

WALKING THE BORDER LINE

GOD as opposed by the devil, good versus evil, tempting/testing

1) There is the revealed will of God and there are the secret things, or the hidden will of God
Deut. 29:29

2) Some examples

- 2 Sam. 24:1 the Lord incited, 1 Ch. 21:1 the devil incited
- 1 Sam. 16:14 an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him (16:15-16, 23, 18:10, 19:9)

3) THE example – Job 1:6-12

- satan accuses us day and night before the Lord Rev. 12:10
- Job faced seven temptations – oxen, sheep, camels, children, boils, wife, 3 friends
- God trumps the devil

4) Tempting/testing

- testing – Gen. 22:1-2, later in the Law of Moses human sacrifices are forbidden. Deut. 18:10
- the devil practices temptation – in Job's case by intensity, variety and repetitiveness, if at first you don't succeed try, try again.
- And we are lured and enticed by our own desire – James 1:13-15 – God 'tempts' no one
- 1 Jn. 2:15-17 – lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life
- God provides a way of escape – 1 Cor. 10:13

5) God turns temptation into testing to strengthen our faith

- like the rails on a railroad track there is a parallel for a time, but then the two go in entirely different directions – we cannot trust to just human observation, but in the Scriptures which present vastly different purposes and results of what God does and the devil does
- Rom. 5:3-5
- 1 Pet. 1:6-7 in the smelting process iron is the stronger by the heating
- the cloud that hovers dismally over the Christian does have a silver lining, the gloomy, dark and foreboding turns into refreshing rain

6) Our Lord overcame for us for 33 years, in the three great temptations, on the cross. And then He dies to make up for our failures. We can pray confidently – lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

As we walk the borderline we want to always remember that when we don't see, God does and since he does the result will ultimately be good for us. He sees everywhere at all times and also within all men.

- Prov. 15:3 the eyes of the Lord are in every place keeping watch on the evil and the good
- Job. 34:21 For His eyes are upon the ways of a man, and He sees all his steps
- Heb. 4:13 And before Him no creature is hidden, but all are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do
- Ps. 33:13-15 The Lord looks down from heaven, He sees all the sons of men; from where He sits enthroned He looks forth on all the inhabitants of the earth, He who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds
- Ps. 11:4 The Lord is in His holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, his eyelids test the children of men
- 2 Ch. 16:9 the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth
- Zech. 4:10 the seven eyes of the Lord...which range through the whole earth