It Is Written Part 2

Nov 9, 2026

Summary

“It Is Written” – Three Keys to Escape Temptation

Big Idea: Every temptation we face can be defeated with the written Word of God spoken in faith.

Overview

The speaker reminds the congregation that no temptation is unique to us; God always provides a way of escape. That escape is found in Scripture hidden in the heart and spoken aloud when the enemy attacks. By examining Jesus' wilderness temptation in Matthew 4, we see three recurring strategies of Satan—lust of the flesh, pride of life, and lust of the eyes—and three simple scriptural responses. Memorising and declaring these verses (“It is written…”) turns the Word into a ready weapon whenever desires, pride, or coveting try to pull us from God's will.

Key Scripture

- **Matthew 4** — The foundation of the whole message: Jesus counters every temptation with “It is written.”
- **1 Corinthians 10:13** — The theological anchor: God always provides a way of escape from temptation.

Main Points

1. Lust of the Flesh – “Man shall not live by bread alone”

- After forty days of fasting, Satan urges Jesus to turn stones into bread—meeting a real need in an illegitimate way.
- Jesus answers, “It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”
- Application: our personal appetites do not get the final say; God's Word does. Whether food, sexual desire, or impulse shopping, the verse reminds us that life flows from God, not momentary cravings.

2. Pride of Life – “You shall not tempt the Lord your God”

- Satan places Jesus on the temple pinnacle and quotes Psalm 91, twisting Scripture to lure Him into a dramatic self-display.
- Jesus replies, “It is written, you shall not tempt the Lord your God.”
- Application: we must not presume upon grace, manipulate God for attention, or prove ourselves to others. Refusing correction, craving recognition, or forcing God's hand are all forms of tempting Him.

3. Lust of the Eyes – “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve”

- Showing Jesus all the world's kingdoms, Satan offers a shortcut: “All this I will give you if you bow down and worship me.”
- Jesus commands, “Away with you! For it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.”
- Application: coveting possessions, status, or success draws worship away from God. Every time we bow to such desires we are, in effect, bowing to the enemy.

The pattern is clear: identify the temptation category and answer instantly with the corresponding verse. These three keys are sufficient to confront any temptation.

Application

The call: Hide these three verses in your heart so that “It is written” is your first response when temptation strikes.

Head — Recognise the enemy's unchanged tactics: lust of the flesh, pride of life, lust of the eyes.

Heart — Value God's grace; refuse to cheapen it by presuming you can sin without consequence.

Hands

1. Memorise the three “It is written” verses from Matthew 4.
2. Speak the appropriate verse aloud each time a matching temptation appears.
3. Replace physical sign-up sheets with use of the church app—practical obedience that also “stops killing trees” as the speaker joked.

Reflection Questions

1. Which category of temptation (flesh, pride, eyes) attacks you most often, and how?
2. When desires rise, do you reach for Scripture or for excuses?

3. How have you been presuming on God's grace instead of honouring it?
4. What possession, status symbol, or success story currently tempts you to “bow down”?
5. What practical step will you take this week to memorise and declare “It is written”?

Prayer

Father, thank You for giving us a sure escape from every temptation. Plant Your Word deep within us so that, like Jesus, we answer instantly with truth. Guard our appetites, humble our pride, and turn our eyes away from empty glitter to Your glory alone. Strengthen us by Your Spirit to worship and serve You only. In Jesus' name, amen.