OUR FLESH IS ALSO TEMPTED

 March 10, 2019 Luke 4:1-13

 Dear Friends in Christ: Jesus was ready. He was born for this very thing----to meet and beat the devil. There could only be one outcome. God, in the flesh was not going to give in to temptations as did mortal man.

 The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness for this test. Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit and was ready to do His Father’s will. As our substitute. He intended to withstand all the temptations of the devil---in our place. The Bible says in Hebrews 4:15 that Jesus was tempted just as we are, yet He did not sin. He did not give in to any of the devil’s suggestions.

 Now, there are some who contend that the devil is not real. Only a made up character. Not according to the Scriptures. The devil is a fallen angel named Lucifer and he led a rebellion in heaven and they were all cast out of heaven. He knows he cannot hurt God but he is intent on doing all he can to damage the relationship of humans with God.

 The devil is the instigator of all evil in the world, not God. Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:12: “Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

 Peter says in 1 Peter 5:8: “The devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

 Jesus said to Peter: “The devil wants to sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you.”

 We are engaged in an eternal life-and-death battle. The enemy is real and he is powerful. He has several thousand years of experience at exploiting man’s weaknesses. He knows just the right temptation for each of us. The old evil foe now means deadly woe.

 Even though we can’t see him, we see the results of his work all around us every day. Broken home, broken marriages, drug use, crime, bad language, cruelty, falling church attendance, open immorality, wars, and so many other things.

 The reason Jesus came to earth is simply put in 1 John 3:8: “To destroy the devil’s work.”

 He did just that by His perfect life, His sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection. Yes, Jesus beat the devil and by so doing, He also showed us how we too can beat the devil. Jesus said: “It is written.”

 Jesus was hungry after 40 days without food but refused to give in and make some bread, quoting Dueteronomy 8:3: “Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

 Jesus would not worship the devil who promised Him all the kingdoms of the world, quoting Deuteronomy 6:13: “You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.” Jesus also knew that the devil was a liar.

 And Jesus would not put His Father to the test by throwing Himself off a high point based on the Scripture in Ps. 91 where it says that: “He will command His angels concerning you, to guard you, and on their hands they will bear you up, lest You strike your foot against a stone.”

 You see, the devil left out a key part of that passage in Ps. 91. To keep You in all Your ways. The Father did not intend for His Son to do dangerous or silly things to get attention.

 We too have God’s Word at our disposal. If someone says that church is not important, You say “Seek first His Kingdom and all these things shall be yours as well.” Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

 If someone says that God really doesn’t love us; just look at how hard life can be. You say “We know that in all things God works for the good of them who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”

 If someone says that we are too sinful to be saved, you say “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.’

 This is why it is so important to be in church, to be in the Word. This is how we have an arsenal of weapons to fight against the forces of evil, just like Jesus did. By the grace and power of our Almighty God, you and I will turn away temptations to sin thru the power of the Holy Spirit which is in us.