4:34-37; 1 Tim. 1:17; 1 Cor. 15:25; Ps. 105:25; Gen. 15:13-16).

The Westminster Confession of Faith captures the beauty and majesty of God. Chapter 2 and section 1 reads:

There is but one only, living, and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body parts, or passions; immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute; working all things according to the counsel of His own immutable and most righteous will, for His own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, longsuffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him; and withal, most just, and terrible in His judgments, hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.

Recall, whatever man is capable of knowing and expressing about God, as demonstrated by the elegant language in the confession, is shared and acknowledged by spiritual beings. Not only do they know about God and how He manifests Himself, demons also know God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

Demons know the word of God; this fact should be beyond dispute. His voice was heard when he spoke creation into being (Gen. 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24; Neh. 9:5-6; Is. 48:13; Jn. 1:1-3). Satan also demonstrated that he knew the spoken word of God when he tempted Eve in the garden (Gen. 3:1-5). In the first chapter of Job, it is made plain that the devil not only heard God, but also discoursed with him. Surely demons were also present at Sinai, Christ's baptism, the transfiguration, and the burning bush, to name a few of the times that God was heard audibly.

The written word of God is also acknowledged. Satan quoted the scriptures when he tempted Jesus in the wilderness (Matt. 4:5-6; Lk. 4:9-11). It is also undeniable that demons know Scripture because they twist it and introduce false doctrine (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:3-4, 3:13; Tit. 1:9-11; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; 2 Jn. 7; Rom. 3:13, 16:17-18; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Eph. 4:14). In order to do this subtly, God's word has to be known precisely. The better the word is known, the easier it is to add or subtract something small and unnoticeable in order to make it false. Michael Horton says, "Once the chief magistrate under God in heaven, he [Satan] has become the archetype and ruler of false witnesses on earth."³ Moreover, unlike many in modern times, they know God's word to be inspired, infallible, inerrant, sufficient, and unfailing (Gen. 3:14-19; Is. 55:11; Lk. 21:33; 2 Cor. 4:2-4; Eph. 6:10-20).

There is a very interesting account that lends more credence to the fact that the devils know the spoken and written words of God. King Saul, in 1 Samuel 28, goes to a witch, or medium, to hear from God because the prophet Samuel had died. He desired for her to contact Samuel from beyond the grave. Samuel appeared, and while most thought he was a demon masquerading as the prophet, he unveiled with amazing accuracy what God had told Saul. This included his

³Michael Horton, *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims On the Way* (Zondervan, 2011), 409.

kingdom being torn from him and given to David. It was then revealed that Saul and his sons would die in battle the next day. This also came to fruition, but for our study's purposes, it was shown that the demonic world was well aware of conversations between man and prophet, as well as what transpired between man and God. Demons know God. They know His word. They know and believe that this God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, that he is sovereign, patient, kind, gracious, merciful, all-powerful, etc.

Demons have all of this knowledge; however, they are not saved. They remain un-saveable. This goes to show that no matter what a person confesses to know and believes about God, if it does not go beyond what the demons know and experience, that person is not in a profitable state. They are no better than demons. Not only this, but James even said that demons tremble before God.⁴ Shuddering at the knowledge of God is more than most “Christians” do.

GOD’S WORK

In addition to knowing the word of God, the demonic forces that rule the air are aware of God’s works. These include God’s creation, his providence, and his plan of redemption. First, demons know that God is the Creator and Sustainer of everything in the heavens above and on the earth below. “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”⁵ Beyond this, it is known that God’s creation serves him. Some examples include Jonah’s great fish, Elijah’s ravens, the sun in Joshua’s time, the plagues in Egypt, storms, and, according to the psalmist, “all things.”⁶

Second, God’s providence is known and experienced by demons. The Westminster Confession aptly and accurately expresses the extent of God’s sovereign government. It reads:

⁴James 2:19.

⁵Revelation 4:11. Also Acts 14:17; Hebrews 1:3; and Colossians 1:17 can be referenced.

⁶Jonah 1:17; 1 Kings 17:6; Joshua 10:13; Exodus 7-14; Matthew 8:26-27; Psalm 119:91.

God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.⁷

Demons are governed by God; they fall under his rule. The puritan pastor, Thomas Boston, wrote:

God sits in his secret place surrounded with clouds and darkness, holding the rudder of the world in his hand, and steering its course through all the floatings and tossings of casualty and contingency to his appointed ends....By his governing providence he directs all the actions of his creatures; and, by the secret and efficacious penetration of the divine influence, he powerfully sways and determines them which way he pleases.⁸

Berkhof also helpfully summarizes and defines God's providence. He describes providence as "that continued exercise of the divine energy whereby the Creator preserves all His creatures, is operative in all that comes to pass in the world, and directs all things to their appointed ends."⁹ It then follows that demons are preserved and sustained in their present condition. 2 Peter 2:4 reveals that they are "kept until" the judgment and Jude 6 tells us that they are "kept in eternal chains." God, by his sovereign and almighty power, is keeping the demonic rebels alive and in existence. They know that they will be judged; they know that God has the ability to annihilate them at any time, but he chose to preserve and sustain them because one day, he will judge and condemn them to hell for eternity where he will continue to uphold them. They will be preserved alive in hell forever (Rev. 20:10).

Another aspect of God's providence that relates to demons is the fact that they must gain his permission to act. This clearly is an example of the demonic forces falling under God's rule.

⁷Chapter 5.1.

⁸Thomas Boston, "*Of God and His Perfections*", in the Complete Works of Thomas Boston, 12 vols. (Tentmaker, 2002), 1:86.

⁹L. Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1941), 166.

Several examples can be given; these instances include Satan needing and attaining God's permission in relation to Job, demons asking to be sent into swine, a demon volunteering to entice Ahab, a spirit from the Lord being allowed to torment king Saul, God sending an evil spirit to deal treacherously with Abimelech, God sending a destroying angel to punish Israel because of David's sin, God letting loose a company of destroying angels during the plagues in Egypt, and an angel (probably a demon) sent to strike down 185,000 Assyrians.¹⁰

Further still, demons have witnessed God providentially guiding and orchestrating history to his desired end. It would appear that God was frustrated and used for good what the demonic realm intended for evil against God's designs and people. This can be observed time and again with God's dealing with Egypt in Exodus 1, Babylon in Daniel 3, Rome in Matthew 2, and the beast in Revelation 13, to name a few. They would also have witnessed key events that promoted God's work and glory filling the earth. Examples of this abound, but only a few will have to suffice for now. One only has to think of the call of Abraham (Gen. 12), Moses' experience at the burning bush (Ex. 3), the birth of Christ (Matt. 1), Christ's death (Matt. 27), and Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus (Acts 9).

Another work observed by these fiends, other than the providence of God overruling the events of both man and angel, is God's plan of redemption. Stephen Charnock writes, "We know something of God by natural reason, but the full story of his glorious perfection is not printed in the book of creation, as in that of redemption."¹¹ Satan, who knows this better than any created being, was in the Garden of Eden when God dealt out curses and punishments immediately

¹⁰Job 1; Mark 5:12-13; 1 Kings 22:19-23; 1 Sam. 16:14-15; Jud. 9:23; 2 Sam. 24:15-17; Ps. 78:49; Is. 37:36.

¹¹Stephen Charnock, "*A Discourse of God's Being The Author of Reconciliation*" in the Works of Stephen Charnock, 5 vols. (Banner of Truth, 1986), 3:457.

following the Fall. He heard the promise of the enmity that would come and the bruising of his head (Gen. 3:15). It is in the very next chapter that Cain rises up against Abel and murders him.

It is interesting to note that false worship was involved (Cain did not offer the proper sacrifice) and that the murder was an attempt to destroy the woman's seed that would, at least in the devil's eyes, vanquish him. Satan is indeed the originator of man-centered religion—religion that seeks to follow God according to one's own rules. Man-centered religion is convenient and work-orientated instead of obedient and faith-based. Shortsightedness and pride always issue forth, and anger, jealousy, lying, dismissal, and attempts to cover up and save face come as a logical consequence following confrontation.

Subsequent prophecies and types would likewise be known by the Satan and his minions. In Genesis 3:21 and 4:3-4, we see the first blood sacrifice and an offering made by brothers. The first was initiated and performed by God himself, thus establishing the practice of atoning for sin by the death and shedding of blood by an innocent substitute. The pattern was then followed by righteous Abel who offered a sacrifice from his flock. There is a definitive contrast made between Abel and his brothers' offerings. Cain brought fruit from the ground, yet God did not have regard for his sacrifice. On the other hand, Abel brought an animal sacrifice; he followed the model God had set in the garden. Abel must have understood that God required a substitute to die in the place of the offending sinner.

Cain, who followed his father, the devil, did what seemed right in his own eyes. He did not comprehend the God appointed means of sacrifice and atonement, so he set out to make his own. The point being made is that Satan was well aware of these events and actions. This critical piece of God's redemption would not have gone unnoticed by him. In fact, he probably witnessed God's actions in the garden and then immediately set out to corrupt and modify them.

God's promises to Abraham would also be observed by the evil entities. Peter said in 1 Peter 1:12 that "angels long to look" into the good news; there is no doubt that demons also are looking, watching, and learning. They, too, would be listening and following as God revealed more and more of his plan to redeem. How else would they tempt, divert, stop, intercept, corrupt, block, slow, and disrupt God's people while attempting to stymie his designs and hinder the progress of redemption?

Consider also that the demonic forces would have been aware of the importance placed on the Passover and the Day of Atonement (Ex. 12 and Lev. 16). The emphasis laid on these two sacrifices would not go unobserved. If, as Paul said, sacrifices were offered to demons (1 Cor. 10:20), then it's conceivable that demons took what was intended for God, corrupted it, and falsified the act. They took what was holy and prescribed by God Almighty and polluted it until it became an abomination—a rotten stench in the eyes and nostrils of God.

God revealed his plan to redeem and save sinners throughout the Old Testament. Many prophecies were given to and spoken by God's vessels. Therefore, as with everything else that has been written, the devils would be aware of these. They sought to pervert, falsify, misdirect, discredit, and even kill in order to make them fail. False prophets and their erroneous oracles abounded. The demonic realm would be aware of prophecies such as: King David's throne being established forever, Christ's cries from the cross, the virgin bearing a son, the amazing and accurate depictions by Isaiah of Christ's (the suffering servant's) atoning and satisfying work, his resurrection and imputation, the place of the Messiah's birth, a prophet greater than Moses being raised up, and the prediction of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.¹²

Further proof that Satan was aware of God's plan of redemption can be seen in his activity during the life of Christ. He was very busy when Jesus walked the earth (Mk. 5:9; Matt. 8:28),

¹²2 Sam. 7; Psalm 22; Is. 7:14; Is. 53; Mic. 5:2; Deut. 18:15; Zech. 9:9.

trying to discredit and tempt him to gain his inheritance by offering obedience and worship to someone other than the Father. No doubt he was also active during the period of the early church (1 Pet. 5:8; Eph. 2:2; 1 Thess. 2:18). Sermons would have been heard and miracles would have been witnessed. Then, the opposition began. Persecution, false doctrines and Messiahs, imprisonments, and murders followed after the opposition.

OTHER DOCTRINES

There is no doubt that the devil and demons have an extensive knowledge and comprehension of other central, fundamental, and essential doctrines that comprise biblical Christianity. This would include, but not be limited to the deity and humanity of Christ, judgment and hell, heaven, anthropology, miracles, and the resurrection.

The deity and humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ was known by the demonic realm. Remember, at one time, they worshiped and bowed down before him at creation. He also cast them from his presence; he hurled them into the darkness bound, condemned, and damned for eternity. He is the holy and perfect Judge. Jesus is divine. He stepped out of glory and robed himself with humanity. He was and forever is veiled in flesh. It is assumed that Satan was behind even Herod's actions; why else would Herod seek to destroy the male children born in Bethlehem (Matt. 2:16)? Satan knew then and he still knows now-- Jesus is the God Man. He was an eyewitness, and now he has the same scripture that is available to any who would search. It testifies that Jesus is the long awaited Messiah; God with us; Son of God; Son of Man; King of kings; Lord of lords. Demons know that Jesus is the Christ, but not their Christ; they know that he is righteous, but not their righteousness; they know him to be the perfect, substitutionary, penal atonement, but they gain nothing by his work. Let the reader consider: Mk. 1:24; Jn. 1:1;

Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9; Matt. 1:1; Gal. 4:4; Phil. 2:6-8; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 1:1-3; Col. 1:15-20; Lk. 4:41; and Mk. 1:34.

Judgment and hell are also acknowledged. Mark 1:24 reads in part, "...have you come to destroy us?" This is echoed in Luke 4:34 and Matthew 8:29 as demons mention torment and refer to an appointed time of judgment or reckoning. It should be beyond dispute that demons know the scripture; as a result, they also know of and dread the impending doom and hell that await. Not only so, but demons were everywhere and quite active during Christ's life on earth. They heard his teachings and were driven out of helpless people whom they afflicted. Take the following scriptures into account: Matt: 25:31-46; 2 Pet. 2:4; Rev. 20:10; Rom. 2:5; Mk. 9:43-48; and 2 Thess. 1:9. These scriptures speak of "eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels," being kept in chains "until the judgment," a "lake of fire... tormented day and night forever and ever," "the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed," a place where the "worm does not die and the fire is not quenched," and suffering "punishment of eternal destruction...."

Hell is believed in and feared. The demons have a taste of hell now, but final judgment will come. Presently, demons are on a leash; they have a certain degree of ability and a sphere in which to work. But, soon, hopefully very soon, the good Lord will return for his bride and place all things under his feet forever; subjecting these infernal monsters to the hell they stand to inherit. Ironically, these diabolical ghouls confess a belief in hell, the very thing that so many today deny and try to erase. Hell is a present reality. There are people in hell suffering at this very moment; hell is fully populated. It is not just a future threat, yet the very "preachers" who should be proclaiming a literal and everlasting hell are the same ones leading the bucket brigade in an attempt to extinguish its flames!

What else is new? This concept goes all the way back to the garden. God's judgment was the first doctrine to be repudiated. The words of the serpent reverberate throughout history, "You shall not surely die" (Gen. 3:4). He tells God's children, "God will not judge and punish you, you've gotten it all wrong. You owe it to yourself to be like God." It has been this way ever since. Hell is real and it is eternal. Thomas Boston wrote, "Sin, being an infinite evil, the punishment of it must also be infinite; and because a creature is not able to bear a punishment infinite in degree, by reason of its finite and limited nature, therefore it must be infinite in its duration. And for this cause the punishment of the damned shall never have an end."¹³

Heaven is the next doctrine that demons know to be true and existent. Recollect, they were at one time occupying and dwelling with the host of angels in the heaven of heavens. They saw heaven in all of its glory and splendor. No matter how far they fell and how corrupt they became, the memories of their previous state still project within their minds reminding them of their illustrious past and the perilous future yet to come. Oh, how they must hate it! Who can begin to measure the indignation and outrage they feel toward such a holy God? These once pure angels are now deplorable and atrocious devils. They are cursed and will never be redeemed; they are forever un-saveable. Doomed and damned, they seek only to destroy and ruin the plans of God, but even while endeavoring to demolish, they unwittingly serve God's purpose. John Calvin aptly writes:

Therefore Satan is clearly under God's power, and is so ruled by his bidding as to be compelled to render him service. Indeed, when we say that Satan resists God, and that Satan's works disagree with God's works, we at the same assert that this resistance and this opposition are dependent upon God's sufferance... For inasmuch as the devil is by nature wicked, he is not at all inclined to obedience to the divine will, but utterly intent upon contumacy and rebellion. From himself and his own wickedness, therefore, arises his passionate and deliberate opposition to God. By this wickedness he is urged on to attempt courses of action which he believes to be most hostile to God. But because with the bridle of his power God

¹³Boston, *Of God and His Perfections*. 1:115.

holds him bound and restrained, he carries out only those things which have been divinely permitted to him; and so he obeys his Creator, whether he will or not, because he is compelled to yield him service wherever God impels him.¹⁴

Since demons have studied mankind for thousands of years, we can deduce that they possess vast information as to the doctrine of anthropology. Having watched and surveyed humanity for so long, they perceive man's strengths and weaknesses; they know how to tempt and where to hide stumbling blocks. They have acquired the best methods to abuse, use, thwart, corrupt, fool, sidetrack, and confuse the world. Of course, most of their efforts and devises are aimed at believers. Paul tells the Corinthians "not to be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs" (2 Cor. 2:11). Moreover, Christians are to beware of false signs and wonders (2 Thess. 2:9). The armor of God that Paul mentions in Ephesians 6 would be pointless and superfluous if we did not have an enemy armed and bent on our destruction. Believers beware; Satan is alive and well. He is prowling around like a lion seeking someone to devour (1 Pet. 5:8). The opponent is ruthless, cunning, experienced, invisible, merciless, relentless, assiduous, persistent, elusive, powerful, and committed.

An apparent abhorrence exists and Satan focuses much of his attention and resources toward the ruin of mankind; he is bent on destroying the image of God on earth. This begs the question, "Why did Satan tempt humanity in the first place?" It would appear that Satan fell due to some form of pride. Mankind was the pinnacle of God's creation and the purpose, indirectly, of God's plan of redemption. Satan may have been pushed to rebellion because he desired the throne of God, did not want to minister to a lower creature, or perhaps he became consumed with jealousy. It was probably a combination of all three since all of them are manifestations of pride. Following the angelic fall, God dispelled them from heaven and proclaimed them damned and

¹⁴John Calvin. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, ed. John T. McNeill, trans. Ford Lewis Battles (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1960), 1.14.17.

judged; they would not be redeemed, reconciled, forgiven, reinstated, or given a second chance. They are forever without grace, hope, God's favor and love. Therefore, in all of his malice and hatred, Satan tempted man to sin, thinking that they, too, would be nonredeemable, unforgivable, un-saveable, and that God's creation would be ruined and beyond repair or rescue. How wrong was he? In spite of all of Satan's work, God is reconciling the world to Himself (2 Cor. 5:19).

In the next place, Satan and demons know of and have been witnesses to God's miraculous works. In other words, they do, in fact, believe in miracles. In Matthew chapter four, the devil tempts Christ and desires for him to turn stones into bread. He knew Jesus could do it; he wanted Christ to perform a miracle in order for Christ to sustain himself. In actuality, it was an attempt to get Christ to doubt that the Father had his best interests in mind. Of course, Jesus did not succumb to the temptation, but the point is that Satan knew that he could miraculously provide food for himself. The demons were also very active during the ministry of Jesus and would have seen him work his many miracles. They would have been spectators when he fed the five thousand, walked on water, healed the multitudes, and drove out demons. Acts 2:22 reveals that God did many mighty things through Jesus in the people's midst. If these men and woman saw and could attest to the miracles, then the demons who oppressed and possessed them would also be witnesses. It goes without saying that they knew that Jesus was God in the flesh and was mighty in word and deed.

Another proof is that demons could mimic miracles. Throughout the scriptures, we see the devil and demons imitating and trying to emulate many of God's miracles. Exodus 7:11, 7:22, 8:7; 1 Samuel 28:11-19; Matthew 7:22, and Matthew 24:24 show that demons worked miracles in an effort to deceive, confuse, blind, bolster false hope and confidence, and to lead people astray. It's no wonder; Paul tells us that demons can even disguise themselves as angels of light

(2 Cor. 11:14-15). They masquerade and parade around while empowering people to perform mighty “works,” but this leads to producing false assurance and a prideful confidence in the flesh and self. God is neither honored nor glorified while man becomes puffed up and remains at the center of an already man-focused religion. This is due to demonic influence and the supposed ability to work miracles.

The next doctrine to be known and confessed by demons is the physical resurrection. They know that Jesus was raised physically from the grave. He predicted it and it happened. Why else would this doctrine, along with all the other essential teachings of Christianity, be denied and hated so vehemently? If Jesus did not rise again from the dead, then he is still dead. If he remained in the grave, then Christianity is the biggest farce ever manufactured. However, if he did resurrect, then the gospel is true; he is Lord, demons are doomed, mankind has a Savior, he is coming again to judge the living and the dead, humanity needs to repent, and our God is most glorious and worthy of all praise, adoration, and exaltation.

The scriptures are very clear; Christ rose in victory and triumphed over death, sin, and Satan. Colossians 2:12 says, “Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.” Paul writes in Ephesians 1:20 “that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places....” The reader may also look at 2 Timothy 1:10, Philippians 2:8-11, 1 Peter 3:21-23, 1 Corinthians 15, Romans 4:24-25, and Acts 2:30-31; these are only a few verses that discuss Christ’s resurrection.

All of this demonstrates that the devil and demons are orthodox. They are doctrinally sound; they know and believe the truth. Oh, how this should put us to shame. So-called Christians, who should desire more knowledge of God, do not study God’s word and doctrine.

Some even deny and doubt that truth exists or can be known. Many cannot begin to articulate the most fundamental of teachings. Believers are supposed to be theologians; they are supposed to be students who study God. However, this isn't popular or easy, which is why it is a topic we will return to later.

It is clear that demons know the scriptures. Matthew 4:6 shows the devil quoting scripture to Jesus in an attempt to thwart his mission and make him fall. How vast must this angel's knowledge of God's word be! It appears that he knows it in and out; how else would he change something ever so slightly to pervert it and make it erroneous? He knows exactly what verse to quote in just the right circumstance. The enemy is subtle and wise. He knows it well enough to use it against believers. It is used by the adversary to give false hope and assurance, lead individuals astray, trick them, puff them up, blind them, lend them false confidence, harden their hearts, sidetrack them, promote apathy, increase lethargy, and fill them with a mendacious contentment in a hollow faith.

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Cor. 4:1-4)

Paul mentions disgraceful and underhanded ways. He also speaks of tampering with the word of God and being cunning. He is commending his ministry and the truth that he preaches and teaches. By mentioning these, Paul reveals to us that some were using God's word in an ungodly and illicit manner. The fact that he alludes to the "god of this world" is telling. It seems that these unbelievers heard the word of God and his glorious gospel of the glory of Christ, but

he blinded their minds. This is to “keep them from seeing.” Satan keeps us from seeing by using false teachers. False teachers could be labeled as anyone who twists and tampers with God’s word. They are cunning and slick. Why else would teachers be described this way unless they use scripture and enough of the truth in order to hinder people and keep them in the dark?

The fact that the demonic realm knows the doctrine contained in Scripture cannot be contested. This has already been made clear but deserves further attention. Satan and his demons have existed for thousands of years. They have seen and heard everything that can be observed and comprehended. Anywhere and everywhere God has worked, Satan has been nearby. Whenever God called a prophet or sent an apostle, demons were present. When God spoke, Satan heard. Where God revealed himself and his plan to redeem, demons were there. Jesus taught audibly, Satan listened. The apostles taught and preached, demons watched. How else would problems such as dissension, opposition, and complaining originate?

Additionally, to what do we attribute the widespread development of false teachers and doctrine but to satanic influence? This is not to say that Satan is omniscient and that mankind is not depraved. His influence must not be underestimated, although, it is often exaggerated. He does get most of the credit the majority of the time, but sinful man is also to blame. When the two work in conjunction, they are a force to be reckoned with; however, God is sovereign and they can only accomplish what he wills. They remain bound and are only able to act as God allows. This means that the very power, ability, and opportunity that man and demons possess in order to work (or oppose, trick, mislead, etc.) is given to them by God. It is God that is sustaining his creation because it is God who gives breath, life, and being. He upholds and empowers; he builds up and brings down. He gives and takes away; he plants and uproots. He alone is sovereign!

The angels know that God is sovereign. Mark 3:11 tells us that unclean spirits “fell down before [Jesus] and cried out ‘You are the Son of God.’” In the Garden of Eden, Satan said nothing when God pronounced his judgment; that speaks volumes for sovereignty. In the book of Job, Satan could only do what God allowed-- nothing more. Satan was allowed to tempt Jesus in the wilderness, but Christ never yielded. Satan was permitted to sift Peter like wheat, but Peter was restored. While doing the works of the devil, men and women lied to the Holy Spirit and were condemned. False prophets and damning heresies arose, but God’s truth prevailed. God is sovereign, not the devil. Neither is man. God alone rules and reigns over his creation. The will of God is being done on earth as it is in heaven, not Satan’s.

Satan and the demons are orthodox; they are not heretics. They know the truth- God’s truth as revealed in His word and world. Nevertheless, they are damned and unable to be saved. This knowledge does not and cannot save regardless of how orthodox and accurate. Knowing the truth does not cleanse one of sin or reconcile one to God. Lloyd-Jones said, “...if you rely only upon your orthodox, you may be damned...We are all in danger of being content with an intellectual assent to the truth.”¹⁵

Consequently, demons are not universalists or annihilationists. Neither are they open theists, Pelagians, semi-Pelagians, or Arminians. They are most definitely not Arians, monarchianists, deists, or non-Trinitarians. Atheists, gnostic, and agnostic would also not describe them because they know the truth. Jonathan Edwards summarizes this fact perfectly when he wrote, “The devil is orthodox in his faith; he believes the true scheme of doctrine; he is no Deist, Socinian, Arian, Pelagian, or antinomian; the articles of his faith are all sound, and in

¹⁵Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Studies In The Sermon On The Mount* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976), 519.

them he is thoroughly established.”¹⁶ These labels are all errors and falsehoods that have been introduced by the devil in an attempt to eradicate the truth. It has always been his number one tactic to deceive by twisting the word of God. This goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden. He subtly added to and subtracted from God’s word to Adam and Eve; he even went so far as to deny it outright. This is his trade, though he has many tools in his box. He is a master craftsman and is good at what he does. Additionally, he has demons, years of experience and an untold accumulation of knowledge, sinful men, and fallen minds at his disposal. It would appear that the demonic superpowers have a lot going for them. Nevertheless, they are doomed, damned, accursed, condemned, and sentenced to an agonizing, eternal, non-relenting, wrath-filled, unholy hell.

¹⁶Jonathan Edwards, *“True Grace Distinguished From The Experience Of Devils”* in *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, 2 vols. (Hendrickson, 2004) 2:43.