

The Strategy of Satan Part 4

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Aug. 4th

Satan is described in many ways in scripture. We first see him as a subtle (deceiving) serpent in Genesis 3. He's last described as a strong (destroying) 7 headed Dragon! (Rev. 12, 14, 16, 20)

He must deceive us (2 Cor 4:4) before he can devour/destroy us! (1 Pt 5:8; 1 Jn 4:4; 5:4)

2 Cor 2:11 *"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices."*

Some of Satan's devices include:

- Removing the "Strong man" as the leader/protector of the family. Mark 3:27
- Removing Marriage as the foundation of Society. Heb. 13:4
- Removing the Scriptures (God's Word) as the Standard of Society. Ro. 1:28
- Removing the church (God's People) as the Salt & light (Hope) of society.

If he can remove a Christlike commitment to God from "Christians", The result will be Confusion!

Mt 5:13 *"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour,*

(Mōrai'nō: become insipid, passive) From moros: dull, stupid from Myster'ion: to shut the mouth) wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot"

How does Salt lose its "savour"? It's rendered ineffective by either Contamination (Dilution from other things) or Containment (Isolation from where it's needed)

1. Contamination (*diluted by other things.*)

A. Such contamination can distract us.

1) Jesus described this in Mark 4:19 as "sowing among thorns", resulting in:

"the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful."

2) 2 Tim. 2:1,3,4 warn that worldly weeds would both distract and entangle us.

"Be strong in the grace that's in Christ Jesus...Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus...No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life, That he may please him who chose him to be a soldier..." See also Vs 21-26

B. Such Contamination can "infect" us. 1 Jn 5:19 *"we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. (Poneros: diseased)...21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols."*

1 Cor 5:6,7 *"Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?"* (Also Gal. 5:9)

1) God would have spared Sodom if Lot had been able to influence only 9 others! (Gen. 18:32)

2) Instead of Lot impacting Sodom, he allowed Sodom to "vex his righteous soul" 2 Pt. 2:8

With terrible consequences.

3) Jesus warned that history would repeat Lk 17:28 *"as it was in the days of Lot...30 thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.... 32 Remember Lot's Wife!"* (Gen 19:26)

C. Such Contamination can "conform" us. Ro. 12:2 *"be not conformed to this world:"*

Phil. 3:18,19 *"For many walk, ... they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, whose glory is in their shame, who mind (phroneo: think, value, focus on) earthly things."*

James 4:4 *"friendship of the world is enmity with God"*

How effective has Satan been in contaminating God's people?

Only 37% of "Christian" Pastors and 6% of "Christians" have a biblical world view!

➤ **God calls this being "Spiritually minded" 1 Cor 2:15,16** *"But he that is spiritual judgeth (Men anakrinō: truly examines, distinguishes) all things...*

For who hath known the mind of the Lord...? But we have the mind (nous) of Christ."

The rest have a syncretistic world view!

"The amalgamation of different religions, cultures, or schools of thought"

Aka: a corrupted operating system!

➤ **God calls this condition "Carnal minded" 1 Cor 3:1-3**

"I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, ...

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions,

are ye not carnal, (See Gal. 5:17-22; James 3:14-16) and walk as (unregenerate) men?"

How does Salt recapture its "savour"? The Solution to Contamination is:

1) Purification: Ro. 12:2 *"Be not conformed to this world But be ye transformed by the renewing (anakainōsis: renovation) of your mind, (nous: understanding, feeling, will)*

that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

(See also 1 John 1:5-10; 2:28-3:3)

2) Separation: Keep the contamination out of the salt shaker! 2 Cor 6:14-18

3) Dedication: 1 Pt 2:9 *"ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:... **11** *beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;"**

Application: Has any syncretism settled in your soul and infected you? Ps. 139:23,24

➤ **Examination:** *"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:*

➤ **Purification:** *"see if there be any wicked way (ōs'eb: idol) in me,*

➤ **Dedication:** *"lead me in the way everlasting."*

I once read about an American Missionary who was heading to Cambodia many decades ago. He was sharing a seat of the train with another man who asked what he was doing there. When the Missionary told him, the man began to laugh. He said "You'll never succeed." When the missionary asked him why he thought that, the man replied, "I represent the communist party. I am going to Cambodia to organize the people to rise up. I am perfectly willing to suffer and die for this cause. You Americans are famous for your self interests and your comforts and conveniences.

Since suffering and sacrifice is contrary to self interest, you cannot win this war."

Are you part of the problem, or God's Solution?

"If My people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; Then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sin, And heal their land!" 2 Chr 7:14