**The Son of God Appeared to Destroy the Devil’s Work**

**The Word**

Read together 1 John 3:7-10

**The Big Idea**

Jesus came to destroy Satan’s work of guilt & shame and fear & anxiety. Through the cross, he has stripped Satan of his power, and we are invited to live within the freedom, joy, and peace of his victory.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Discuss the following question together: “To what extent can Christians live victorious lives in the here and now?” Consider Scripture in your responses.

2. As you consider the works of the devil mentioned on Sunday (guilt & shame about ourselves and fear & anxiety about our circumstances), where do you see his work seeking to play itself out in your life this December?

3. Sunday’s message ended with an encouragement to be rooted and grounded in Christ’s love and victory so that when the winds of fear and shame blow, we will not be knocked over by them. What would it look like specifically for you to ground yourself in Christ’s love and victory this advent season?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. Introduction

 A. We can view Jesus’ life and ministry through the lens of a spiritual battle

1. Consider his birth, the temptation in the wilderness, the casting out of demons, the conflict with the religious leaders

2. The cross appeared to be Satan’s moment of triumph, but it was actually the moment of his undoing

 B. The gospel is simply good tidings of a victory won

II. The devil’s work

 A. Guilt and shame (Satan is subtle and crafty)

1. “Devil” = accuser

2. We were created to be “naked and unashamed,” but because of the devil’s work we now experience our nakedness as shameful and seek to cover, hide, and fix ourselves

 a. Voices of shame: unlovable, broken, damaged, not enough, mess up

b. Voices of shame about God’s posture towards us: disappointed, frustrated, critical, doesn’t particularly like us

c. We seek to cover and hide these voices through achievement, success, wealth, physical beauty/fitness, moral performance, food, drink, drugs, entertainment, busyness

B. Fear and Anxiety (Satan is a bully)

1. Satan seeks to mess with the circumstances and outcomes of our lives

a. Consider the story of Job

 b. Consider Paul’s thorn in the flesh (2 Cor 12:7)

 2. His goal is to fill us with fear and anxiety and distrust in God

3. Areas of fear and anxiety: safety and health, performance, relationships, provision, global issues

III. Jesus came to destroy the devil’s work through the cross

 A. Guilt and shame

1. On the cross Jesus takes upon himself every shameful and guilt-inducing thing we have ever done, so that we can experience the freedom of no condemnation.

2. See 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 8:1, and Romans 5:2

3. We now stand in God’s undeserved favor just like Adam and Eve did originally, but not because we are naked but because we are clothed in the righteousness of Christ

B. Fear and anxiety

1. The cross reveals that God can take even the worst possible circumstance and outcome and bring great good out of it.

2. The cross reveals that God is always at work and Satan can even be an unwitting instrument in his deeper redemptive plans

3. This means we no longer have to be afraid of particular outcomes and circumstances because God is working through it all

IV. Conclusion

A. This Advent season, how can you be like a tree rooted and grounded in the victory and grace of Jesus Christ?

B. Sometimes the winds of guilt & shame and fear & anxiety will blow into our lives, and that’s ok, because we are rooted and grounded in Christ