

**Tuesday, August 11, 2020**  
**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled 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 Corinthians 4: 3-4*

Someone recently said to me, "I wonder how differently people would react to COVID-19 if it was visible." Just imagine that! What if the virus particles were the size of flies rather than being microscopic. Would that be more scary or less scary? You'd be able to see it coming toward you. You'd be able to see who had it because you'd see these "fly-sized" particles streaming out of their mouth with every exhale. We would be ducking and bobbing and weaving, trying to avoid coming in contact with the virus. It's hard to say if being able to see the virus in the air would cause us to want to wear our masks, or to feel safe enough not to wear a mask because we could do a better job of avoiding the virus. Maybe science should try to figure out a way to enlarge the virus so we can see it! Probably won't happen.

In our reading above, Paul says that the gospel is veiled to a lot of people. That means that a lot of people are just not able to believe you when you tell them that Jesus died on the cross for their sins and that by placing their trust in Him they will get to go to heaven. Paul says that "the god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel." The "god of this world" is the devil. According to this verse, the devil is going around and closing people's spiritual eyes. This explains why so many people are unwilling to believe the best news that has ever been told – the news of the cross and the empty tomb!

How would it be if somehow everyone could actually SEE Satan doing this? How would it be if, when you are telling someone else about Jesus, that you and the person you are telling the gospel to could actually see Satan coming over to that person and "closing their eyes" so that they could not "SEE" the gospel message? Would people be more likely to tell the devil to leave and then they would listen to the Good News and believe it? Isn't this an interesting concept? Satan is messing with people's minds every time they hear the message of Jesus.

Well, just like with COVID-19, Satan is invisible. We can't see him. We can only see what he does and has done. By now, most of us have seen those animated pictures of the Coronavirus. But we have not seen the real thing. We have taken the word of the medical researchers that it exists and that it is real. You and I have not seen Satan, but we have heard from the Expert in His Word that Satan is real and that he is messing with people's minds so that they cannot see the light of the gospel.

So, what can we do? We can continue to tell people about Jesus and pray that the Holy Spirit would cause faith to take root in their hearts. The Holy Spirit is the One who can override the blindness that Satan seeks to create. The Holy Spirit did it for you! I wonder how many more people would accept the message of the Gospel if Satan was not invisible – that is, if a person could actually SEE him trying to interfere with them coming to faith in Jesus.

You and I need to continue to be aware of Satan's tactics even in our lives. He's still trying to shake our faith. He doesn't give up on believers. But we have the advantage. We know all about his intentions. The Bible says, "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world." (*1 Peter 5:8-9*)  
We can't see this happening. But we take God's Word for it!

God's Peace!  
Pastor Jim