

Faith Is Action

August 2018 • USPS 184720 • Volume 57 • Number 8



In This Issue:

JESUS' MANIFESTO & MANDATE



JESUS' MANIFESTO & MANDATE

SHARON HARDY KNOTTS

*“And you know that he was **manifested** to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abides in him sins not: whosoever sins has not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that does righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that commits sin is of the devil; for the devil sins from the beginning.*

*“For this **purpose** the Son of God was **manifested**, that he might destroy the works of the devil” (1John 3:4-8).*

A *manifesto* is an official, public, authoritative declaration or proclamation stating a person or group’s *mission and purpose*. Today, it is common for certain groups, and even individuals, to post on the internet their statement of beliefs and their mission to carry them out. After there has been a terror attack, mass murder, or shooting in a workplace, often ensuing investigations search online social media and find the perpetrators had stated for the whole world to see exactly what they intended to do. Their publicly posted online *manifesto* reveals the nature behind their actions.

There are many Islamic terrorist

organizations around the world, such as the PLO, the Muslim brotherhood which spawned Hamas and Al Qaeda, and recently, ISIS has been getting a lot of press, as they unleash their vicious terror everywhere. Each of these groups and factions has their own *manifesto* and has stated clearly what that manifesto is. Most of them have made it clear that they intend to wipe Israel off the face of the earth. It’s not a hidden agenda; they say it outright and often.

Right here in America, there are subversive groups who want to overthrow the government. There are paramilitary groups entrenched in obscure places like the desert, where they practice war games. When investigated, these people are found to have a *manifesto* that states why they do what they’re doing, what they hope to do, and what is their purpose for doing it.

Planned Parenthood has a *manifesto* that abortion should be legal for everybody for any reason at any time, even up to the ninth month. This is *their manifesto*, and they don’t apologize for it. They not only want to keep it legal, they want to force taxpayers to have to pay for it, regard-

less of their objection to abortion. They are trying to force churches to provide health insurance for employees, including paying for abortion.

They may try to whitewash it, pretending they exist to serve women's health issues, such as providing mammograms, but the fact is, that is a very small percentage of what they do, and in many clinics they do not offer it at all. Nor do they offer women prenatal care. Women must go to a private OB doctor or clinic for this. It is a manifesto of infanticide supported by one-half billion dollars in federal funds annually. This manifesto is a subdivision of another *universal manifesto*.

Satan's Manifesto

These all support a *manifesto of violence and death* that comes under the big umbrella of *Satan's Manifesto* which Jesus declared in John 10:10: "*The thief comes not but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy, but I come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*"

Don't overlook the little word *not*—it conveys that this is Satan's *one and only* agenda. The Lord is telling us that Satan has come for no other purpose *but this—to steal, to kill, and to destroy*. In 1John 3:8 we saw Jesus' manifesto: "*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil.*" Jesus' manifesto is to destroy the works of the devil. Satan came to steal life—Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. Satan came to

kill—Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. Satan came to destroy—Jesus came to destroy the destroyer—*this is His manifesto*.

Jesus' Mandate

Not only did Jesus have a *manifesto*—He also had a *mandate*. A mandate is when a person or persons in authority give an order to another to carry out. This mandate becomes their *mission*. Jesus said that the Father had given Him authority to execute judgment in the earth and to carry out His mandate:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised" (Lk.4:18).

Jesus was sent with this mandate from the Father, and He was given the authority and the power to carry it out: "*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power, who went about doing good: and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him*" (Acts 10:38).

He came to heal the broken in heart, to preach deliverance to those in bondage, to bring healing to all suffering sickness, whether spiritual or physical; to set at liberty them that are bruised. The word *bruised* means *to be crushed under a load*. He came to deliver and set us free from the crushing burdens Satan puts on peo-

ple. Isaiah 53:5 says, “*He was bruised for our iniquities.*” Jesus was bruised for our bruises.

Satan's Modus Operandi

Satan's name is transliterated into English from Hebrew. Ancient Hebrew was written in word pictures. The Hebrew alphabet consisted of 22 pictures which stood for letters. When we know the pictures for the letters, they add another layer of meaning to the words they form. Hebrew words have a three-letter root, all consonants, as in ancient Hebrew vowels were not written. The three-letter root for Satan is S-T-N. In Hebrew: SHIN-TET-NUN. Their word pictures are:

SHIN—a picture of teeth or flames. The meaning is the same for both: *to devour*.

TET—a picture of a serpent ready to strike; means *a serpent*.

NUN—a picture of a fish swimming in water; means *life*.

When we put the three word pictures together, we get the true meaning of Satan: *The Serpent who devours life*.

The summation of Satan's manifesto: *to steal, kill and destroy*. The Greek word *destroy* is *APOLLUMI* and means *to utterly ruin*. It does not necessarily mean *to kill*, because *kill* was already stated. It means *to slaughter* as in the slaughtering of lambs for sacrifice. Earlier in John 10, Jesus stated that He is the Good Shepherd who came to give His life for the sheep, and all who came before Him

were *thieves and robbers*. They came in to steal and kill the sheep. Their boss is none other than Satan himself, and his *MO* has not changed. He is out to slaughter you and take your life. If he can't take you out, he wants to *ruin your life*, and you may not know he's doing it until the damage is done.

In this verse, *destroy* means *to ruin something absolutely*. He can ruin your life with drugs and alcohol. You don't have to die of an overdose—you can just have a ruined life. You can become so bound by addictions that you can't live a normal, happy, free life. You can have a ruined life because you are addicted to sexual perversion. Instead of having a happy relationship with a husband or wife, and a good home and family, you can go from man to man and woman to woman; today there are all kinds of flavors in the world. People tell themselves it is sexual liberation, but the Bible says it is Satan coming to ruin your life. Often by the time people wake up and realize it, they have already given their best years to the devil and to that perversion.

Satan wants to ruin your life with divorce, broken families, rebellious children; kids in jail, kids on drugs, kids in all manner of evil things the enemy uses to ruin their lives, as well as suicide. It is heartbreaking to see your child or grandchild's life being ruined by the devil and the deceitfulness of sin.

He wants to ruin lives with

depression and mental illness. You can have a perfectly healthy body without any medical problems, but if you are plagued with depression, oppression, and mental illness, it is a terrible way to live. Some in this situation are scared to die, but hate to live. They're afraid to die, and that is a good thing, because Satan wants to take them to the ultimate of death by suicide, fulfilling *his manifesto to kill*. Some don't have the nerve to do that, or they have enough of the fear of God and biblical knowledge in their hearts, that they don't want to go to Hell—but what a miserable life! It pays to serve the devil, because “*The wages of sin is death*” (Rom.6:23), but he also wants to ruin your life here on earth.

Satan's On the Loose!

In 1John 3:5, we read Jesus was manifested to *take away our sins*, and in verse 8, to *destroy the works of the devil*. It is obvious the devil is on the loose. He has power over the world to bring misery and destruction to people. Scripture says *Satan is the god of this world* (2Cor.4:4), and he executes authority over those in his kingdom. He is not going to stop until he is thrown into the pit! In Rev 20:1-3 we read,

“*And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the*

bottomless pit, and shut him up...” I like *the shut him up* part! I know it literally means that the angel shut the door and locked it, but I believe it also means *he shut that liar up!* He shut up the one who is always lying on God, on Jesus, and accusing you and me and the brethren!

“*...And set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*” He will be shut up for a thousand years during the Millennial Reign of Christ. After this, he will be loosed for a little season: “*And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison. And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city*” (vv.7-9).

The *saints* are *not* the Church, who is in Heaven after the rapture. The camp of the saints refers to *the Jewish people, the nation of Israel on the earth* (Dan.7:18-27). The nations in league with Satan will surround *the beloved city, Jerusalem*, and they will not be able to defend themselves. God shall defend them as He has always done: “*And fire come down from God out of Heaven, and devoured them.*” Those nations will be destroyed by fire from heaven.

Then Satan will meet his final

demise: *"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever"* (v.10). But for now, the devil is on the loose, so *"Be sober, be vigilant, for your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about seeking whom he may devour"* (1Pet.5:8).

Second Kind of "Destroy"

In John 10:10, *destroy* means to *utterly ruin*, but in 1John 3:8—*"Jesus was manifest to **destroy** the works of the devil"*—*destroy* is another Greek word. *LUO* means to *loose, to unbind, to untie, to break or to sever*. John the Baptist told Jesus, *"I am not worthy to **unloose** your shoes latchet"* (Jn.1:27), meaning to *untie* something; thus, to *unbind* it.

It tells us that Jesus came to *undo* what the devil has done. He came to *undo* all the works of destruction Satan does to people's lives. We didn't have a choice when we were born in sin. He was our master, and by the time many realized they can be saved, they already had a lot of bad things happen in their lives, leaving them with much damage.

Jesus was manifest to *undo* those works of the devil. Put another way: *He came to return what the thief stole from us*—First and foremost—*our peace with God*. We were alienated from God by our sins: *"And you that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now has he reconciled. In*

the body of his flesh through death..." (Col.1:21). *"...God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them..."* (2Cor.5:19). By putting our sins on Jesus, He restored our relationship with God. Now we *come boldly to the throne of grace and say, "Abba Father"* (Heb.4:16, Rom.8:15).

He restored our peace with God, and He restores *our peace with others*. Before you were saved, there may have been people you had grievances and problems with, and after you were saved, God started working on your heart to make it right. For instance: I didn't know my biological maternal grandmother until I was nine years old. I thought my *foster* grandmother was my grandmother.

One day I got a letter from my great aunt in Pennsylvania, who always sent me birthday and Christmas gifts, saying that *my grandmother* really loved my school picture. I asked my mom, *"Who is my grandmother?"* My mom was like *Uh-oh*. She had not spoken to her mother in years. They had serious issues going back to when her parents split up, and she was placed with a foster family at 9 months old. My mom had never told me she existed, and I was her *only* grandchild. The time had come for my mom to deal with it. God wanted to bring reconciliation, and only through Jesus could that which was grievously irreconcilable between them be healed. The following year my brother was born, and

my grandmother came to Baltimore to see her new grandson. There was no way it would have happened without the Lord! He can *undo* the bitterness, anger, and resentment, bringing forgiveness and restoration. He came to give us *peace with God, peace with one another, and peace with ourselves*.

You don't need to beat yourself up anymore, to live in regret over mistakes of your past, wishing you could go back and do it again. All of us, if we could go back and do it again, knowing what we know now, would do things differently. We can't undo them, but through the blood of Christ, *He can undo all the bad that came out of it—this is His manifesto*.

Another definition of LUO—*destroy: to break the chains*. He came to “*preach deliverance to the captives, opening of the prison to them that are bound*”—break the chains of bondage, sin, sickness, and addictions, and set us free from all the works of the devil.

We must learn to always determine the *source* of things. When something bad is occurring, determine the source of it. Satan has come to steal, to kill, and to destroy. Anything that falls into these categories *comes from Satan—not God!* He is the author of life; He is the author of healing and peace. “*Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father...*” (Js.1:17). But Satan is always seeking to give God a bad rap. He comes around whispering what God has done to us, accusing

God of evil. But if it falls in one of those categories, he is the source, and we are not under his authority: “*Who has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the kingdom (authority) of his dear Son*” (Col.1:13).

The Devil Goes to Church

“*They went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes. And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Are you come to destroy us? I know you, who you are, the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold your peace, and come out of him. And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him*” (Mark 1:21-26).

The beginning of Jesus' ministry, Mark dispenses with all the stories about wise men and shepherds, and gets right to Jesus' *manifesto* and acting out His *mandate*. Jesus went into the synagogue to teach, and everyone was on the edge of their seats, because they had never heard anyone teach like Him. The scribes knew the scriptures inside and out, because they were the copyists who wrote them down. It was not that *they didn't know* the Word of God, *but they didn't have the same authority*.

Jesus preached with authority, and the people were amazed. Suddenly, a demon possessed man shouted, “*Let us alone!*”

Notice the plural pronouns *us* and *we*. Were there more than one demon in him? The text says that he had an *unclean spirit* as in *one*, but he was speaking on behalf of *the kingdom of darkness*. He spoke in the authority of Satan’s manifesto. We also know the devil is a liar and likes to bluff: “We are many demons here, so you better let us alone; you should be scared right now.”

The demon said: “*What do we have to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?*” The answer is “**Yes I have! This is my manifesto! I have come to destroy your works!**”

The demon had been hiding in the synagogue right under the noses of the religious leaders and chief priests. They had never discerned the demon was there, and if they had, they never tried to do anything about it; they were too busy playing their roles. The devil likes to hide in church, to work under cover incognito. Many churches are giving the devil his wish. *They leave the devil alone* and go on and have church. Everything is wonderful—they don’t care to identify the devil, and they sure don’t bother to cast him out. How many churches do you know that deal with demon spirits? How many minister deliverance to the demon possessed?

Oppressed & Obsessed

Some are not *possessed*, but are sorely *oppressed*, and I have dealt with some who are *obsessed* in their minds. When a person is obsessed in the mind, and you have ministered to him with scripture that pertains to his situation, and he receives it, but still has mental obsession, it is time to take authority over a demon spirit.

If a person is battling with oppression through prayer, reading Scriptures, even posting them on their walls, but their mind is still bombarded with fears and doubts and unbelief, it is time to *evict the devil*. How many churches do you know that do this?

I ask you, *Are all the demons gone? Have all the demons left the earth?* I don’t think so. I think they are on the loose, and are getting little opposition from the church. Demons should not feel at home in church. Demons should feel uncomfortable in the house of God.

The demon said to Jesus: “*Let us alone! We have been coming to this synagogue forever, and nobody ever bothers us.*” But when Jesus declared that the Spirit of the Lord—the devil-chasing anointing was upon Him that day to set the captive free, the spiritual Geiger counter went off in that demon, and it could not play possum any longer. It cried out, “*We know who you are! You are the Holy One of God. Have you come to destroy us?*”

“*Yes! Absolutely yes! That is*

exactly what I have come to do! For this purpose was I manifested, to destroy the works of the devil. You have it right—I have come to destroy you! This is My manifesto!

The demon cried out with a loud voice and tore the man. The man probably convulsed, writhed, and screamed with a loud voice. The last thing the devil does when he is being evicted is put on a show.

I remember as a child going to A.A.Allen tent meetings. He had a deliverance ministry to cast out demons. His services were recorded on audio and video, and you could buy the LP records. On one he was casting the devil out when the demon said, *“I hate you!”* Brother Allen replied: *“That’s good, because I never met a devil that liked me yet.”* Bro. Allen let the demon talk a while, and eventually it said, *“We’re not coming out.”* At this point, Bro. Allen cast him out, because the last thing the devil always says is, *We’re not coming out!*

It’s what the devil did to Jesus: Cried with a loud voice, carried on, and then came out. Jesus had come to destroy the works of the devil, *and He wasn’t going to leave the devil alone.* He came to heal sick people, and when he saw the blind, *He didn’t leave the devil alone!* He opened their blind eyes. When He saw people with leprosy, *He didn’t leave the devil alone.* He laid hands on them and said, *“Be clean.”* When He saw it was premature for a young man to die and leave his widowed mother

alone with nobody, *He didn’t leave the spirit of death alone.* Although He had not yet paid the price on the cross, He took authority over death and commanded, *“Rise up!”* **He didn’t come to let the devil alone.**

Afraid of the Devil

People won’t admit they are afraid of the devil, because for Christians this is antithetical to what the Bible says and to who we are in Christ. But the truth is, some tiptoe around the devil and hope he doesn’t notice them and leaves them alone. Their manifesto is: *If I leave you alone, then you leave me alone.* But you can’t trust the devil. He waits until you have your guard down to jump on you. You can’t let your guard down. You can’t let the devil alone when he is trying to ruin your life, destroy your family, your marriage, your children and grandchildren, your health and your finances. You can’t just sit down and take it off the devil. Not when Jesus said, *“For this purpose was I manifest, to destroy the works of the devil.”*

Mandate of Healing

*“Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might **destroy** him”* (Mt.12:14). The Greek is APPOLUMI—to ruin. They wanted to ruin Jesus’ ministry and His influence over the people who followed Him. Satan does the same today with ministers. He snares them with sex, greed, and corruption that ruin their reputations, causing

Christians to stumble and the world to reproach all Christians.

"But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all. And charged them that they should not make him known: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall show judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. And in his name shall the Gentiles trust" (vv.15-20).

Jesus fulfilled this messianic prophecy, and verse 20 is from Isaiah 42:3. A reed is from tall grasses that grow by the water. Very fragile and flimsy, you can't build anything with a reed. You can use them for décor, but not for anything that requires strength and support. A reed is easy to bruise; throw them in the car or somewhere in the house, till you are ready to use them, and they will be bruised and unusable.

Jesus saw people broken like bruised reeds. Some would say, *beyond repair*; but Jesus said, *"No, a bruised reed, I will not crush."* When you are in your most vulnerable place, feeling like you have no hope, and what you're facing has taken away your joy and expectation of

good, Jesus comes into that situation to heal and make you whole. No matter what life has done to you, even if it is because of poor choices you made, the Lord will not kick you while you're down.

"And a smoking flax He will not quench." A smoking flax was a lamp in which the oil had burned off, and the linen wick was starting to smoke. Jesus says that He will not *quench*—*put out* that little flicker. If all you have is one flicker of hope, one flicker of life, and it seems like it is smoking and can't last much longer, Jesus will not snuff it out. *He will breathe on you.* By His Spirit, He will breathe new life into you. *This is His manifesto!*

"And in his name shall the Gentiles trust" (v.21). We have literally come to trust in His name. We call ourselves *Christians*—for *Christ*. It was the Gentile church in Antioch, Syria who first started calling themselves Christians (Acts 11:26). And I am not ashamed to say, *"I am a Christian"*—*This is my manifesto!* Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, and I am on His team!

"Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spoke and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?" [an idiom meaning *Is not this the Messiah?*] (vv.22-23). Ancient rabbis taught that one sign Messiah would perform was to cast a demon out of someone mute. Once

Jesus healed a man who was both deaf and mute by putting His fingers in the man's ears and spitting on his tongue: *"And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plain"* (Mk.7:32-35). Jesus loosed his tongue! This fulfilled another rabbinic claim that Messiah would have healing in His spit!

*"But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow does not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, **except he first bind the strong man?** And then he will spoil his house"* (vv.24-29).

Binding the Strong Man

A thief will not break into an empty house, because there is no treasure there. Thieves break into houses they know have goods inside. They may even go to neighborhoods to see what boxes are put out in the trash, like a large screen TV. Christmas is a favorite time to burglarize,

because they know there are good and expensive presents under the tree.

The point: *A thief doesn't break into an empty house; he only breaks into a house with treasures. This is why the devil attacks us.* At times we look at our lives, knowing that we are walking in obedience with a pure conscience, and wonder *what is going on here?* The devil wants the treasure in our house, because he is the thief who has come to steal and destroy.

But in order for him to come and steal our treasure, *he must first bind us.* The devil can't just come and steal your treasure, your Holy Ghost anointing, your library of the Word of God; the holy things you have in your spirit that you received from the Holy One. He can't just come and take *"this treasure that we have in our earthen vessels, that is not of us, but of the excellent power of God"* (2Cor.4:7). We are too strong for him, so he has to *bind the strong man.* He doesn't come all at once with his big chain, because we would resist him. But he does what he did to Samson—little by little, the temptress Delilah got him to let his defenses down: Let's start off braiding your hair with thin green twine; that can't hurt anything. The next time, let's use stronger ropes; still not a problem to get loose. Next, let's weave your seven locks to a loom, and still he got loose. *He had three strikes and still evaded capture!*

Finally, Samson had fooled

around enough, flirting with the flesh, until he told her the secret to cut his hair. There was no power in his hair—it was the sign of his consecration and obedience. When he broke his consecration, the Philistines cut it off, and he rose up to shake himself like he had done many times, *but the Spirit was gone*. Samson the strong man was mocked; they put out his eyes, bound him, and made him a slave. Like an ass, he walked around pulling a millstone to grind grain (Ref. Judges 16).

1John 3:5: “*And you know that he was manifested to take away our sins...*” He came to take our sins away—not leave us in them. No matter what you call yourself: once-saved-always-saved, half-saved, if you are practicing sin, *you are not saved*. We read that he that commits sin is of the devil and doesn’t know God. Jesus told a group of religious people in John 8:44, “*You are of your father the devil, and his lusts you will do; for he was a liar and a murderer from the beginning.*” Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, including sin, because *sin is a killer*. Sin never travels alone—it always travels with death: “*The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*” (Rom.6:23).

The Christian Manifesto

Now for our Christian manifesto: “*In this the children of God are **manifest**, and the children of the devil: whosoever does not righteousness is*

not of God, neither he that loves not his brother. For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil and his brother’s righteous.

“*Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loves not his brother abides in death. Whosoever hates his brother is a murderer: and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren*” (1Jn.3:10-16).

John went on to state practical things we should do to manifest brotherly love: When we see a brother in need, we don’t close up our bowels of compassion. But I will keep with the spiritual aspect of our manifesto: If we are habitually committing sin and not righteousness, we are children of the devil. If we are doing righteousness, we are righteous even as Jesus is.

Chapter 5:18-19: “*We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.*”

In the KJV, *sinneth* and *keepeth* end in *th*. A verb ending in *th* denotes the present tense, meaning *habitual*,

continual action. Here it refers to someone who habitually sins. It doesn't mean you will never sin, because in chapter 2, John said, "*My little children, I write unto you that you sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous*" (v.1).

Those who continue to live in sin are not born again. They may be religious, belong to a denomination or church, but are not born again. He that is begotten of God does not commit habitual sin. What does he habitually do? *He keeps himself from the world.* Because he does this, *the wicked one touches him not.* The Greek *touch* is strong and means *to lay hold on something in order to hurt it and bring it harm.* The devil will come against us; he will attack us, but he cannot hurt us.

Why wouldn't we want to keep ourselves from the world? *The whole world lies in wickedness!* There is nothing good in the world: "*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust thereof*" (1Jn.2:15-17).

This Present Evil World

"*Who (Jesus) gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world...*" (Gal.1:4). *This is His manifesto to*

deliver us. Our manifesto as the children of God is to love one another. This is the number one thing that identifies us as Christians. Jesus said, "*By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another*" (Jn.13:35). How do we tell the difference between His children and Satan's? When John said, "*In this the children of God are **manifest...***" the Greek word is PHANEROS, meaning *to make visible, apparent, conspicuous.*

It is conspicuous: one does righteousness; the other does wickedness; one walks in the light, the other walks in darkness. One has love for others; the other has hatred and murder like Cain did.

Cain claimed to be righteous. He brought an offering to God. He wasn't an atheist or a god-hater. Adam and Eve had taught their sons to build an altar and bring sacrifices to God. He brought a sacrifice to God, but he had hatred and envy in his heart and slew his brother. God called Cain "*that wicked one.*" Satan's manifesto of death was first exhibited in Cain who had a spirit of hatred and murder. This spirit is unleashed in our world today. Every day we hear reports of terror attacks and mass killings. Every day thousands of babies are aborted.

We Stand for Life

Jesus is the author of life, and we stand with life—loudly, boldly, and clearly. We stand against death—no matter how it manifests itself, gang-

banging in the streets, racism, terrorism, abortion. No Christian should have an abortion—that is Satan's manifesto. If you made a mistake and got pregnant, will you add sin to sin and have an abortion? How can Christians have abortions or support those who are for abortion when it is Satan's manifesto to kill? If you made a mistake in the past and had an abortion, and you have repented, it is under the blood. Don't feel guilty, and don't let the devil dig it up. It is not the unpardonable sin, *but for the love of Heaven, do not support abortion now*. There is no gray line—you are either for life, or you are for death—there is no in-between. God said of the aborted child in Ezekiel 16:4-6:

*"In the day you were born, your navel (umbilical cord) was not cut; neither were you washed in water to supple you; you were not salted (as an antiseptic), nor swaddled at all. No one cared for you or had compassion on you to do these things. But you were cast out into the open field to the loathing of your person, in the day that you were born. And when I passed by and saw you polluted in your own blood, I said, **Live!** Yea, I said unto you when you were cast (out) in your blood, **Live!**"*

Our manifesto is God's manifesto—*Life!* The wiseman commanded: *"Open your mouth for the dumb (who has no voice) in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. Open your mouth and judge righteously, and plead the cause of the*

poor and the needy" (Pro.31:8-9). Truly the unborn *have no voice*, and those slated for abortion are *appointed to destruction*. We must plead their cause and stand boldly against this culture of death.

Satan's culture of death has covered the world, and Jesus warned that we will be hated by the world, and will suffer great persecution for our righteous stand against evil. But He has promised that we are: *"Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed. Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, **that the life also of Jesus may be manifest in our body**"* (2Cor.4:9-10). He was manifest to deliver us from Satan's works of death and give us life.