

SATAN'S BEST WEAPON

by

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Many people think that some of Satan's best weapons against us are things like gluttony, pride, lust, ambition, love of power, vanity, selfishness, etc. It is true that these sins are potent weapons in the devil's arsenal. Using these armaments, he can wound or eliminate most of us.

But these sins are not his most effective weapon. These sins are, as it were, his "small arms fire" directed against us, or, at most, his artillery.

If that is the case, you may ask, then what is his most potent weapon, his super-duper, all-obliterating, totally destructive nuclear blast that he uses to terrify and destroy us completely?

It is death itself.

That is his — excuse the expression — deadliest weapon.

How so?

God's plan for mankind was to make man perfect by grace. That way, man could, with God's help, become godlike. But the devil, as we learn in the third chapter of Genesis, threw a monkey wrench into these plans by tempting man and causing him to stumble and disobey God. This disobedience opened the way to death, and then things *really* spun out of control.

The possibility of death scared man witless. In his fear of death, man began to consider how he might preserve himself from this obliteration, this extinction. In this desperate state of mind, he became obsessed with self-preservation. It saturated his thinking.

"What will extend my existence? Vitamin pills, more exercise, snake oil, hair dye, beauty and skin creams? How about if I can keep on *looking* young, or if I become *really* rich, or powerful? Isn't that the same as immortality?"

In this frame of mind, he began to deceive and to defraud others for the purpose of personal gain. Faced with death, man wanted to prove to everyone that he was something important, that he was something that has lasting value, so he had to appear somehow superior to others. He liked

those who flattered him and he disliked those who insulted him. His ego needed to be inflated. His self-esteem was all-important to him.

Hence, because of his dread of death and extermination, all the other sins followed as a natural consequence: gluttony, pride, lust, ambition, love of power, vanity, selfishness, and all the rest. He sought to bolster himself with the *false* immortality that he thought these vices would bring him. So, for him, the vices became his virtues. Instead of loving God, he loved sin.

From a spiritual point of view, how much more messed up can anyone be than that?

But then, our Saviour came to our rescue with a real, true-blue antidote to death: The Resurrection!

By His resurrection, He trampled down death by His death, thus granting us true — not false — immortality and life ever-lasting.

"O death, where is thy sting? O Hades, where is thy victory?"

Before the Cross and the Resurrection, death was terrifying to man.

But after the Cross and Resurrection, real Christians have become terrifying to death!

Hosanna to the Vanquisher of death!

The deadly, super-duper, all-obliterating, totally destructive nuclear devise has been defused.