

The Devil's Disciple

By Lloyd Anderson

Don Ranson:

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[Audio Silence]

[Background Music Begins]

Don Ranson:

To a darkened world holding forth the light of light.

Choir:

We've a story to tell to the nations that shall turn their hearts to the right.

[Music continues in the Background]

Don Ranson:

For more than half a century. Biola has educated Christ dedicated young people for a worldwide Christian service. Now, from the campus of Biola College and the graduate school Talbot Theological Seminary, we present a half hour of message and song to uplift and brighten your day on the Biola Hour.

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Choir:

For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright, and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

Don Ranson:

This is Don Ranson your Biola host. Thank you for inviting us in today. What does the cross mean to you? To many, it is but an ornament to be worn about the neck. To the architect, it is a symbol adorning churches to the scholar. It is a goad driving him on in intellectual pursuits. To the preacher. It is a sermon filling the need of the hour and of eternity. To the skeptic, it is a superstition clouding men's souls to the Roman. It was an instrument of execution, obnoxious and hated. To Constantine, it was a sign in which to conquer turning defeat into victory. To Paul, it was a symbol of glory, pointing the way to heaven to Mary It was a memory of agony piercing her soul. To the motley mob on Golgotha, it was a holiday, carnal and cursed to one thief. It was the door to perdition, horrible and eternal to the other. It was the gate to paradise, wondrous beyond work of men or angels to Christ. It was a beer and a throne. Paradox of time. Predestined to eternity. 2 multiplied millions of storm tossed souls. It is an anchor offering a haven of rest.

[Music Begins]

Choir:

Rivers of grace and mercy, fountains so deep and wide, waters of healing are flowing out from him wounded side. Out from his wounded side, out from his wounded side, rivers of mercy are

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flowing out from his wounded side. Gracious the invitation, never a soul denied, come for a river of blessing, flows from his wounded side. Out from his wounded side, out from his wounded side, rivers of mercy are flowing out from his wounded side.

[Music trails off]

Don Ranson:

I saw God bare his soul one day where all the earth might see the stark and naked heart of him on lonely Calvary. There was a crimson sky of blood and overhead a storm when lightning slit the clouds and light engulfed his form. Beyond the storm, a rainbow land to light to every clod. And on that cross mine eyes beheld the naked soul of God. We are not saved by theories, but by fact, and what is that fact? For whom did Christ die? Christ died for sinners. Well, then he certainly died for me. And he died for you. I wonder what can wake us up to the urgency of continuing to spread the message of the gospel. What can drive home to us, the fact that we must continue to help educate these dedicated Christian young people at Biola so that they might serve God wherever he chooses? The easy life of our affluent society, the ease of obtaining medical help. The consistency of having more than enough food on our tables. The self-sufficiency by which we seem to guide our lives. All these help to cover the fierceness of the spiritual battle which is raging all about us. I sometimes wonder if it will finally take the atrocities of war to wake us out of our spiritual lethargy. I don't know. These thoughts raced across my mind as I read of the persecution and slaughter of the southern Sudanese Christians. Dr. Mooneyham of World Vision gave this account in the January issue of their publication. I quote. I learned that soldiers from the north had rushed into a Bush school where a dozen small children were studying. Cut off the

hands of three of its smallest children and burn the school to the ground. Later that same week, it is reported as Christians knelt to pray in a nearby small village. Three grenades exploded in the center of their prayer circle, followed by the chatter of machine guns. All 28 worshippers died. In another village, the members of an assembled church were ordered to sit on the floor.

Government soldiers opened fire on them and bullets brought instant death to most of the congregation. Others died when forces from the north threw torches against the building and burned it to the ground. That's the end of the quote. The realities of life and death and the reality of the spiritual battle being fought for the souls of men is vividly apparent when we hear of such brutalities. The urgency of training young people for God's service is obvious now. I'm not saying that Biola's graduates are going to solve the ills of the world.

I'm not even intimating that our graduates will measurably help the suffering of the southern Sudanese people. What I am saying is that the world needs the message of the gospel and we have as our responsibility the most effective means of getting that message out. Young people dedicated to the Lord's service. If even one of them should fail to become sufficiently prepared because we failed to support him. What a great burden of responsibility rests upon us. God has given to us. You and I the responsibility of seeing to it that these committed students receive the best possible preparation for the work God has for them to do so responsible. Do we feel here at Biola, that the tuition has been kept to a minimum and covers approximately half of the cost of the education that each student receives? The rest must come from somewhere else, from someone else, from you, from those upon whom God has placed the burden of this ministry. Don't turn aside his words of guidance. Why not write to us and find out how you may help in a very constructive and tangible way? Our address is Biola La Mirada, California, 9 0 6 3 8. That's

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Biola spelled B as in Bible. B i o l a La Mirada is two words. Capital La capital M as in man m i r a d a. The State California and the Zip Code 9 0 6 3 8. Thank you very much. And now we invite Dr. Lloyd T Anderson to the microphone today. Senior pastor of the Bethany Baptist Church of West Covina, California, and a member of the Biola board of directors. He is continuing his series on the unforgettable characters of the Bible and today's message, The Devil's Disciple.

Lloyd Anderson:

In our studies together, we've been looking at some of the characters of the word of God that across the years, my friend, have been quite unforgettable. Men and women who have either accomplished good things or evil things and who stand out from the Bible as those from whom we ought to profit as we study the word of God together. Today, if you have your Bibles, I'd like to have you turned to the fifth book of the New Testament. The Book of the Acts Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts. The Book of Acts is a wonderful book because it's the historical book of the New Testament. And I'd like to have you turn in the Book of the Acts to Chapter 13. And I'm going to read beginning with verse 6 down the verse 12. If you have your Bibles acts Chapter 13 from verse 6, down to verse 13, And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, That is Paul, the apostle and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith of the Lord. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on Islamists, And said, O full of all subtlety and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of

all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, Believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, because he was astonished at the doctrine of the Lord that you remember Paul was preaching. Now, when Paul and his companions left the place called Paphos, they came to a place called Perga in Pamphylia, and John left them and he returned to the city of Jerusalem. Now, this is a very interesting episode in the word of God and this Book of the Acts and Chapter 13 and my friend were contrasting some of the other individuals with this one today because this individual was a real, say, servant of Satan himself. And what we'd like to do in our lesson today and in our following lesson is to expose the efforts of the devil in the way he uses men to resist the gospel and to turn men away from the truth. We'd like to describe the power of sorcery or witchcraft to be assured that the power of the Holy Spirit enables us to overcome in our spiritual warfare as believers against the devil. Now you remember that Barnabus and the Apostle Paul, and the man whose name was John Mark, after whom, of course, probably the gospel of Mark was named, started out on the first invasion of heathenism by the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. They went on a missionary journey. We read that Barnabus and Paul were chosen by the Holy Spirit in Acts 13 and verse 2 by the early church. And John went along to help them, according to Verse 5 of Acts, Chapter 13. Mark was not called and separated to the work by the Holy Spirit. Could this be why he turned back when they arrived at a place called Perga? In Verse 13 of Acts, Chapter 13 missionaries and ministers must be definitely in God's will in order to do God's work. Or my friend, they'll cop out every time. Now, Paul and Barnabas and certainly John made a direct assault on the devil strongholds. Was it amazing that they met one of the devil's disciples in

direct opposition to their work? And my friend, you'll run into the devil's disciples every time you try to preach the gospel of Christ. There are plenty of people who will oppose the Gospel of Christ. Every time you preach it by giving other gospel tract, giving a word of testimony or preaching in a pulpit. Now, who are the enemies of the Gospel of Christ? Who were the enemies, for example, of the pioneer missionaries who went to Africa many, many years ago at the turn of the century? Well, usually they were the witch doctors or the servants of the devil who wanted the people to worship the devil through idolatry immorality, an animal or human sacrifices. Now, when you come to act Chapter 13, beginning with verse 6, you'll see here, of course, that you see one who is certainly an individual who opposes the gospel and the preaching of the apostle Paul. Now, names, often denote character in the word of God. And it's ironical that one individual whose name was Barjesus or the Son of Jesus or the son of Salvation was the very individual who denied his spiritual heritage among the children of Abraham. And he became a sorcerer or a practitioner in witchery. And his name, of course, is other name was Elymas. And as a sorcerer or a wizard, he was under the curse of the Old Testament Mosaic Law, Leviticus, chapter twenty and verse six teaches that no man ought to practice witchcraft. The heathen people were very superstitious and often renegade Jews themselves, profiting by the reputation of their ancient prophets, sold themselves as fortune tellers and magicians. These gypsy like Jewish would whisper in the ear of a Roman or Greek that he or she was a high priest daughter, and had special knowledge of the secrets of heaven. And some of the very ancient books of witchcraft and sorcery had their origin among many of these apostate Jews who rejected the faith of their fathers, and who affiliated themselves with a devil like this man. Elymas did now notice in verse six of the Book of the Acts, Chapter 13. And when they had gone through the aisle under Paphos that is in this missionary journey of Paul, they found a certain sorcerer that is a man who practice

witchcraft. He was a false prophet, and he was a Jew and his name was Barjesus. Now a more amazing mixture of characteristics can scarcely be imagined. And one man. He was ideally suited to be a disciple of the devil. His Jewish name and his religious education was a perfect masquerade as he practiced the devil's black arts among the Gentiles. A sorcerer, of course, is a spirit medium who was able to contact evil spirits and obtain their assistance. Now, unconstructive Christian people today often think that all sorcery is only trickery and deception. There are spirit mediums who can contact demons, however, and also who are adept at doing amazing things through the power of the evil spirits and the devil himself. Veteran missionaries who return from missionary lands testified to the supernatural and the superhuman acts of natives while they're demon possessed. And I believe in America. We have a great wave of witchcraft and sorcery. Today it seems to be a popular thing. But, my friend, it's something we ought to be careful about and fearful of, because a nation which has given over to witchery and to the worship of demons and the devil is certainly on its way to perdition in a hurry. Now there are two types of sorcery or witchcraft, black magic and white magic in black magic. The powers of darkness are used to cast spells, do evil and cause illness in white magic. Incantations are used along with various objects to alleviate sickness and remove the results of black magic. And prayers and scripture verses, along with the name of God, are sometimes used as the devil seeks to deceive people by acting as if he comes from God himself. Dr. Kurt Cook, a very astute man who has studied witchcraft and sorcery across the years, has this to say. The Bible relegates all charms on all scripture words that have been turned into empty formulas into the area of sorcery. Many times white magic is black magic. Under Christian camouflage, Second Corinthians 11:14 is fulfilled here, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Now, that's a good word from Dr. Cook. You see, the Christian particularly ought not to be ignorant of the wiles and the

devices of the devil and the powers of darkness. But we should not become so conscious of the devil that we forget the savior who defeated him on the cross. My friend Satan is a defeated enemy. Jesus defeated him when he died on the cross. And I think we need to remember that we have no scriptural basis for prayer to the devil or any basis in the Bible of communicating with him. And the book of Ephesians 5 and verse eleven says, and we are as believers to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of spiritual darkness, but rather we are to reprove them. Now, this is what the word of God says, and my friend is a believer. If you're fooling around with this business of astrology and witchcraft and sorcery and all of this stuff, be very, very careful because God's anathema and God's judgment is against it. And the Bible says that again and again, sorcery witchcraft voodoo whodo pow-wow are all used by the devil to keep his subjects in slavery and fear, whether men seek his power in black magic or white magic. They are under the devils, power and control. And my friend, the believer needs to be very careful. Even in the reading of occult books, for they may prove to be a snare to the human soul. Then you'll notice that not only did he profess to be something this man, Elymas or Barjesus, but he opposed the gospel of Jesus Christ in versus seven and eight of the Book of the Acts, Chapter 13. A tremendous thing when you see it here. Now, Paul was preaching to a man whose name was Sergius Paulus, who was the Roman governor in that area of Cyprus. Now, Cyprus is an interesting island. I've been there a number of times, it's in the Mediterranean and it's not far from Israel. This man was described in Acts 13, 7 and 8 as a prudent man in verse 7. That means he was open minded. He was intelligent. He was willing to obtain knowledge from any source no matter where it came from. Now, we do not know how Elymas or Barjesus. The sorcerer gained influence with him. Men of importance were susceptible to scoundrels who were looking for gullible victims and kings and emperors surrounded themselves with men who studied the stars,

astrologers and wise men. Magi and soothsayers and sorcerers and magicians. For example, the Emperor, the Roman Emperor Trajan sent a sealed letter to the Oracle at Heliopolis and demanded an answer to an unopened question. The Oracle replied by sending back to him a bit of blank paper, nicely folded and sealed, and the Emperor Trajan was amazed to find the answer in perfect harmony with a letter he sent, because he had sent a blank paper also. And you see, the demons know all that occurs, and they can reveal that knowledge to mediums at their request. And the devil I don't know whether you realize it or not, but the devil himself has access to even reading the Bible if he wants to. He can open the book like everybody else. You see, the nation of Israel was constantly tempted to turn to demon worship. The Babylonians, the Chaldeans, the Persians and the Egyptians were all well acquainted with a magical arts, and they tried to seduce Israel. And you remember the prophet Isaiah warned that they were to turn to God and not the spirit mediums when he wrote. You remember in Isaiah eight in verse 19 and when they shall say unto you. He wrote seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep and mutter should not a people seek unto their God for the living to the dead. And then Isaiah follows with the commandment to turn to the law and to the testimony as a guidebook, rather than to these false professors and these saucers and soothsayers on every hand. Now, idolatry is a worship of demons, and a lot of people on the American scene are practicing idolatry and witchcraft today. You can go into the average bookstore and you'll see a whole section given over to astrology, to witchcraft or sorcery and all of these things. Now, the apostle Paul taught that sacrifices to idols were sacrifices, really the demons, not to God in First Corinthians 10 verses 18 to 20. All heathen religions are then, in reality, demon worship. If you really want to reduce it to a minimum. This is why Bible Christians must reject any ecumenical movement that accepts great world religions as a part of itself which practice idolatry. Two doctrines of demons

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which are very prominent in these religions, according to First Timothy 4 1 to 4 are first of all forbidding to marry and secondly, commanding to abstain from meats. Now the teaching that the unmarried condition is more spiritual than being married and that man must not eat meat are certainly satanic and they're not from God. Beware of any strange mystical doctrines concerning celibacy and vegetarianism and things like this, because according to Genesis 9 and verse 3, man has permission from God to eat meat. And so we must remember that we're talking about an individual whose name was Elymas, and he was a very evil man. And he becomes unforgettable to you and me because of what he did in the lives of the Apostle Paul and in the lives of those around him. And we ought to profit by what we read concerning him as we think about his life.

[Organ Plays "Only Believe"]

Don Ranson:

Ray Tovreise is at the organ today. The selection only believe. Thank you, Ray. And thank you, Dr. Anderson, for today's message from the word of God. Friends. The message, which you've just heard will be printed in the Biola broadcaster, and will be available to all who write and request their issue of the Biola broadcaster. Our address is Biola La Mirada, California, 9 0 6 3 8. You may also use this address when writing to Biola to request information about our work. Write and find out how you may become a part of this great educational ministry training dedicated Christian young people for worldwide service in a variety of occupations.

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Yet each one sincere and dedicated in their commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. Write to us at Biola. La Mirada, California 9 0 6 3 8. And now this is Don Ranson your Biola host thanking you for having been with us today and inviting you back again tomorrow.

[Music Begins]

Choir:

Goodbye my heart is watching o'er you, goodbye His mercy goes before you,

Don Ranson:

The brightest crowns that are worn in heaven have been tried and smelted and polished and glorified through the furnace of tribulation.

Choir:

So Goodbye may God bless you, goodbye my God is watching o'er you, goodbye his mercy goes before you, goodbye and we'll be praying for you, so goodbye may God bless you.

[Music trails off]