

CouplesInBloom.com – They Can't Damn You

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An interesting Scripture in 3 John 1:9-11 ⇒ “I wrote a short letter to the church; but Diotrephes, who likes to be their leader, will not pay any attention to what I say. When I come, then, I will bring up everything he has done: the **terrible things he says about us and the lies he tells!** But that is not enough for him; he will not receive the Christians when they come, and even stops those who want to receive them and tries to drive them out of the church! My dear friend, do not imitate what is bad, but imitate what is good. Whoever does good belongs to God; whoever does what is bad has not seen God.” Wow!

This Scripture has three parts: **1) some guy**; **2) his lies**; **3) managing such**. This is relevant today as opposition to righteousness is increasing, just as the Bible says it would. 2 Timothy 3:12-13 ⇒ “Everyone who wants to live a godly life in union with Christ Jesus **will be persecuted**; and evil persons and impostors will keep on going from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived themselves.” If you haven't been persecuted for living God's way yet, **prepare yourself** by learning what the Bible says about it.

1) Some guy (or gal): satan is an excellent artist, originally created by God to be the worship leader in Heaven. But he used his free will against God and will eternally suffer in hell for it, as soon as this world ends. His temporary tricks include prompting thoughts in human minds (which we already know about ⇒ 2 Corinthians 2:11) **and** there are plenty of folks too willing to blurt out whatever crosses their mind (e.g. “social media”).

2) His (or her) lies: demonically inspired folks speak anger, curses and lies against Christians just as they did against Jesus Christ; **nothing new here**, but it may still surprise us at times. They may talk to other people, too; don't worry about it... God sees it all and will reward us ⇒ Matthew 5:10-12 (actually, read through verse 16 for encouragement).

3) Managing such: such attacks range in intensity. Some folks are demon possessed, so **the Holy Spirit in you is what freaks these people out...** demons tremble at the name of Jesus ⇒ James 2:19. Sin is what sinners do best; just stay strong in the Lord and never “imitate what is bad” ⇒ 3 John 1:11. Get extra strengthening if you feel weakened; ask God for help; attacks can be draining. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter ⇒ John 14:14-21.

Even if the devil and all the demons oppose you, understand **They Can't Damn You**. Remember Jesus “**stripped the rulers and the authorities, He made a show of them in public, triumphing over them in it.**” ⇒ Colossians 2:15. Live and pray in this authority ⇒ Luke 10:18-20. When we participate with God, He prospers us ⇒ Deuteronomy 28:13.

Jezebel tried cursing Elijah ⇒ 1 Kings 19 which instead authorized her own death and was eaten by dogs ⇒ 2 Kings 9. She tried to make Elijah fearful, saying ‘*the gods*’ would damn him. Ironic how people say ‘*God damn you*’ when God is the only way to **prevent damnation** to hell (**remember: evil often accuses others of its own guilt**). Fearing God (who is the only eternal authority) eliminates the fear of everything else ⇒ Luke 12:4-5.

We need intense intimacy with the Holy Spirit; **especially** those married to a ‘Jezebel’ type. **Get to the point where the strongest thing in your life is rejoicing in God's salvation** ⇒ Luke 10:20. That will keep everything else in proper perspective. ☺! ♥ Loren Falzone