Intro:
- Satan is someone we contend with everyday
  - he wants us to give into peer pressure – school starting this week
  - he wants us to turn away from God, and live in sin
  - he wants us to exchange our souls for the pleasures of sin
  - he wants us to live in hell for eternity with him

- since Satan is our most formidable enemy, we should know as much about his tactics we can
  - illus.: we know from a human perspective it helps to know our enemies, so we can defeat them
    - documentary: “Know Your Enemy: Japan” was released on August 9, 1945, the day Nagasaki was bombed – WWII (cut most of scrolling words out of video)
    - purpose of film: educate American soldiers on their enemy’s history and society – WWII
  - important for soldiers to know as much about their enemy as possible, so they know his tricks, how he thinks and acts, can anticipate his deceptive ploys
    - important for us (soldiers of Christ) to know everything we can about our enemy Satan
Things we should know about our spiritual enemy, Satan – character, behavior, attributes

- Jn. 8:44 Satan is the father of lies
  - anything that is not truth (not in harmony with God’s word), is of Satan
  - should expect him to lie about: himself, God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, word, sin, heaven, hell, Christians, etc.
    - lying (deception) is Satan’s principle weapon
    - be careful not to believe lie: religion, brethren, other people, etc.
  - how should we feel? - toward religious error - toward people who’ve believed Satan’s lies

- Gen. 3:1-6 Satan lies about God and His word, and uses lust to convince people
  - 1a Satan is crafty (cunning, deceitful)
    - 1 Pet. 5:8 he’s prowling like a roaring lion seeking to devour us
    - Satan often waits till we are vulnerable, then challenges us (lie, deception, temptation)
  - 1b Satan asked a question
    - asked a question that gave a negative impression of God – probably knew the answer
      - illus.: Did you see one of your elders in the liquor store? - asked question, negative impression
    - put Eve on the defensive
      - illus.: Why do you go to a church where elders go to liquor stores? - put on defensive, even if not truth
    - evil people - liars:
      - use questions to give false impressions, without technically telling lie
      - often pretend they don’t know answer – play stupid
      - use questions and innuendo to stir up trouble and lead people astray
  - 2-3 Eve knew the truth and communicated to Satan
    - many people have know the truth, but been deceived by Satan
  - 4 Satan directly contradicts God, while he words could also be misconstrued as speaking in a different context
    - Eve may not have understood everything Satan said, but she had to understand that God and Satan were directly opposed to each other – had to decide which to believe – chose to believe Satan
    - illus.: false teachers and baptism
      - contradict God
        - don’t have to be baptized to be saved (cf. Mk. 16:16)
        - baptism does not save us (cf. 1 Pet. 3:21)
      - try to change the context to deceive us
        - baptism is a symbol, not really saved when baptized (cf. “symbol” not in text)
    - when someone plainly and decisively contradicts God, we should flee, not listen
  - 5 Satan twists the truth to make God look like a deceitful liar, deceiver, tempted Eve with the possibility of becoming as wise as God – temptation, lust (2 Pet. 2:1-2)
    - Eve may not have understood, but should have rejected Satan based on the clear contradiction (vs. 4)
    - when someone or something contradicts God’s word, we should reject them and everything they teach (2 Pet. 3:16)
  - 6a Eve gave into the temptation and sinned – lust eye, lust flesh, boastful pride of life
    - the reason Satan tempts us is to get us to turn from God and sin
    - when we give into temptation we sin
    - all temptation should be viewed as if someone was holding a gun to our head, and we should fight
  - 6b Satan uses other people to try and get us to sin – used Eve to get to Adam
    - 1 Tim. 2:14 Adam not deceived directly, but Satan used Eve to get to him, when he listened to the voice of his wife (Gen. 3:17)
    - Satan deceives people, then tries to use them against others
      - we can’t listen to their voice, or we’ll sin against God and spend eternity in hell
- illus.: many people who are promoting false doctrine sincerely believe it
  - we can’t listen to them and obey their doctrine – they’ve been deceived
  - temptation: peer pressure, we like everyone else

► Some of Satan’s lies (deceptions) (Jn. 8:44)
  - God is whoever you think He is – He’s different things to different people, and called by different names
  - truth: the Lord God is one, people who turn away from Him are punished (Eph. 4:5; Heb. 10:30-31)

► - Satan is a myth – he doesn’t exist
  - illus.: The Usual Suspects (1995 movie, which I’ve not seen and don’t endorse)
    - “The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing people he didn’t exist.” (quote from 1995 movie, The Usual Suspects, which I’ve heard of and don’t endorse)
  - illus.: Robert Anton Wilson
    - “The devil is only a convenient myth invented by the real malefactors of our world.”
  - truth: Satan is prowling around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8)

► - demons don’t exist, since Satan doesn’t exist
  - illus.: Sigmund Freud
    - “Demons do not exist any more than gods do, being only the products of the psychic activity of man.”
  - truth:
    - Satan disguises himself as an angel of light, and his servants disguise themselves as servants of righteousness (2 Cor. 11:14-15)
    - Satan was through down to earth with his angels (Rev. 12:9)
    - James tells us demons exist when he says they “believe and shudder” (Ja. 2:19)
    - people fall away by paying attention to doctrines of demons (1 Tim. 4:1)

► - no or little punishment: if Satan doesn’t exist, no need to be saved, nothing to be saved from, no punishment
  - illus.: purgatory
    - Roman Catholic doctrine, punished just a little then you get out and can go to heaven
  - illus.: reincarnation
    - New Age doctrine, get to try over and over again till you get it right, then you get to spend eternity in restful bliss
  - truth: we don’t get a second chance after we die – die once then judgment (Heb. 9:27)

► - all religions are the same, just different roads to the same place
  - illus.: church choice
    - it doesn’t matter what you believe or where you go to church – attend the church of your choice
  - illus.: New Age
    - doesn’t matter if you believe in Jesus or Buddah or any other religious teacher, they’re 2 teachers of the same thing
  - illus.: belief of many in denominations
    - you don’t have to know God’s word, you just have to be a member of a church
  - truth: Jesus is Savior of the body (church), no way to get to heaven but through Him, must be a faithful member of His church to be saved (Eph. 5:23-24; Jn. 14:6; Heb. 5:9)

► - many more:
  - good people doing good things are saved – evil people do evil things and are lost
  - you can trust yourself and your own instincts – just follow your conscience
  - God made you the way you are, so it’s okay to do what comes natural (homosexuality)
  - don’t worry about the consequences of sin, just have fun and enjoy it – passing pleasures of sin
  - money is the secret to happiness – getting rich is most important thing
  - just one time won’t hurt (one lie, one deception, one drink, one drug, one time having premarital sex)
- you can be a lukewarm Christian and still go to heaven – don’t need to be zealous or fervent

How do you defeat (overcome) Satan?
- Jn. 8:44–47 people who are of the devil don’t believe Jesus, or obey Him
  - context: they do not hear and obey His word
  - this separates us from the rest of the world – believe, obey
  - we will have conflicts with people who are of the devil – religiously, intellectually, and socially

- Jn. 8:31-32 truth sets you free from Satan – sin and death
  - Rom. 6:3-7 we’re set free from sin when baptized, become God’s child
  - 1 Cor. 10:13 in Christ, free from Satan and sin, able to endure every temptation
    - not tempted beyond what we can bear
    - God always provides a way of escape

- Jn. 14:6 Jesus is the truth – way, truth, life – only way to the Father is through Him (Jn. 1:1; 17:17)
  - 1 Pet. 2:21 walk in Jesus’ footsteps
  - Jesus is the truth, the only way to defeat Satan and overcome sin is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ

- 2 Th. 2:10-12 you must love the truth to be saved, or else we’ll believe lies and be lost in sin
  - illus.: most people reject the truth
    - Bara Research, people’s belief in Satan (stats from Barna Research, published religioustolerance.org/chr_sat4.htm)
      - 1991: 60% of American believed Satan was just a symbol of evil
      - 2001: only 27% of the adult population disagreed that Satan was just a symbol of evil
        (73% thought he was just a symbol, increase of 13% in 10 years)
      - 2007: only 24% of people polled rejected the idea that Satan is a real, spiritual being
        (76% didn’t think he’s a real, spiritual being, increase of 3% in 6 years)
      - most people don’t believe Satan is real – possibly the greatest lie ever told

- Christians: reject Satan’s lies, believe the truth, love the truth, obey the truth, saved
  - inv. become a Christian – reject Satan, believe the truth, obey Jesus, be set free from Satan and sin