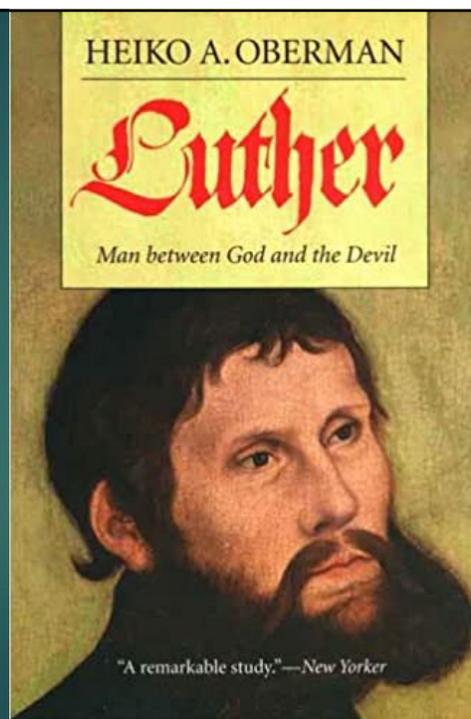


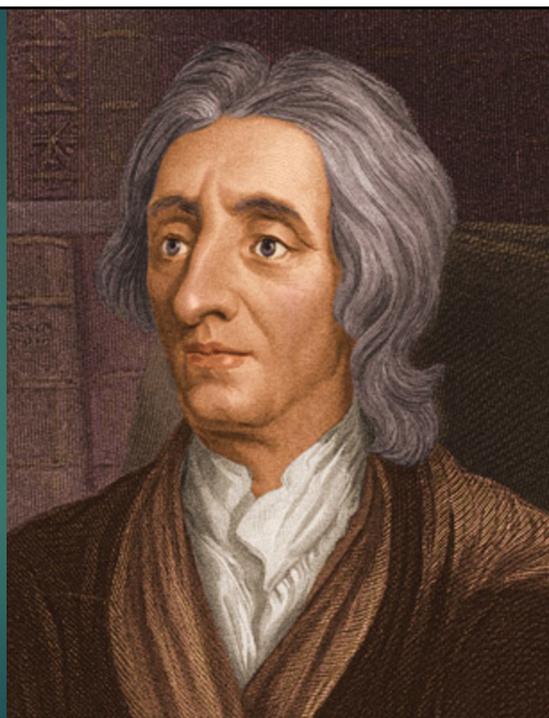
# Week One Our Enemy



1

## The Modern Biases

- ▶ Modern discourse about Christian formation lacks the language of sin, death, and the devil. The language is therapeutic.
- ▶ We read Scripture through the lens of The Enlightenment (18-21<sup>st</sup> Century).
- ▶ The great readers of Scripture such as Irenaeus, Athanasius, Augustine, Aquinas, Anselm, and many others did not read Scripture this way!



2

## Theory of Language

- ▶ **Realist position:** Language reflects reality. This is the rationalistic understanding of language.
- ▶ **Anti-realist position:** Language creates truth.
- ▶ I think the anti-realist position can help us read Scripture better.



3



4

## Theory of Language

- ▶ Let’s talk about the word “progress” in English.
- ▶ The concept of time in English does not work in biblical Greek or Hebrew. Furthermore, it doesn’t work in Eastern European languages too.
- ▶ Why do I say this? Because we can make some huge assumptions about any word just from only speaking one language.



5

## Ad Fontes!!!!

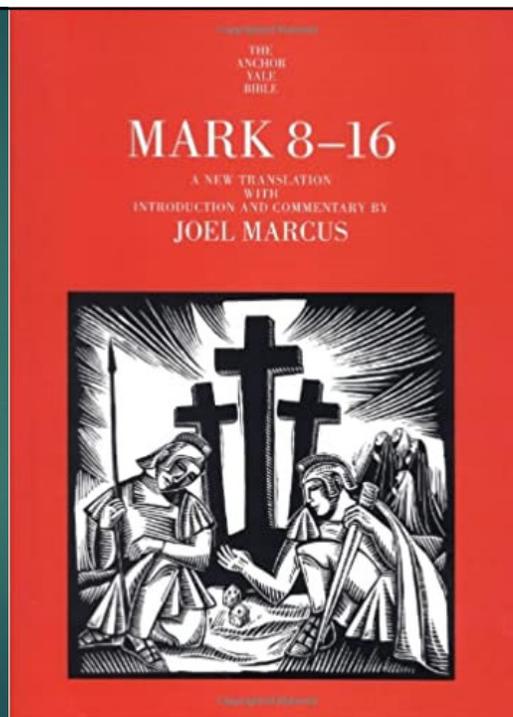
- ▶ If you read through the gospel of Mark, the battle between Christ and Satan is non-stop.
- ▶ Christians need their imaginations shaped by Scripture.
- ▶ How often do we read secondary sources more than Scripture?



6

# Our Enemy

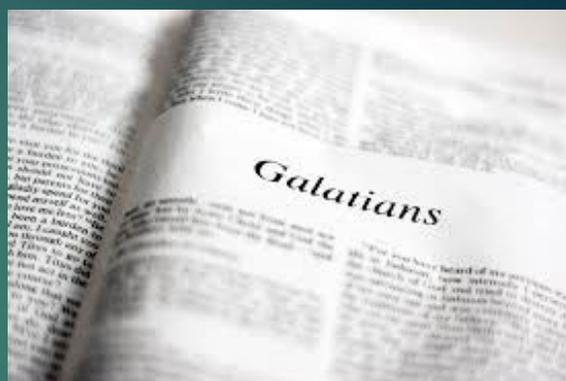
- ▶ We are instructed by Jesus to “pray for our enemies” in Matthew 5:43-48. So what is Pastor Douglas speaking about?
- ▶ Our enemy is named by Scripture as Satan (Mark 1:12-13; Matthew 4:1-17; Luke 4:1-13).
- ▶ If this event is such a big deal in Scripture, shouldn’t it be a major component of our Christian formation?



7

# Galatians 1:6-10 ESV

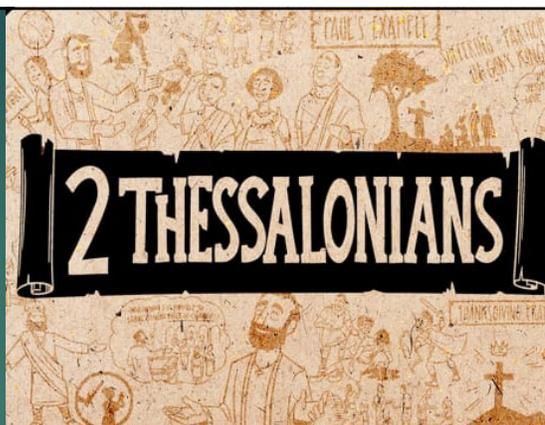
- ▶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—<sup>7</sup> not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.<sup>8</sup> But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.<sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.
- ▶ <sup>10</sup> For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.



8

## 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

- ▶ Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, <sup>2</sup>and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. <sup>3</sup>But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. <sup>4</sup>And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. <sup>5</sup>May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.



9

## The Satan

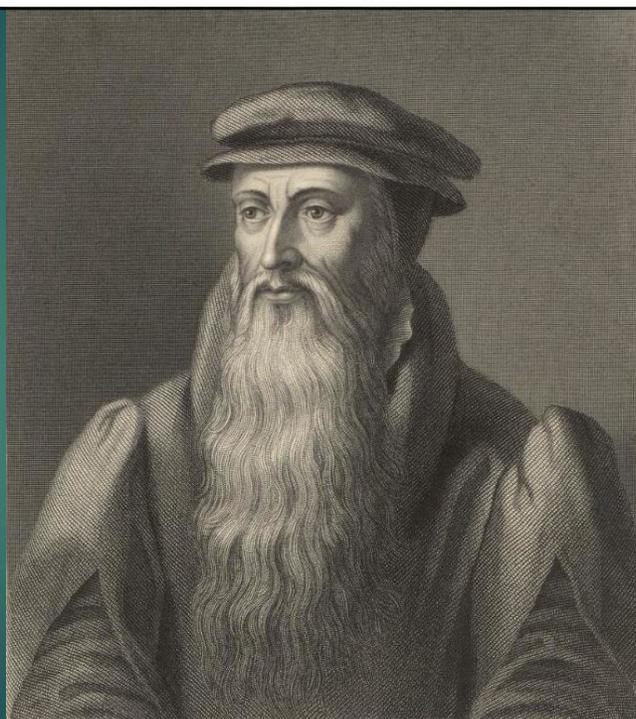
- ▶ Read: Isaiah 14:3-21
- ▶ Read Job 1:1-2:10
- ▶ Who is Satan? Perhaps an archangel who fell from grace.



10

## Conclusions

- ▶ Let's adopt the language of Scripture when thinking about our Christian formation.
- ▶ Perhaps the most overlooked area of Christian formation is the battle we are engaged in.
- ▶ We need to listen to the voices that came before us. I think this is the most overlooked area in Evangelicalism and the Reformed tradition in particular.



11