

## IF I WERE THE DEVIL

Text: 1 Peter 5:8

INTRO: The great work of Satan is to cause people to be lost. What would you do if you were Satan?

### I. I WOULD DECEIVE PEOPLE INTO THINKING THEY ARE GOOD ENOUGH WITHOUT OBEYING THE GOSPEL.

- A. Good citizen, good neighbor. Earn my way, pay my taxes, Mind my own business, give to charity, etc.
- B. Better than many who are in the church. Kinder, more generous, etc.
- C. The devil knows we are not saved by being good.  
Rom. 3:10; 23; Luke 18:19
- D. If Satan can keep you from obeying the conditions of forgiveness, he has you just where he wants you. And don't you forget it!

### II. IF I WERE SATAN, I WOULD MAKE SIN SEEM ATTRACTIVE

- A. I would associate booze & drugs with glitter & glamour & good times. How good it looks. How good it makes you feel (tonight). How many movie stars and music stars & glamorous people swear by it. I wouldn't remind you of how you'll feel coming down. I wouldn't tell you of the lives wrecked & maimed & destroyed. I wouldn't call attention to the bums & wineos & failures caused by alcohol & other drug abuse.
- B. I'd promote illicit sex: premarital, extramarital, homosexual I'd publicize its pleasures. I'd use it to promote beer & blue jeans, perfumes & panty hose, automobiles & air lines, soap & sporting events & everything imaginable. But I'd never call attention to STDs that kill & maim. I wouldn't call attention to the tragedy of broken homes & broken hearts & broken

lives caused by sexual promiscuity. And I'd do my hide the fact that those who do such will not inherit God's kingdom,

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.  
(Gal. 5:19-21)

- C. I'd promote "white lies" & "shop lifting" & stealing from the work place & disrespect for laws & those in authority.

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, & all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire & brimstone, which is the 2nd death. (Rev. 21:8)

### III. I WOULD TRY TO UNDERMINE THE IMPORTANCE AND INFLUENCE OF CHRIST'S CHURCH.

- A. I would insist that "one church is good as another." I would promote the idea of everyone seeking out the church of his own choice.
- B. I would seek to convince folks that church membership, attendance, faithfulness & commitment are unessential and unimportant.
- C. I would seek to persuade church members to be lax in attendance; cold, indifferent & basically uninvolved even when they do attend.
- D. The devil knows that Christ adds the saved to His church, Acts 2:41, 47. If he can keep someone out, it is because he has kept them from being saved.

IV. I'D TRY TO CONVINCING THE WORLD THAT THE BIBLE IS OUT-DATED & THAT THERE ARE NO ABSOLUTES IN THE SPIRITUAL & MORAL REALMS. That men can meet & pass judgment on God's word & write creeds of their own choosing, then revise them to suit their own changing tastes.

Satan knows we are not to judge God's word, but that God's word will judge us. John 12:48

CONCLUSION: In one way or another, Satan has been at work in this world since the time of Adam & Eve. He knows his business. Are we helping him in his work--or doing our best to hinder his evil schemes? We know the sort of things he is doing. What are we doing to counter-act them?

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, March 5, 1995  
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