

**Steinbach Bible College**

**Seminar**

**For He is the Father of Lies  
A Biblical Theology of the Demonic.**

**Speaker: Pierre Gilbert, Ph.D.**

**Friday, March 1, 2024, 7:00-9:00 pm**

**Saturday, March 2, 2024, 9:00-4:00 pm**

**Pathway Community Church**

**252 6 St, Winkler, Manitoba**

**Summary**

There are three views of the demonic:

- \*There are those who deny the reality of demons and the supernatural.
- \*Some not only believe in the reality of magic and the occult but maintain that these forces can be manipulated for one's own benefit.
- \*Christians, for their part, have traditionally believed in the existence of an evil entity known as Satan who, along with a host of demonic beings, is bent on opposing the work of God and generate pain, suffering, and chaos in the world.

The New Testament leaves no doubt as to the existence of Satan and demons. But the crucial issue to be clarified pertains to how demonic forces interact with human beings.

Our assumption is that the best way to understand how the demonic and human spheres interface is to reexamine the notion of a biblical worldview, and how its most basic elements impact our understanding of the spiritual world. While the biblical text recognizes the reality of the demonic, it also teaches that men and women have been given the ability to determine their own fate.

Three texts will be at the centre of our investigation: The creation account (Gen 1-3), the Gospel of Mark, and 1 Corinthians chapters 8 and 10.

Here is a sample of the questions that will be examined:

- \*What does the New Testament teach about the existence of Satan and demons?
- \*Can demons affect the physical world?
- \*Do demons interact with human beings and, if so, how?
- \*Can humans be infected by demons without their consent?
- \*Can demons "infect" objects and places?
- \*Do demons have overwhelming influence over human beings?
- \*How does the demonic manifest itself in Western culture?
- \*How do we distinguish between a case of demon possession and a medical condition?

\*How should missionaries interact with a culture where demonic manifestations are frequent?

\*Are exorcism rituals effective?

\*How should pastors deal with people who have a history of occult involvement?

\*Can chronic illness be caused by “ancestral sins”?

### **Resource**

Pierre Gilbert, *Demons, Lies & Shadows* (Kindred Productions, 2008).

### **Who is Pierre Gilbert?**

Pierre Gilbert grew up in Quebec City. He received undergraduate degrees from Providence College and Seminary and has a Ph.D. in biblical studies from the Université de Montréal. Pierre taught in Montreal and the MB Seminary in Fresno, California. He recently retired from Canadian Mennonite University after 24 years of teaching. Pierre is the author of *God Never Meant for Us to Die: The Emergence of Evil in the Light of the Genesis Creation Account* (2020) and *Demons, Lies, & Shadows. A Plea for a Return to Text and Reason* (2008).

**For further information, contact Steinbach Bible College at 204.326.6451.**