WHEN THE DEVIL'S UNION GOES ON STRIKE.

Today as you read through the newspapers, almost every article is shocking. You read about wrecks, and murders, you read about wrath and corruption in government. Nearly everything you read is shocking! There is the Devil's business. And today the Devil is successful in that business. Fifteen million sex magazines are read every month by a third of the United States population. And the resultn is that minds are corrupted and young people like myself are being ruined! This is the Devil's business. There are three times as many bar maids as there are college students; that is, college women. There are three times as many criminals in jails as there are college students. More than one million babies are born each year in the country without daddies. And more than one million illegal abortions take place yearly. This is the Devil's business.

Everyday we live in this country, six to ten people kill themselves, either with sleeping pills, or by jumping out of windows, or with guns to their temples. This is the Devil's business. $700 are spent every week on whiskey for every $1 that is given to the church. You will hear people complaining all the time about churches lifting offerings, you will never hear a complaint about $700 per $1 for whiskey. This is the Devil's business. The children in ____ spend eight times the hours in movies than they do in church. This is the Devil's business.

Many of you sitting out there have had to endure terrible afflictions. Many of you have gone to bed at night and washed your pillow in your own tears. Your hearts are broken. This is the Devil's business. Some of you have might have had sons killed in wars, shipped home in wooden boxes. This is the Devil's business.

There are explosions and earthquakes and other acts of nature destroying lives en mass. Thousands die at a time. We call these acts of God when in reality they are acts of the Devil. Sickness, sorrow, heartache, depression – these things are killing men and women in the world today. Racism, discrimination, all of this is the Devil's work. The world is torn by strife and division. The world is soggy with blood. Loud with cursing. Venereal with sin. All of this is the Devil's work.

I long for the day when the Devil will be put out of business. I long for the day, WHEN THE DEVIL'S UNION GOES ON STRIKE.

Let me read something interesting. Job 1:6 the Bible says, “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.” Bible scholars say these sons of God are the created beings on the many worlds which God has created. And it seems, from what we read in this text, that God had a convention where representatives came from various worlds which God had created. And the Bible says that Satan was there. Now why was he there? After all, God created Adam and gave him dominion down here. Adam was king down here. But Adam sold out to the Devil. And Jesus called the Devil Prince of this world! Even though the Devil had deceived Adam, when the time came for the various representatives to appear before God, the Devil went along to represent the earth.

Verse 7: “And the Lord said unto Satan, whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, from going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.” God's looking over His sons in this great convention and He spots the Devil. And God said, “Whence comest thou?” and the Devil answered so innocently, “the earth.”

“What you doing down there?”

“Nothin', just walkin' up and down.”

He's walking up and down alright, creating the devil everywhere he goes. The author of hatred, the author of death, the author of the lie. And spreading his disease all over the planet. And had the audacity to come and stand before a Holy God.

Verse 8: “And the Lord said unto Satan, hast thou considered my servant, Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?” God was saying, “Adam failed! therefore Adam is not here. But if anybody was gonna come up here, it should have been Job, not you.”

in 1 Peter 5:8, the Bible tells us, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary, the Devil, as a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour.” All he's doing is walking. But wherever he walks, in his trail he leaves the bloody, mangled, ruined carcasses of millions, he perverts and destroys, he delights in ruining characters and wherever he walks, there's hell!
The Devil's no human being. If he were, we could get a stick and straighten him out. We are no match for him. Therefore, we ought to stay away from him. Stay out of his places. The night club is the Devil's place. Stay out of there! Put your hand in the hand of the man that stilled the water. Stay close to Jesus, your Saviour. And whenever you see the Devil coming don't try to bristle up a fight, pray! Because Jesus is the only person I know that beat the Devil every time. If you try to fight the Devil he'll wear you down; but the minute you grab a hold of Jesus, the Devil will leave you alone.
Ladies and gentlemen, the Devil knows that you're weak. He knows how to get at you. And He knows how to provoke you. And he always believes he can get you. The Devil believes he can get you. He doesn't care how long you've been a Christian, he believes he can get you, and he can too, unless you stay close to Jesus. You might have joined the church forty years ago, but the Devil still believes he can get you. So he keeps on working to get you. Every time you turn around, there he is to get you. Every time you get off your knees, he's standing there to get you. He believes he can get you. He doesn't care about you singing and praying, he thinks you'll quit one day and he'll get you.
And you know some people try to explain the reason why they sinned. But ladies and gentlemen, if you get into the habit of rationalizing, you can talk yourself out of heaven and into hell. And it'll make sense to you all the while you're talking. The safest thing to do is to stick by the word.
Ladies and gentlemen, the Devil knows he has but a short time. How does he know? He has studied prophecies of the word of God, and he knows that time is running out. That's why he's working so hard, and capturing so many. He knows the Bible! Every time somebody quotes a text doesn't mean they are a child of God! Doesn't even mean they're a minister for God. There are some people who get up and preach powerful sermons, and go right out of the pulpit to the bar. They are children of the Devil! They are telling folks not to do what I do, but do what I say do. The apostle Paul said do as I do. And he told a young preacher, be an example. There's no salvation in going to church or singing in the choir, the salvation is in letting Jesus come into your heart.
And ladies and gentlemen, you watch the Devil when he starts making deals. He always make big promises, but he can't back them up. When you go out and get started with your marijuana and pills, he promises you good feeling, a relaxed mind, and good introspective. But you end up in jail, in the mental institution, in the hospital or in the morgue. He promises one thing and delivers another. He tells some men, “man, your wife can't excite you like some of these ladies I got out here. If you'll just go out here and get a girlfriend on the side, you're gonna really live.” Many a man is wearing a scar that the Devil delivered, instead of keeping his promise.
And so, ladies and gentlemen, the Devil thinks he can get you. In Revelation 12:10, the Devil is called the accuser of our brethren. Now he not only accuses you to other folks, but he accuses you to yourself! He tells you, “You've gone too far.” He tells you, “You're too great a sinner!” He tells you, “The Holy Ghost has left you! Why you're so rotten no need you prayin! Jesus ain't interested in you!” And when he tells you that, he's what he's always been, a liar.
The Bible says, Jesus came to save to the uttermost. The Bible also says, there sin abounds, grace doth much more abound. If you've got five gallons of sin, God's got six gallons of grace. The Devil is a liar. But the time is coming when the Devil and his crowd will have to go on strike! When that time comes, there's gonna be peace in the valley. There's gonna be happiness for those who are now distressed. There's gonna be bread for those who are now hungry. There's gonna be health for those who are now sick. There's gonna be sight for those who are now blind there's gonna be life for those who have died in the Lord.
How is this gonna happen? Lets turn to Revelation 20:1
“And I saw an angel come down from Heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in

his hand. 2. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. 3. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should not deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled; and after that he must be loosed a little season. 4. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and the judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."
One crowd is gonna be dead a thousand years, the other crowd is gonna be with Jesus a thousand years. Now this thousand year period is called the millennium. Now that word is not found in the Bible, it's a compound Latin word: millen which means thoudsand, and annium which means years. It refers to a period of 1,000 years, just like century refers to a period of a hundred years.
Now the Bible says, the Devil is gonna be bound for a thousand years. And the Bible says, that the saints of God will live and reign with Christ for a thousand years. Now listen to verse 5 and 6: "But the rest of the dead lived not until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." Now that's clear. The Bible says in Revelation 20:1-6, a time is coming when the Devil will be bound for a thousand years. He won't be able to deceive anybody for 1,000 years.
Now, ladies and gentlemen, let's begin to understand God's word. In the Bible, only four kinds of people are taken into consideration. Today we divide ourselves into all kind of unique ways. We divide ourselves according to color, according to profession, according to how much money we make, according to how good our clothes are, but in the sight of God, there are four kinds of people headed for the judgment. They are: 1. The righteous living. 2. The righteous dead. 3. The Wicked living, 4. The wicked dead. After that God doesn't care what color you are, how much money you make, what street you live on; isn't worth a hill of beans!
Now when Jesus comes, He's gonna take care of all four groups. The Bible says in Revelation 20, that the righteous will live and reign with Christ for 1,000 years. Jesus says in John 14:1-3, I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you with me. That where I am there ye may be also! 1 Thessalonian 4:16, 17: "For the Lord himself shall descend (come down) from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (that takes care of one group). 17. Then we which are alive (that's the second group) – now this is clear, and I know it's clear, and it's all in the New Testament – Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Now that takes care of two groups.
Now let's go to the third class. The third class are the wicked living. The Bible says in 2 Thessalonian 2:8, "And then shall that wicked revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming." Now what about the fourth group? The wicked dead. The Bible lumps the wicked living and the wicked dead together in Revelation 20:5 and says "… the rest of the dead lived not until the thousand years were fulfilled." That care of all four groups. When Jesus comes, the righteous dead and the righteous living go to heaven. The wicked are destroyed by His coming and the wicked dead stay dead a thousand years.
Now, ladies and gentlemen, when that happens, Satan has no work to do, because there's nobody here to get into devilment. He can't start a war, because all those old warmen are dead. He can't pick on the saints because they're in heaven. He gives you a hard time now, doesn't he? But he won't bother you then, because you're out of reach. The wicked are dead. Thus the devil is bound by a chain of circumstances. With all his devilment, there is not one soul alive for him to use and abuse. He's on strike. He's out of business. For a thousand years he's out of business. Ladies and gentlemen, when Christ comes, the righteous are going to heaven. They're gonna stay in heaven for one thousand years with Christ. At the same time the wicked litter the earth like dung, the Bible says (Jeremiah 25:33). And

the devil has nobody to tempt.
But the saints of God are not gonna stay in heaven forever. You know there's so much confusion. Some people think they're gonna be in heaven forever. The Bible doesn't say that. The Bible says God made this earth to be inhabited. Now the devil came in and spoilt it, but only temporarily. The devil can't utterly defeat God. So God's purpose is gonna be carried out. You want to prove it. Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit heaven? Blessed are the meek for the meek for they shall inherit God's kingdom in heaven? Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." God made this earth for His people, it is their home. He's gonna give it to them. When's He gonna give it to them? When the thousand years are finished.
John the Revelator said in Revelation 21:2, "I John saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." The Bible even tells us where the holy city is gonna land (Zechariah 14:4). And when the holy city comes down to earth, the devil is gonna be loosed out of his prison. How? The Bible says the rest of the dead live not again until the thousand years were fulfilled. After the thousand years comes what is known in the Bible as the second resurrection, which is the resurrection of the damned. If you have to die, you don't wanna come up in that one. You wanna come up when the first trumpet sounds. For is you come up in that second crowd, you've had it.
Now the Bible says when that crowd is resurrected, the devil is loosed. And he goes out to deceive the whole earth and gathers them together to battle. And Revelation 20:9 says, "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them."
Ladies and gentlemen, there is a God in heaven. And God is deciding what's gonna happen down there. And when God gets ready, no man alive can stop the terrible fury of God's wrath from marching through the land. The decree will go forth in the kingdom, "It is done!" What's done? All the activity of man is done. All of his boasting and lying, and conniving, all of his filth and bloodshed and hate – it is done! When this happens a lot folks won't be ready. But thank God there's gonna be somebody who's gonna be ready. And I want that somebody to be me.
When Jesus comes, He's gonna tell His angels to gather His elect from the four corners of the earth. He's gonna shout to the north to give up; to the south, keep not back; bring my sons from afar, my daughters from the ends of the earth. And like popcorn popping on a hot stove, the saints are gonna start bursting the tombs, they're coming out of the grave. The Bible says that the earth and the works therein shall be burned up. Some of us are selling our souls for a house. Some of us are selling our souls for a little piece of land. I wanna tell you there's nothing wrong with houses and lands. But if you let these things come between you and the Savior, you are a bigger fool than you ever thought yourself to be. Some people can't serve God for making money. All of these are gonna be left down here. The most important thing you can do under the sun is to prepare to meet God. And if you put that first everything will fall in place.
One of these days the saints are gonna go marching in, "Lord, I want to be in that number." God's gonna have Black people up there, and He's gonna treat them right. Some people think you need NAACP down here, HACCP up there: the Heavenly Association for the Advancement of Colored people. When we get to heaven, God's gonna treat us right. And all these devils who don't know how to do it ain't going!
I wanna be there, don't you! When the saints go marching in I wanna be there. Let's sing it together. If you really mean it I want you to stand.
Prayer.
O Lord God, our heavenly father, we thank thee, that thou made a way for us to be saved. It costed you a lot to work it out, but you worked it out. You gave your life on calvary, that whosoever believeth, might not perish. Lord, we love you, we love your word, we love your promises. Please send the Holy Ghost upon us, and get us ready, so that when the saints go marching in, everyone of us here, with our

loved ones, and with those for whom we labor and pray, might be in that blood-washed army that shall go streaking through the gates into the city. We beg in the holy name of Christ the Lord.
There is hope for you, for Satan's work will cease.
There is hope for you, a thousand years of peace.
There is hope for you, those years of purest release.
There is hope in Christ for you.
There is hope in Christ for you.