

THE "BIG LIE"

By Keith Greer

One of the most powerful weapons that Satan wields is deception. Satan, and all of his cohorts, will never divulge to man what he will ultimately be required to pay for his sins.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" {Romans 6:23} God tells us clearly the true cost of sin. Remember, God cannot lie. Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:2.

Satan is the master of the "**hidden agenda**." It began in the Garden of Eden and will continue till the Lord returns to redeem His own.

"Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die." {Genesis 3:4} All the devil did is change one word which God had told them. Eve must decide who was telling the truth. God, who had given them life and the garden, or this serpent. Seems like an easy choice. How could she be so foolish?

Satan deceived her by the three courses all sins take: **lust of the flesh, lust of eyes**, and the **pride of life**. "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" {1 John 2:16}

Eve could become like God—**pride of life**. It was good for food-- **lust of the flesh**. It was pleasant to see — **lust of the eyes**. Yet, Satan did not tell her, the "hidden cost". What was that cost?

"But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out." {Numbers 32:23} Did they believe that God would never find out? Could they hide what they had done?

"And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." {Hebrews 4:13} God sees all that man does, good or bad. All of his thoughts, actions, and attitudes are on display before God. Truly a humbling and fearful realization!

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned; " {Romans 5:12} Sin cost a heavy price. Sadly, the ultimate price was yet to be paid.

"Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life." {Romans 5:18}

Death on the cross by God's only begotten Son paid the debt of sin, an atonement for man's transgressions. This was a high price indeed!

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" {Ephesians 1:7}

Since the days in Eden, Satan continues telling the "**big lie**". Man can enjoy the pleasures of sins, drink of life to the fullest, and engage in all types of fleshly conduct-it costs him nothing. This is the bait Satan wants man to take. He is very good at what he does. Look at the world today, the evidence is all around us.

Listen to Jesus, He will tell you the truth: "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." {Matthew 12:36,37}

By the way, did God do exactly what He told Adam and Eve would transpire if they ate of the tree in the midst of the garden? "So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the Garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life." {Genesis 3:24} God does not make idle threats concerning His commands and consequences for breaking those commands! Just like Eve long ago in the beginning, it's your decision. What will it be? ***