

The Devil's Plan For You

Introduction

1. **This morning we are going to be examining three things that the Devil wants to accomplish in this world – this is his plan for you:**

Keep You out of the Church

1. **Why? Several reasons.**

A. He knows that the saved are in the church.

- 1) **He doesn't want you to get in with the saved.**
- 2) **While out of the church you are unsaved**
- 3) **But once saved, you are added to the church.**

Acts 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

a. You can rest assured that the Devil will do all he can to keep you from the church!

B. The church of Christ was purchased with Christ's blood.

- 1) **The Devil does not want you to come in contact with Christ's blood.**

Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

- 2) **The devil knows it takes Christ's blood to wash away sin.**
- 3) **Christ shed His blood in His death - We are baptized into His death.**

Romans 6:3-5

C. It is in and through the church that we glorify God.

Ephesians 3:21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- 1) God cannot be glorified through any other organization - the Devil knows this.**

D. It is by the church that the gospel of Christ is preached.

Ephesians 3:10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

- 1) Those in the church preach because they're not ashamed!**

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

- a. **The Devil doesn't want the gospel preached.**
- b. **He doesn't care what is preached as long as it's not the gospel.**
Galatians 1:8-10
- c. **The Devil knows nothing else will save man.**

E. Jesus is the head of the church.

Ephesians 1:22-23

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Colossians 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church....

- 1) The Devil doesn't want you in any body in which Christ is the head.**

- 2) **Christ is not the head over human organizations.**
 - a. **Devil does not care if we belong to them**
 - b. **May keep us from doing God's business!**
- 3) **Devil will argue that the church is not essential to salvation - in the face of Eph 5:23.**

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Get You Back into the World

1. **If the Devil does not succeed in keeping you out of the church, then he'll do everything to get you back into the world!**

A. Paul wrote concerning this:

2 Timothy 4:10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica....

- 1) **The love of the present world is the Devil's greatest tools - Lust of the eyes!**

B. Friendship with the world is enmity with God.

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

C. We are told to not love the world.

1 John 2:15-17

- 1) **The Devil would love for you to get caught up in the pleasures of life and go back to worldliness!**

- 2) **When he succeeds, your condition is worse!**

2 Peter 2:20-22

D. Once a Christian has escaped the pollutions of the world - what a sad thing it is to again become entangled in them!

1) The Devil longs for this!

Hebrews 10:26-29

E. How does the Devil get a Christian back into the world?

1) By weakening their faith!

2) Associating with evil companions

3) Worldly enterprise and society cause many to walk no more with the Lord.

a. The Devil loves the doctrine of "once saved always saved" - This doctrine will cause even more to come into his kingdom!

Render You Worthless in the Church:

- 1. If he can't keep you out of the church or get you back in the world, then he'll do everything to render you useless and worthless in the church.**

A. We must abide in the vine and bear fruit or be purged.

John 15:2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

B. We must all give an account of our deeds.

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

C. We are justified by our works - not faith only.

James 2:24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

- 1) How does the Devil render Christians useless and worthless?**

a. Members to be spiritually ignorant and satisfied.

b. No study - ignorant

-- Because of ignorance - we are often satisfied to remain in a lethargic condition

- 2) The Devil works on Christians to become stingy, covetous, critics, and grouches. Others make excuses, and others are caught up in hypocrisy!**

Conclusion

1. May the Lord help us overcome the Devil and all his evil schemes.
2. Is the Devil working on you this morning?
 - A. Has he kept you out of the Lord's church?
 - B. Is he getting a hold on you through the pleasures of life to get you to slip back into worldliness?
 - C. Has he infiltrated you to render you worthless in the Lord's church?
3. Let us resolve to be *"steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord"* (1 Corinthians 15:58).
4. Let Jesus take control over your life and shun the Devil as He did when he was tempted in the wilderness.
5. Who really does have control of your life?
 - A. The Devil or Jesus?

Invitation

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