

What temptations do you struggle with? The worst temptations to dog you every day are the ones the devil attacks Jesus. If the Father loves you, wouldn't He want you to have an easier life, a happier life, a better life, to have all your wants, desires filled. And thus you serve your needs first, you covet what you haven't worked for or earned, you take what has not be given to you, (like immorality) you place yourself above God to live as your please, with your set of rules. Repent.

It cannot be understated enough: Satan uses Scripture against Jesus and even against you. Every false error (heterodoxy instead of orthodoxy) or damning teaching (heresy) does have Scripture in it. What's more dangerous, eating rat poison or eating cookies with rat poison. It's the cookie, because it looks good for you, seems reasonable but still kills. You must know truth from error.

Know this well -the temptation of Christ is significant part of the Atonement. He did this for us, in our place. He faced, defeated Satan for us. He has done what we failed to do, it counts for us.

Jesus resists the temptation of the devil –not as an example to show us what we can do, should do on our own. No, Jesus is no inspirational example of what we can and should be (in spite of what you may have been taught.) He stands in your place to show you the truth of God's Word is stronger than the devil's lies. He stands in your place for you to see the answer to all temptations and countless failures. He stands in your place to see where your strength and true life is found.

Learn from Jesus' temptation -not how to squeak by the devil but that the Lord is good, His gracious will shall not disappoint you. He loves you -as the sinner you are- but refuses to leave you in your sins. He is not a feel-good, love everything, happy-time God but is with you in suffering and will deliver on His promises.

Man shall not live by bread alone. But by every word that comes from the mouth of God. That changes you. How you go through Lent. How you make it through today and the next. How you go through life. Bellies can be full and lives empty. Your life, how you live- by every word from the mouth of God.

473 years ago today, the Council of Trent, which condemns you

Lutherans. But it wasn't the first or last time. If you're condemned on the basis of God's Word, well, that puts you in good company. But 473 years ago they had to move the meeting from northern Italy Trent to Bologna because of plague. Imagine, 1/3 of the population of Europe die over a 200-year period from plague. But baptized children had nothing to fear.

There is much talk of the coronavirus. Even panic. The stock market had a historic week driven by fear. The news filled with speculation, uncertainty. Japan cancelled all schools. Switzerland banned all large gatherings, the list goes on and on. Many measures being done. You couldn't go out and buy a mask if you wanted to. It's good to prepare or even plan for crisis...

But man shall not live by bread alone. We fear nothing because we do not live by bread alone. We never, ever panic. No matter anything! whether coronavirus gets worse or goes away, or what comes next after coronavirus; there will be a 'next' to strike our nation and even your home. We never fear, panic. Don't you dare! You are a baptized child! We do not live by bread alone. There is nothing ever be afraid of.

As in those 3 temptations: **For you live by the word of God...** And live on Bread of heaven. The Lord's body and blood in the Supper. It isn't just life. It's eternal life, a life that undoes the power of sin and death and brings you into the Divine presence to behold the beauty of the Lord in His Temple. It's where the holy angels minister to you. The curse of Adam undone in the Temple, our God in the flesh, who alone the center of all worship and here He comes to serves you, who gathers all nations, as He says, **He will draw all people unto Himself** when He's lifted upon a cross -from there you live, true life.

Live by every word from the mouth of God. Own it, it's living, active, speaks to you, even His angels from this pulpit minister to you, life from **every word from the mouth of God**, defends you, enriches you, wises you, heals you. It's wielded daily against the devil as you're daily attacked. No greater weapon on earth. Through it God gives you endurance in the battle, binds up your wounds, pours out His promises, His works. His angels attend to you. So in this life, you have nothing to fear, no one and nothing can truly harm

you. He's defeated all you're enemies. And now, His life is your life.