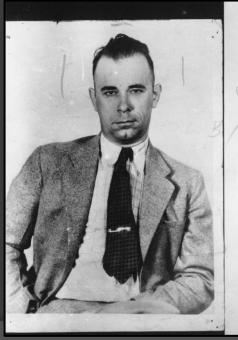
PUBLIC ENEMY #1



History

- "a term to describe dangerous criminals, particularly in the U.S. in the 1930s"
 - Al Capone, John Dillinger, Pretty Boy Floyd, Baby Face Nelson
- "Most Wanted List" FBI, CIA, Secret Service







And from a spiritual perspective?

- Warning terms
 - "Enemy"
 - "Adversary"
 - "Beware"
 - "Take heed"
 - "Deceivers", "deceitful", "deception"
 - "False"
 - "Destructive", "destruction"
 - "Snare"
- Many potential candidates as we will see...

Starting with the Most Obvious One?

- Satan" (adversary), "the Devil" (false accuser), "the tempter", "ruler of demons", "Beelzebul", "the evil one", "the ruler of this world", "the god of this age", "the great dragon", "the old serpent", "deceiver"
- Be sober...
 - ... be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Pet. 5:8



Atheism, Humanism, and Evolution?

- No need for God
 - "A rejection that deities exist."
 - "Humanity is capable of morality and selffulfillment without belief in God."
 - The universe created itself via purely natural processes according to 'science' & public schools.
 - ...you will be like God, knowing good and evil.
 Gen. 3:5
- No objective standard for right/wrong
 - everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Judges 17:6; 21:25
 - The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." Psalm 14:1; 53:1

False Apostles and Teachers?

- Take heed....
 - 13 For such are false apostles, <u>deceitful</u> workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.
 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works. 2 Cor. 11:13-15
 - "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not <u>both</u> fall into the ditch?" Luke 6:39



False Apostles and Teachers?

- Take heed....
 - 29 For I know this, that after my departure <u>savage</u> <u>wolves</u> will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also <u>from among yourselves</u> men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Acts 20:30-31
 - 1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 2 Pet. 2:1-2

False Plans of Salvation?

- "Predestination" God will let you know if/when He wants you.
 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Pet. 3:9
- "Faith Only" Immersion not needed for remission of sins
 - … Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins Acts 2:38

False Plans of Salvation?

- "Once Saved, Always Saved" You can't lose your salvation.
 - ... But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. ... Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 1 Cor. 9:24-10:13
- "Join the church of your choice"
 - ...on this rock I will build My church... Matt. 16:18
 - Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Matt. 7:13

Friends and Family?

- Take heed...
 - My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.
 Prov. 1:10
 - Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." 1 Cor. 15:33
 - 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. Gal. 1:10

 He who <u>loves</u> father or mother ...son or daughter <u>more than Me</u> is not worthy of Me. Matt. 10:37

But Arguably the Most Dangerous Public Enemy is ...

Own desires

- and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of <u>riches</u>, and the <u>desires</u> for other things entering in choke the word, ... Mark 4:19
- But each one is tempted when he is <u>drawn away</u>
 <u>by his own desires and enticed</u>... James 1:14-15
- For all that is in the world—the lust of the <u>flesh</u>, the lust of the <u>eyes</u>, and the <u>pride</u> of life—is not of
 - the Father but is of the world. 1 John 2:16
- fulfilling the <u>desires</u> of the flesh and of the mind, Eph. 2:3

- Pride and self-blindness
 - Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall. Prov. 16:18
 - For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 1 Cor. 1:26
 - Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.1 Cor. 10:12
 - ...And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the <u>plank</u> (beam, log) in your own eye? Matt. 7:1-5

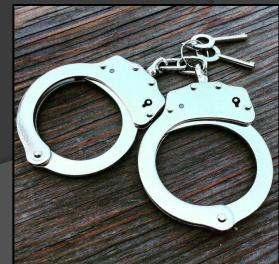
- Lack of love for Truth and itching ears (leading to false teachers and doctrines)
 - and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not <u>receive</u> <u>the love of the truth</u>, that they might be saved. 2 Thes. 2:10
 - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their <u>own desires</u>, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 2 Tim. 4:3

- Rationalism (leading to humanism, etc.) There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. Prov. 16:25
- Not resisting Satan
 - Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. James 4:7

For we must <u>all</u> appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that <u>each one</u> may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 2 Cor. 5:10

Capturing the Enemy

- Know the enemy
 - Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.... 2 Cor. 13:5
- Capture our body
 - but I discipline my body and make it my slave 1
 Cor. 9:27
- Capture our thoughts
 - We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, 2 Cor. 10:5



Conclusion

- Many spiritually dangerous enemies out there
- Most dangerous one we see in the mirror
- Should always be on our guard regardless
 - Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself... Deut. 4:9

