

Facing Fear 3 – Is Evil Winning? The Devil, Darkness, and Death.

Chris Fluitt – October 26, 2025

Thanks in Advance NEXT WEEK BUMPER

Welcome to Redemption Church of Plano, Tx. My name is Chris Fluitt... Thank you for being with us – In person and online! Make sure to join us for our THANKS IN ADVANCE series next week.

Facing Fear (Title)

We are in the last week of our series – Facing Fear.

You don't have to look far to see it. It's everywhere.

The headlines, the notifications, the livestreams - they paint a picture that's hard to ignore.

War. Violence. Corruption.

Innocent people suffering. Children disappearing. Families divided.

And somewhere deep down, a question begins to whisper: *Is evil winning?*

Is Evil Winning? (progressive click)

- Every 40 seconds another life is lost to suicide. 720,000 people every year.
- Nearly 50 million people are trapped in modern-day slavery and human trafficking.

Evil isn't just an idea - it's organized, global, and personal.

- In Nigeria alone, more than 7,000 Christians have been killed this year. 50,000+ believers have been murdered in the last decade.

Churches burned. Families slaughtered. Entire villages wiped out simply because they bear the name of Jesus.

Here at home, it's not physical persecution - it's confusion, deception, and despair.

Identity itself is under assault. People don't

know who they are, why they exist, or what to believe anymore.

And while evil multiplies, faith is fading –

- Belief in the devil and in hell has dropped sharply in recent years. A generation ago, more than 70% of Americans said they believed... now it's nearing 50%.

We've stopped believing in the enemy, even as he keeps destroying lives.

Is Evil Winning? The Devil, Darkness, and Death

We've all felt it.

We've seen friends walk away from faith because they can't make sense of the darkness.

We've seen the rise of anxiety, depression, suicide, and violence - and wondered, *"Where is God in all this?"*

Maybe you've even felt a personal attack - a wave of bad news that made you think, *"This isn't random. It feels spiritual."*

And you'd be right.

We live in a spiritual world.

There is an unseen enemy - and Scripture names him clearly.

Evil is present... That's the world we're living in.

It's the struggle that sits behind every fear, every broken system, every corrupt heart, and every sleepless night.

We need to understand that struggle - because only when we recognize the darkness can we fully appreciate the light.

So that's where we're going today.

We're going to look into the darkness - not to glorify it, but to understand it.

And then, we're going to see what God says

about it.

Let's go to the Word.

John, a disciple of Jesus, tells us about Jesus in John chapter 1.

John 1:4–5 (NIV)

“In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

Before we talk about the light, we need to understand the darkness - because you'll never appreciate what shines until you've stood in the dark.

1. Evil is real - and it hides in plain sight.

Evil isn't always dramatic.

It's often ordinary.

It looks like greed, gossip, selfishness, pride.

It looks like people online tearing each

other apart for clicks.

It looks like cruelty we record and laugh about.

Sometimes the darkness isn't subtle - it's right in front of us.

A few years ago, two teenage girls went viral for bragging on camera after stealing money from a Girl Scout.

Let's watch this for a second.

Teenage Girls steal Girl Scout Cookie Money

Crazy, right? They actually laughed about it. And when that video went viral, people online *lost it*.

Comment sections exploded with hate. Everyone wanted to cancel those girls. And yeah, what they did was wrong - it was ugly. But so was the reaction.

Because sometimes we forget... the real enemy isn't the person on the screen.

Paul said in *Ephesians 6:12*,

'We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, authorities, and powers of this dark world.'

Those flesh & blood girls weren't the true enemy.

The darkness that deceived them was.

And that same darkness tries to deceive *us*. It whispers pride, greed, selfishness, and hate - and then hides behind human faces. So we end up fighting people... instead of fighting the darkness.

Let's Push Deeper.

'Some of us think, 'Yeah, but they *are* my enemy.'

Maybe they've lied about you, hurt you, betrayed you.

But Jesus doesn't give us the option to hate.

(it is ok to put these 3 on 1 screen)

'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.' (Matthew 5:44)

'Bless those who curse you.' (Luke 6:28)

'If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also.' (Matthew 5:39)

You might think that sounds weak - but it's actually warfare.

-When you bless instead of curse, you defeat evil at its root.

-When you pray instead of retaliate, you break the enemy's influence over your heart.

-When you forgive instead of fight, you shut the door that darkness wants to crawl through.

Let's Apply this.

Who have you been treating like the enemy?

Ask God to help you see past their face and recognize the real battle.

Pray for them. Bless them.

That's how evil loses ground.

1. Evil is real - and it hides in plain sight.

2. Darkness is powerful - but not permanent.

Darkness can intimidate you and make you feel like God has disappeared - but it never gets the last word.

When darkness falls, God is already planning the dawn.

Exodus 1–2: Pharaoh drowned Hebrew babies - but the Nile river carried Moses to deliverance.

1 Samuel 17: Goliath taunted Israel - but David's faith toppled fear.

1 Kings 18–19: Jezebel hunted prophets - but God whispered hope in Elijah's cave.

Matthew 2: Herod tried to kill the Messiah - but Joseph obeyed a dream, fulfilling prophecy.

Luke 23: The sky went black, Jesus died - and three days later, the tomb was empty.

Every one of those moments *looked final*.
But every one became a setup for redemption.

The Nile didn't drown Moses - it delivered him, and he delivered his people.

Goliath didn't end David - he elevated him.

Jezebel didn't silence God - she amplified His voice.

Herod didn't stop salvation - he fulfilled prophecy.

And the cross didn't end Jesus - it exposed Satan's defeat forever.

Darkness is loud, but it's limited.

It may win a battle, but it can't win the war. It's powerful, but it's not permanent.

Where does darkness feel permanent right now?

In your family? Your finances? Your faith? Don't mistake a dark chapter for the end of the story.

The same God who parted seas, silenced giants, whispered in caves, and rolled away stones - He's still working.

1. Evil is real - and it hides in plain sight.

2. Darkness is powerful - but not permanent.

3. The Light Is Not Fragile - It's Fierce

When John says, *“The light shines in the darkness,”* he’s describing an unstoppable force - Jesus invading the night.

John 11: Lazarus was dead four days. Jesus said, *“Come out!”* and death had to let go.

When Jesus faced temptation (*Matthew 4*), storms (*Mark 4*), death (*Luke 24*), and the cross (*John 19*), darkness never won once.

Light is **indestructible.**

Darkness is **vulnerable.**

Darkness can shout, but it can’t silence light.

It can bruise, but it can’t break light.

It can resist, but it can’t remain where Jesus shines.

-Every time you pray when it’s hard - the light shines.

-Every time you forgive when it hurts - the light shines.

-Every time you stay kind when you're mistreated - the light shines.

-Every time you speak hope when others spread fear - the light shines.

You don't have to be the brightest - just faithful.

Because darkness only wins when you stop shining.

So what do we do with all this?

If evil is real but defeated - if the light still shines - how do we live that out?

Three steps that keep the light burning bright. (progressive click)

1. **Guard what goes in.**

Turn down what drains you. Turn up what fills you with faith.

You can't shine if you keep feeding on darkness.

2. **Bring light wherever you go.**

Be kind when others are harsh. Forgive when it's undeserved.

Light doesn't have to shout - it just has to show up.

3. **Stand firm when it's hard.**

Don't match darkness - outshine it.

When fear rises, pray. When hate stirs, love.

Story – Family trip shenanigans.

A person who recently came back to faith was on a family trip that included her atheist sister who chided her faith. After days of this the one with faith lost their temper and yelled “You have got to shut up... I don't need this from you.”

At the next stop this believer called me and asked me to pray with her before she went and apologized and let forgiveness win.

Winning arguments is not how you defeat darkness... No shining light is how you defeat darkness.

Even if you made a decision you regret, you can repent and suddenly you are shining light!

Musicians

Imagine if all of us lived this way.

If we stopped cursing the darkness and started carrying light.

If every conversation, every act of kindness, every prayer pushed back the night.

Three Moves That Push Back the Dark.

1. Refuse to fight people.

People aren't your enemy - the darkness is. Pray before you post. Bless before you react.

That's how we fight spiritual battles.

2. Turn up your light.

Feed your faith and live it out loud.

So proud of young people who are praying and reading their Bible!

The darker the world gets, the brighter your witness shines.

3. Overcome evil with good.

You can't fix everything - but you can bring light somewhere.

Do something good this week.

And right now - let's start with prayer and worship.

Maybe the darkness has been heavy for you.

Maybe you've been fighting people instead of the real enemy.

Maybe you've stopped shining because you've been weary.

We have a space for prayer. Let's pray together.

Let's bring every bit of fear, bitterness, and burden to Jesus - and let His light fill us again.