

DEVICES OF THE DEVIL TO DRAW US AWAY

Within the pages of the Bible, God provides us with the devices the devil uses to draw away disciples. Though Paul was speaking of a specific occasion and a specific device of Satan, yet the principle of Second Corinthians 2:11 is nevertheless true and applicable for our study. In this text, Paul wrote, **“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”** When Christians are ignorant of Satan’s devices, he has advantage over us. Therefore we must be keenly aware of Satan’s devices! Christians are to be vigilant because the devil walks about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). Consider these four devices the devil employs to lead the church of Christ into denominationalism:

A Lack of Bible Knowledge

Concerning the nation of Israel, God through the prophet Hosea wrote, **“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children”** (Hosea 4:6).

Does this not describe too many members of the Lord’s church today? Sadly, the current apostasy attests to this very fact. If we are going to be on guard against Satan’s devices, we must know the scriptures. The words of David ring loud and true, **“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee”** (Psalms 119:11).

Substituting Men’s Traditions For God’s Commands

A number of years ago while speaking with a denominational “pastor,” he said religious authority

comes by command, example, inference and tradition.

However, Jesus said, **“But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men”** (Matthew 15:9). Even while man was in the garden of Eden, Satan substituted God’s command (Genesis 3:1-5). When men substitute anything for the commandments of God, they are imitating and aligning themselves with Satan himself. Tragically, since the beginning of time, too many men have been too busy substituting their own wills for God’s commands. Such substitutions will most certainly lead us down the paths of denominationalism.

A Desire To Be Accepted By Others And To Accept Others

What is it that we want — the praise of men or the praise of God? The Pharisees of Jesus’ day **“loved the praise of men more than the praise of God”** (John 12:43). Such is nothing more than desiring to be friends with the world, but James wrote, **“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God”** (James 4:4).

This is an either/or situation. Either we desire the praise of men, or we desire the praise of God. We simply can’t have both. The desire to be accepted by others and to accept others will lead the church of Christ into sectarianism.

Inherited Religion

There are those within the religious world who are what they are simply because of what their parents were. So it is within the body of Christ. Sometimes they are referred to as “second generation Christians.” They have no conviction of their own. They are simply members of the church of Christ because mom, dad, grandma, and grandpa were. Please don’t misunderstand! Parents ought

to bring their children up **“in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”** (Ephesians 6:4). However, children also need to grow in their own knowledge, faith, and conviction and not simply depend upon the spiritual welfare of their parents. In other words, are you a member of the church of Christ because of your own conviction or because of your parents’ conviction?

This was a problem with many of the Jews during John the baptizer’s ministry. They trusted in being a child (descendant) of Abraham, but John said, **“And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham”** (Matthew 3:9). Abraham’s faith would not save them nor will our parents’ faith save us. We must develop our own faith lest we fall prey to the devil’s device of an inherited religion and become just another denomination.

Chuck Northrop *from* Gospelpreceptor.com

Make plans now to attend our

Fall Gospel Meeting

The Christian Family

Jack Williams

October 7-11, 2007

Sunday: 9:30 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm

Monday-Thursday: 7:00 pm

Wednesday Ladies Class: 10:00 am

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Wednesday: Jessica Carter. Janice Carter had out-patient surgery on her knee at St. Luke's (Plaza) on Friday, September 21 and is recovering at home. Clara Scott is doing well with her recovery from surgery last week. Jamal Abyad had tests last week which revealed a recurrence of his cancer.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

John and Barbara James are on a two week vacation in New England. The Nemechek's were in Hutchison, Kansas last weekend. Melissa Cole was in Osage City, Kansas last weekend. Robin Brown was out of town on business last week. Trent Thrasher was in California on business last week.

FALL GOSPEL MEETING

Our Fall Gospel Meeting, "*The Christian Family*" with Jack Williams is just a couple of weeks away. Pray for our meeting and invite your friends, relatives and associates to attend with you.

MID-WEST LECTURES

The archives for the **25th Annual Mid-West Lectures** — "*Following the Narrow Way To Heaven*" are now available at OABS.ORG Our thanks to all who helped in this work by your attendance, providing desserts and assisting in the kitchen.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 41; Sunday PM, 33; Wednesday PM, 37.

Those To Serve

September 23, 2007

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Parish

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
OPENING PRAYER Steve Brown
PRESIDE..... John Dodson
ASSIST..... Chris Edwards
ASSIST..... John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... George Thomas

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jared Nelson
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Dodson

WEDNESDAY 26th

SONG LEADER..... Steve Brown
INVITATION Trent Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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