

# Thus Saith God

by Pastor Ted Brooks, West Saddle Creek Baptist Church

## Satan, Devil, Lucifer-Day Star, Wicked Spirit of Evil

"I will!" Those two words caused hell to move and to greet Satan at his entrance. The words "I Will," even stirred up the dead and caused a confrontation between God and Satan.

Those who were already there were surprised when they replied "Art thou become like unto us?" God said, "thy pomp is brought down to the grave; Satan put on a brilliant display, for a while he (Satan) performed with great exhibition. Oh, he thought that he was spectacular. But in Isaiah, the fourteenth chapter, verses 9-12 Satan was in a for a rude awakening, for whatever it was that Satan was doing caused him to think that he (Satan) was greater than God. For Satan said in his heart, "I will ascend into heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God" (Verse 13) Satan, instead of having a goal for the moon would have fared better to settle among the stars of God.

Lucifer had a rebellious spirit. He wanted things his way. It would be here that Satan first attempted to destroy the church. Satan will see and know that you can't destroy the true church, not the one that is built on the promises of God. "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18) The true church of the living God has been through the floods, fires, even been delivered from the dead.

The Devil knows he can't stop the church, but his plans are to infiltrate the church. Satan hopes to enter without being noticed and to establish himself as some great one. Oh, my friend, Jesus said, "Ye shall know the tree by its fruit."

You see, Satan knows the church is for the true believer. Satan knows it is a place to escape the flames of hell! So, beware, my friend. Satan's on a

campaign to infiltrate the church. How does Satan get into the local church? He needs to have a vehicle (person), someone who is at ease, doing as little as possible, a busy body, whisperer those persons that are his choice to get established in to the local church. What I am about to write and say right now, most will set it aside as naught.

You have not the faintest idea of how Satan gets into the church. "Marvel not," we are told, "for Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light" (II Corinthians 11:14)

Think for a minute, "Angel of light" In Genesis, Chapter three, verse one, the serpent (Satan) was called subtle, meaning someone elusive, crafty. It is a person who does things wrong and evil. You know it, but you can't put your finger on it or you are finally confess, "I can't pin it down." There is, but it is hid. Satan is cunning.

Marvel not, my friend, he can transform himself into an angel of light.

Oh, you say, Brother Brooks, I believe once you are saved, you are saved. Nothing can hinder or stop you. My friend, that is one of Satan's devices, he has used it to enter a church. I will agree there is a security but do you know it carries a condition, "And who is he that will harm you." Now notice the rest of it, "if ye be followers of that which is good" (I Peter 3:13)

Now there is a security, then there is insecurity. Listen to these stern words of Jesus Christ.

"Everyone that heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them shall be likened unto a foolish man which built his house upon the sand and it fell." Why? Because "the rain descended and the flood came and the wind blew, and beat upon that house

and it fell, and great was the fall of it" (Matthew 7:26-27)

The floods and the winds were the test and trials, and temptation of life. The house Jesus refers to was man's mind, soul, feelings, his emotions, seeking to gain an eternal home.

When man falls, it leaves him with a carnal security which leads him to believe that he can escape the common ills.

In other words, after his or her fall they will argue "They've done nothing wrong or everybody else is doing it." They agree with the saying "We have made a covenant with death and with hell! Are we at agreement? When the overflowing scourge shall pass through it shall not come unto us-for we have made lies our refuge and under falsehoods have we hid ourselves." Isaiah 28:15

The above describes a worthlessness of self-reformation which will bring a spiritual church--like that of a person suffering from AIDS--it leaves a church in a weakened condition where personal convictions and holiness are low, leaving the church vulnerable to the same virus of sins that are destroying our culture.

When Satan infiltrates the church, Christians can no longer live out their commitment to God.

Let me show you through God's word how Satan gains an entrance to the local churches. Remember now, we are not to marvel. In other words, don't be surprised if he makes an attempt to twist the word of God. Satan will lie because he knows the truth won't let him get in. So, he transforms himself into an angel of light and he will agree with the flesh. Whatever the flesh says to do, it will do it. Satan has shown the church that sin is not so bad.

"My father which gave them me is greater than all. No man is able to pluck them out of my father's hand." (John 10:29)

You know and I know, no one is stronger than God. He (God) is all power. It is not delegated to Him. He

is power.

Satan infiltrated our churches thousands of years ago. God himself established as preachers, deacons, Sunday school teachers, board members, treasurer, clerk and has used these words to commit sin. Satan has convinced some, but not all, thank God, that you can live as you please and still maintain your journey toward heaven.

Now let's look more closely at the saying of Jesus. (In other words just for a moment let's try to use spiritual discernment.) For a moment put aside your favorite commentary. Don't be afraid, you can do it. The Spirit has promised to guide us and to reveal the mind of God.

Jesus declares, "My father gave them me is greater than all." Who and what kind did God give to Christ? God certainly did not give Christ those who doubted who He was. Earlier Christ had declared "I am the good shepherd and know my sheep."

God did not give him those who believed not. Christ said, "I told you and ye believed not; the works that I do in my father's name, they bear witness of me." John 10:25. "But ye believed not because ye are not of my sheep as I said unto you." There were those who did not believe in his power. These were those who enjoy sinning against God's holy word.

Notice now in verse 27 "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me." Notice those who are in his hand, they are his sheep. They hear Christ's voice and He (Christ) declares that He knows them. There is an on going relationship "I know them." They hear his voice. "They follow me." Those in His hands are secure.

But to those who believe not, "Ye are not of my sheep." In other words, you don't believe the wages of sin is death. Somehow you have been convinced by Satan you can still transgress and still claim possession of my hand."

There are conditions, my friend, about eternal life. You must believe

He is who He said that He is. You must hear His voice, follow Him, and "I will give unto them eternal life."

To hear His voice and to follow Him, my friend, we are not to be likened unto the foolish man that built his house upon the sand. Rain came, floods and it fell. Before something falls, it has to be standing.

Now let's see how Satan infiltrates the church.

In Matthew 12:43-45 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man he walked through dry places-seeking rest and findeth none.

Then he saith, I will return unto my house. He findeth it empty and swept and garnished. Then goeth he and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself and they enter in and dwell there and the last state of that man is worse than the first--even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Remember now, we are seeing from God's word how Satan has infiltrated the local churches.

Notice verse 28 where Jesus declares that He (Christ) cast out devils by the spirit of God by doing so. God declares his kingdom was upon them. (Before God's kingdom came upon anyone, the devil has got to leave--you can't possess the devil and Christ. In other words, you can't sin and walk with God.)

Notice against Verse 43. We are told what kind of spirit this is (unclean). Notice the character of this unclean spirit. He has the mobility to move to and fro. He has feeling and he can think and he said to himself, "I will return to my house whence I came out." (Now remember verse 28 where Christ declares (He Christ) cast out devils.)

So upon returning Satan found his once home, empty, swept and garnished. Jesus does that for those who will listen and obey. This person had made a profession of faith. This person failed to realize that he was saved to serve, not to sit on a bench and do nothing. He failed to see the empty space in the choir. He failed to see the need all around him. He failed to heed the uncton of the Holy Spirit to teach, to witness. He was empty, swept and garnished.

Notice now how Satan infiltrated this vessel which has been clean, swept and garnished. Jesus said how can one enter into a strong man's house and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? And then he will spoil his house. Matthew 12:29. How could he do this to a house--clean, swept and garnished?

Notice again, Satan knew that he could not bind this kind of a person by himself, so he picked up some helpers. In fact, he picked up seven spirits more wicked than himself.

He was able to bind the strong man

because Jesus had declared that he that was not with me is against me and he that is not with me scattereth abroad. Matthew 12:28-45

I read last week of a preacher in St. Petersburg, FL who declared in spite of his misconduct of charges of adultery, yet declared he was still a child of God.

Oh my friend, Satan was able to bind the strong man's house because he was against God's plan.

When Satan shows up with greed, fornication, adultery, falsehood, lust, lying, lover of self, he was able to bind the strong man.

I see this on a regular basis, a person who once had a testimony, once had a family, self respect, once set among the renowned people of God, now bound, froze beneath the ice of sin. (You use to tell that glad old story how you are found.)

About now you are saying well why don't you all clean up the church? No, my friend, all we can do is preach. It is very difficult to do so, even God can't momentarily. You remember what Jesus said of the good seed and of the tares, when the servant said let's clean it up, Jesus' reply was let them alone, let them grow together. Matthew 13:27-30. Until the harvest.

He let Judas remain. God could have snatched him right out. On the other hand, Ananias and Sapphira, he allowed them to die.

Can't treat them all alike. Some of them you just leave them alone. It is how Satan infiltrates the church. Somebody will say they corrupt the church. No, my friend, can't corrupt the true church. The gates of hell shall not prevail against the church.

There are those in the church if God were to remove them or to do anything, they would destroy the hopes and minds of young converts. But there is a strong warning here (when Christ said let them grow together til harvest time.) There is coming a day when God will pull to shore his church. Verse 48 of Matthew 13. He is going to gather the good.

I will say to the reapers, "gather ye together first the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them."

So shall it be at the end of the world. The angels shall come forth and gather out his kingdom all things that offend and them which do iniquity together out, or to separate to sever, meaning to cut away. Matthew 13:47-50.

Let them alone till harvest time. When he does, He (God) will cut you off into hell and fire and brimstone.

On that day of harvest, his angels are going to pull out their spiritual knives and they are going to separate the good and evil. God will cut away names on church rolls. You have been told nothing can separate you while you bathe in sin. He is going to you.

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:  
At 5:56 P.M. on November 29, 1997 I was crossing the Potomac going from Maryland to Virginia. I was riding with the Bullards, the gospel singing group comprised of Johnny, Carol, Amy and Jimmy Lee. We had gone up to hold a prayer service at the Sylvan Theater at the Washington Monument. Through a series of misconnections, we did not get to do that. What did take place, of course, was what needed to take place. God set the clock and it is His clock anyway.

This is the message I received: for the next year, the Lord will be shaking the church in American like never before. As you attempt to awake someone in an emergency situation, so will the church be shaken. All of the little opossums, monkeys, crocodiles and chicken litters will come tumbling out on their noggins. God is tired of "playing church" and is very upset with immaturity in the Body of Christ. Christians need to be off the milk and on the meat. Hidden and unconfessed sin will be topping the agenda next year.

I am often amazed when I look at church leadership in the local body and see the sin that seems so apparent in their lives it seems the whole community knows about it, but for some reason the church continues to tolerate it. I also have problems when I take a good look in the mirror. Friends if you are anchored in Jesus Christ your growing pains will bring joy. If you are not, it will be "oh my noggin". The camouflage the carnal Christians have hidden behind for so long will be ripped away. Brother your sheep will need tending, they are sick. The only problem with that is some of the shepherds need tending also. May God have his way with our hearts and souls.

Harold G. Dial  
Pembroke, NC

**Get the Score!**  
call 1-900-388-5900 ext. 7485  
Scores, highlights, spreads and more!!!  
NHL PLAYOFFS MLB NBA PLAYOFFS  
America's #1 Service!  
\$2.99 per min. Must be 18 years or older. Serve-U 619-645-8434

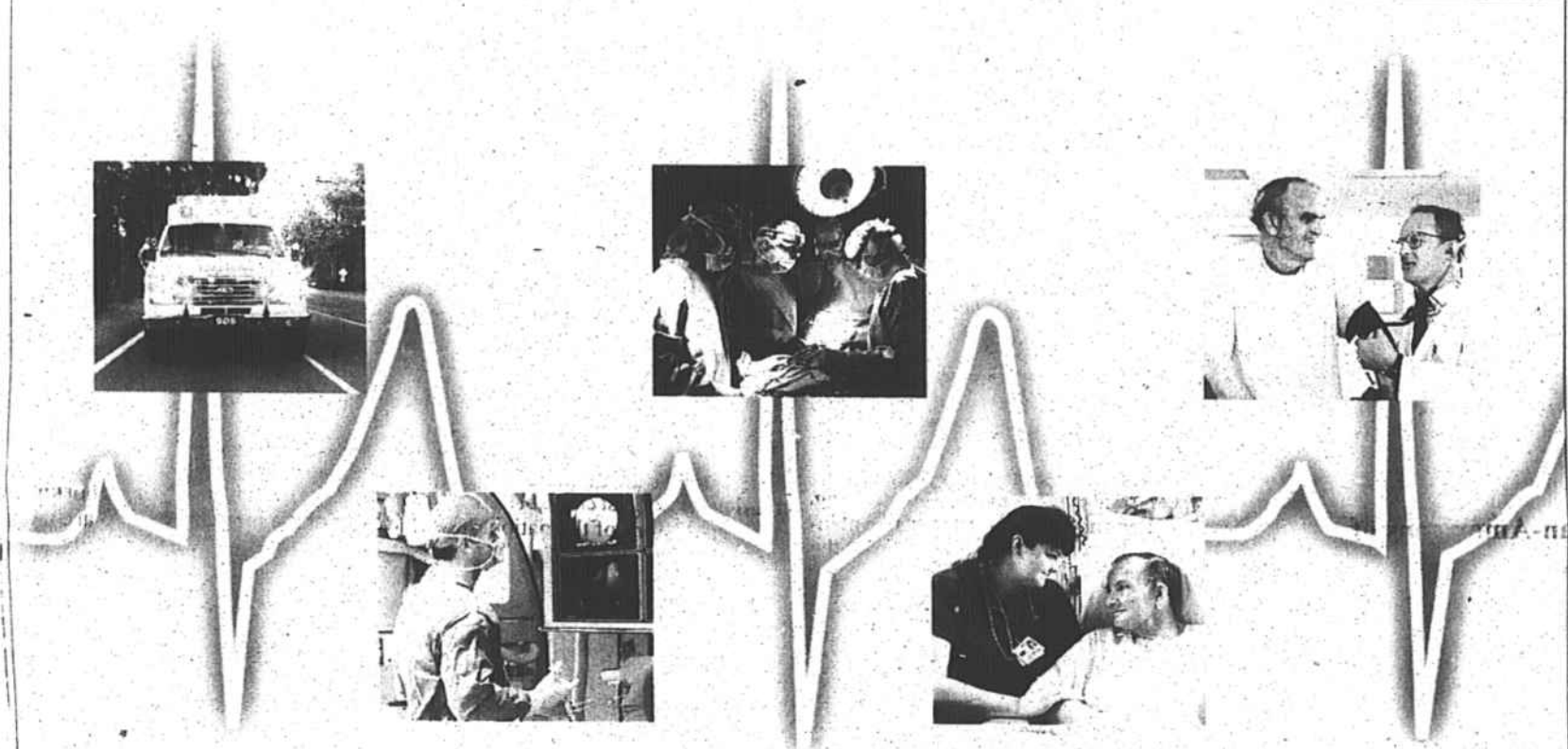
**Columbia**  
At Columbia, we have been hand crafting exquisite diamond engagement rings and wedding bands for over 129 years. Each Columbia diamond has been selected to insure that clarity, cut and color are superior. For the finest selection of Columbia rings available in 14KT, 18KT and platinum and 18KT.

**CYNA'S DIAMOND & JEWELERS**  
Proudly Serving you at two locations:  
1-95 Outlet Lumberton Union Chapel Rd.  
738-CYNA (2962) Pembroke, NC  
M-F 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (910) 521-3690  
Sat. 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Mon. 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Win a honeymoon to Aruba.  
American Airlines will fly you to right glorious days at the Radisson Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino.  
Come in and register.

Aruba  
Where happiness lives

American Airlines  
Radisson



# Our Cardiac Team Never Misses A Beat

### From Start To Finish, You Can Count On FirstHealth For The Highest Quality Cardiac Care Available Today

If you ever need care for a heart problem — no matter how serious — it's reassuring to know that the most comprehensive center for advanced cardiac services in the Mid-Carolinas is also the closest and most convenient. That's especially important in a crisis, when preserving health and lifestyle can depend on fast, expert intervention.

FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital's cardiology and cardiac surgery programs include an extensive array of coordinated services that match some of the best heart centers in the nation in terms of both scope and quality. We provide complete diagnostic services, medical and surgical treatments, and individually tailored



rehabilitation and prevention programs — all in a warm and caring environment. We also have support groups for both heart patients and their families.

Our 10-year-old invasive cardiology program and our eight-year cardiac surgery service are well-established, performing more than 3,000 cardiac catheterization procedures and 300 cardiac surgeries a year. That's important, because

hospitals that care for a large number of heart patients are the ones that bring together the most highly skilled physicians and surgeons, the best-trained and most experienced staffs, and the most advanced technology.

Our cardiac team includes board-certified cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, and anesthesiologists; specially trained nurses and technicians; and experts in exercise and nutrition. Our FirstHealth Critical Care Transport is available to transport cardiac patients to Moore Regional from area hospitals. Together, we offer a quality and a continuity of care for heart patients that is unmatched in the Mid-Carolinas.

## FirstHealth

MOORE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

To learn more about the FirstHealth heart program, please call 1-800-724-2236