

to us as some hideous monster with horns and hoofs and spear, and with a countenance expressive of the greatest depravity, malice, and wickedness, and as associated with deeds of horrible foulness and shame, and in open and avowed warfare against all good and virtue and happiness.

No doubt Satan himself is the author of all such representations. They are among his "wiles" and "devices" to divert attention from the real devil to an imaginary one, that he may the better carry on his schemes in another, and his real character. The real devil is the very opposite of this. He "fashions himself into an angel of light," and his servants also "fashion themselves as ministers of righteousness," (2 Cor. 11:14-15). It is often exceedingly difficult to distinguish them from those they seek to personate. Their place of warfare is not in the haunts of vice, but in the heavenly places. Their purpose is not primarily to bring men into sin and crime and suffering here. They have a far deeper purpose than that. They know that the link which connects the Christian with Christ and all good here and hereafter is his faith, and therefore they make their chief assault upon this. They strike at the vitals, and leave the results to follow. They seek to blind man's eyes as to the truths of God, and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They labor by every means to substitute something else for the work of Christ as the foundation of our faith. Or if we will not accept "another gospel," they seek to put into our minds and hearts doubts as to the truth of the doctrines of grace, and of the Bible as the Word of God. Entering the sphere of the heavenly places, they attack the most vital truths that give us peace and rest. Every Christian knows what a struggle he has at times to maintain a sense of the reality of spiritual