

THE DEVIL'S GAME PLAN

2Cor 2:11

INTRODUCTION

- A. Football season in full swing, stadiums packed on Friday nights, TV's tuned to Saturday games, lot of "Monday Morning Quarterbacking" as analyze game plans. "lost because Coach didn't . . ." or, "If coach had told team to. . ." Successful coaches have game plan, but we sometime wonder if there was a game plan to start with!
- B. We face the greatest adversary, Satan. His game plan is dedicated to destroying man's soul, and he overlooks no opportunity 1Pet 5:8
- C. I have limited wisdom and knowledge, so I cant know all devil does.
- D. Can know some of his devices 2Cor 2:11 What are some things the devil does to entice us to sin?

DISCUSSION

I. GIVE SIN A DIFFERENT NAME

- A. Seldom use word "sin". Media doesn't mention homosexuality, divorce, drunkenness, gambling or immodesty, etc. as sin?
 - 1. Devil draws attention away from fact that sin is violation of God's law 1Jhn 3:4, and separates man from God Isa 59:1,2
 - 2. What better way than to give sin a different name?
- B. Satan gives sin more "palatable" names, such terms as: personal Choice, alternate lifestyle, character flaw, genetic predisposition, minor weakness. ("What's Your Excuse" Reader's Digest Nov. 96 p. 165) - individual liberty." - "my right."
- C. Satan gives sin a pretty name. Who has most clever advertising Jingles on TV? What if they showed what alcohol will really do
- D. Can't use "homosexual" anymore they are "Gay"!

II. DISGUISE AS FRIENDLY, HELPFUL INDIVIDUAL

- A. One of devil's favorite tactics is: operate through person you think is nicest, kindest, sweetest, individual you know.
- B. No surprise Paul warned us 2Cor. 11:13-15. If messengers mean and nasty, with horns on their heads, all would recognize them! Appears in most appealing ways and says most appealing things!
- C. May appear as best friend, quietly eats away your faith 1Cor. 15:33
 - 1. May just want to steal your time away from God or just badger you about your faith, or ridicule Biblical principles you stand for
 - 2. May continue to set wrong example, in word or dress.
 - 3. Yet, "This is my best friend. Surely devil will not use my best friend on me! Is he/she?" Remember 2Cor. 11:14,15!
- D. May work through gifted & influential religious teacher, one telling best stories, best speaking voice, best oratorical skills, etc.
 - 1. "This is America, land of free, home of brave. Attend church of YOUR choice." soooo smooth. . yet not a bit of Bible in it.
 - 2. "Just accept Jesus as your personal savior and you'll be saved" sounds tempting, but not Biblical
- E. Only one antidote to religious false teacher, found in Acts 17:11.

III. TOLERATE ONE "PET" SIN IN OUR LIVES

- A. Devil knows Christian is to refrain from sin at every turn.
 - 1. How much fellowship with sin can we have? Eph. 5:11
 - 2. Can't fulfill lusts of flesh even a little Rom. 13:14
- B. Devil knows sin is aggressive, invasive, tends to spread.
 - 1. Remember Paul's words in 1Cor. 5:6-7.
 - 2. Tolerating "One sin is okay" is playing into devil's hands.
- C. Dan Shipley said, "One sin retained is ten sins gained."

IV. BE DISCOURAGERS NOT ENCOURAGERS.

- A. If Devil can't keep you out of church, he'll try to make you a divisive, negative element within the church.
- B. Many ways to do this:
 - 1. Whine & complain. Building too hot, too cold, seat too hard, sermon too long, people snooty, preacher too young or old, song leader too slow or fast, never study what I want to study
 - 2. Instead of "What can I do to help?" Say: "no one does anything." speak idle, hurtful gossip, or no words at all.
 - 3. Instead of attending, helping sing, make comments in class, he'll make sure you attend occasionally, and others have to spend time working with you, not those who need the gospel.
 - 4. Instead of being an active member of the church: Satan will have you say: "I don't have time this week. . maybe next"
 - 5. Instead of standing for truth, Satan will want you to encourage religious softness. Get after preacher if he takes a strong Biblical stand on a difficult subject such as marriage and divorce, dancing, drinking or gambling etc.
 - 6. Devil makes you a distraction in worship, wear immodest clothes, whisper, pass notes, look bored, etc. we should know how to act 1Tim 3:15

V. BEST, JUST GET YOU TO SAY "TOMORROW"

- A. All Satan has to do is get you to say that one word. He is happy for us to know right as long as we put it off.
- B. "Oh, yes, I know what I should do... . And tomorrow... ." One tomorrow drifts into another, we assume they'll go on forever.
- C. Once we begin putting off something we know we ought to do, it becomes easier just to continue in a rut.
- D. All need to remember lessons of Lk 12:16-21; Jas 4:14
- E. Old gospel preachers used to tell the story of the man who would always tell the evangelist, "I'll come to church and be baptized just as soon as I get straightened out." The preacher would reply, "Make sure its not the undertaker Who straightens you out!"

CONCLUSION:

- A. Devil has a game plan, friend; make no mistake about it.
- B. However, Jas 4:7-8 tells us he can be defeated.
- C. Will we take a stand AGAINST Satan and FOR Jesus?