"Nots" in the Devil's "Tale"

INTRODUCTION:

A. I can see where people of the nations might have some confusion while endeavoring to learn the English language.
   1. Our subject for this period of study is "Nots" in the Devil's Tale."
      a. Illustrate by tying a knot in a piece of rope.
      b. Am I to assume that the devil has a long TAIL and by taking the end of it and looping it back through the loop one has place a **KNOT** in the Devil's **TAIL**?
      c. Or could the subject suggest some **NOTS** in the **TALES** the Devil tells and would have us believe?
      d. Thus, our subject is **NOTS** in the Devil's **TALE**

B. Three lesson texts:
   1. **1 Peter 5:8** - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
   2. **2 Peter 3:14-16** -Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;
      and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation -- as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,
      as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.
   3. **2 Corinthians 11:13-15** - Such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.
      And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.
      Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

C. Listening friends, these three passages have set before us at least three major truths.
   1. The devil is seeking out anyone and everyone that he can destroy.
   2. Untaught and unstable people will twist the Scriptures of God to say what they want them to say even though in so doing it will bring about their own destruction.
   3. Satan himself transforms himself into a form that makes him more acceptable and more believable.

D. It has long been said in the annals of football that the best offense is a strong defense.
   1. How often has it been reported that when a new football coach has been hired at the professional level to try and turn around the established woes of his new team, the first thing he begins to do is to rebuild the defense.
   2. There is something to be said for being ready to defend what one knows is surely to come.
   3. Spiritually speaking, we need to be prepared for what the devil will endeavor to use against us. God knows what is in the evil one's playbook and has warned us how to defend against it.
   4. While the world may be aware of many "four-letter" words that the devil has poured into the languages of the world, I desire to use this occasion to warn you on a three-letter word he will try to use on those who seek Biblical truths
   5. That three letter word is **NOT**!

E. In and of itself the word **"NOT"** is NOT a bad word.
   1. One should **NOT** drive on the wrong side of the road.
   2. One should **NOT** take illicit drugs.
   3. One should **NOT** lie, cheat, nor steal.
   4. One should **NOT** be a law-breaker, etc.

F. On the other hand, some have perverted the Scriptures and have given them meanings which were never meant to be. I will illustrate this point through the remainder of our study together.

SIX NOTS IN THE DEVIL'S TALE

A. 1st Example of a NOT in the Devil's Tale: **Genesis 3:4** - Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will **not** surely die.
   1. God had said: . . . of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Genesis 3:3
   2. God said they **WOULD** die. The devil said they would **NOT** die.
   3. The devil added a NOT to the tale he was telling Eve.
   4. Add the word "NOT" to this context and you have introduced the "Once saved, always saved" doctrine. The devil was saying, "Go ahead and eat that is no way that eating of any of the fruit or touching any of the trees in the garden will result in your death."
   5. Hear God's Word:
      a. **1 Chronicles 28:9** - As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts.

If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. The devil would have Solomon believe that he would **NOT** be cast off forever.

b. **2 Chronicles 15:2** – And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you. The devil would have Asa believe that the Lord would **NOT** forsake him.

c. **Hebrews 6:4-6** – For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,
and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,
if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. The devil would have us believe that it is **NOT** impossible for anyone to so sin as to never repent.

d. **1 Corinthians 10:12** – Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. The devil would have us believe that it is **NOT** possible for us to fall.

B. 2nd Example of a NOT in the Devil's Tale: **John 17:20-23** - I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;
that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.
And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:
I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

1. The devil would have us to believe that it is God's will "That they may **NOT** be one."
2. Religious division is one of the devil's most effective tools in:
   a. Creating doubt in the hearts and minds of people about the importance of unity.
   b. Creating doubt about the truth taught about Christ establishing only one church.
   c. Creating doubt about the importance of the church at all.
   d. Creating doubt about what the Bible teaches on many other subjects as well.

e. Creating the false idea that "Well, if God had wanted us all to be in one church, then He wouldn't have given us so many."
f. Creating a false sense of security in "churches" God did not establish.

3. Hear God's Word:
   a. **Matthew 16:18** – . . . Upon this rock I will build My church (singular), and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
   b. **1 Corinthians 1:10** - Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

C. 3rd Example of a NOT in the Devil's Tale: **Mark 16:16** - He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. The devil would have you believe that "He who believes and is **NOT** baptized will be saved.
   1. Jesus said: BELIEF + BAPTISM = SALVATION
   2. The devil would have man say: BELIEF - BAPTISM = SALVATION
   3. This is just another **NOT** in the devil's tale.

D. 4th Example of a **NOT** in the Devil's Tale: **Acts 2:38** – Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins… The devil would have us believe that "Baptism is **NOT** for the remission of sins."
   1. The argument is centered around the word **"for".**
   2. Many religionists teach that baptism is because sins have already been washed away prior to baptism.
   3. Consider carefully **Acts 22:16** - And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord. **NOT** because of sins already having been forgiven, but **NECESSARY** to the sins being forgiven.

E. 5th Example of a **NOT** in the Devil's Tale: **John 5:28-29** - Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth -- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. The devil would have us believe that "All that are in the graves shall NOT hear His voice."
   1. The devil does not want us associated with Christ.
   2. The devil does not want us to faith and confidence in he words Christ has spoken.

3. The devil does not want us to look forward to being with Christ.

F. 6th Example of a NOT in the Devil's Tale: **Matthew 25:46** - And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. The devil would have us to believe that "The wicked shall **NOT** go into everlasting punishment."
   1. The devil does not want us to know about everlasting punishment.
   2. The devil does not want us to think about everlasting punishment.
   3. The devil does not want us to year for that beautiful place called Heaven.
   4. The devil wants us to disavow any knowledge of Heaven or hell and live just for the here and now.

CONCLUSION:

A. We have examined six **"NOTS" in the Devil's Tale**.
   1. "You shall **NOT** sure die." In Genesis 3:3 God said they would die.
   2. "That they may **NOT** be one." In John 17:20-23 Jesus prayed all would be one.
   3. "He that believes and is **NOT** baptized will be saved. In Mark 16:16 Jesus said that those who are baptized will be saved.
   4. "Baptism is **NOT** for the remission of sins." Peter said in Acts 2:38 that those who repent of their sins are baptized be receive the remission of their sins.
   5. "All that are in the graves shall **NOT** hear His voice." Jesus said in John 5:28-29 Jesus said that ALL who are in their graves will hear His voice and come forth.
   6. "The wicked shall **NOT** go into everlasting punishment." Jesus said Matthew 25:46 that the wicked will go into everlasting punishment , "but the righteous into eternal life."

B. Just that little word **"NOT"** can change truth into a lie and cause precious souls to be lost.
   1. Do not add words to the Bible.
   2. Do not remove words fro the Bible.
   3. Obey the words of the Bible that God gave you to obey.
   4. Listening friends, may each one of us seek diligently to untie these, and other,
      "NOTS" in the false tales the devil is telling others.
   5. Let us help others wee the STRAIGHT truth of God's Word.

C. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**