

Satan's Most Effective Weapon

Satan's most effective weapon is not false religions like atheism, agnosticism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Confucianism, etc. Although false religion is a very effective weapon that will cost millions of people their souls, the more effective weapon is ignorance of God's Word. There are millions upon millions of people who believe God exists and believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and claim to be Christians. They have no idea that they are lost because they believe they are saved. However, their belief is not based on their own in-depth study of God's Word. Rather their confidence in their own salvation is based on what their preacher teaches or what their church teaches or what their parents teach or what their spouse or friends teach—which may also be based on ignorance of God's Word. You see, if you can convince someone they are saved, they will not see any need to look any further for salvation.

Several hundred years ago, ensuring the masses were ignorant of God's Word was done very effectively by the Roman Catholic church by denying access to the average person. Only the "clergy" was privy to the Word of God. The "clergy" would claim they had special powers to interpret the Bible and ordinary petty "laity" could not understand it. So the "clergy" would tell the "laity" what the Bible was really teaching. The ignorant masses had no idea that even the very concept of clergy and laity is not found in the New Testament that we live under today and that every Christian is commanded to study and know God's Word (II Timothy 2:15 KJV).

Today, since every American has easy access to the Bible, keeping the masses ignorant of God's Word is done through denominationalism and emotionalism. Denominationalism is the concept that each type of church (be it Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, etc.) is just a part of the whole church despite the fact that they all teach, believe, and practice different things. Just choose the church of your choice, be morally good, and you will have a home in Heaven. Sounds pretty good, huh? This tactic is very effective in America where we are all used to having choices for everything from foods to the cars we drive—so why not religion? Again, the ignorant masses are not even aware that divisions among God's people are condemned in I Corinthians 1:10 when the apostle Paul told the church in Corinth, "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name [or authority] of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." That is most definitely not the definition of denominationalism but rather "unity in diversity". If you put a Baptist, a Lutheran, a Methodist, and a Pentecostal in the same room and told them to discuss religion, it would take only a few minutes for tempers to flare because they most certainly are not of the same mind and the same judgment. That is probably one reason why it is "politically incorrect" to discuss religion in public. If all churches were the same, they would all just be called Christians and be members of the church that Christ established—just like in the New Testament in the first century.

If Satan ensures the masses are ignorant to the point they believe they are Christians, they will become very comfortable in their current state and will not even study God's Word to ensure they are doing what God has commanded.

- People are ignorant about the fact that God said that we must worship Him in spirit (with the right attitude) and in truth (according to His instructions) (John 4:24). The general consensus seems to be just worship God however you feel like as long as you feel emotional and sincere about it.
- People are ignorant about the fact that God said we are to do everything in His name—or with His authority (Colossians 3:17). The general consensus is just to do what you think is good.
- People are ignorant about the fact that God said there is only one church (Ephesians 4:4-6) and it is Christ's church. The general consensus seems to be "choose the church of your choice".

Emotionalism as part of Satan's weapon of ignorance is extremely effective. I hear people around me all the time talking about "how they got saved." Very rarely does it involve learning about God, Christ, and the church from the Holy Bible. Some of these religious experiences go something like this:

"I was at my lowest point in my life and I just felt God come into my heart and I was overwhelmed with this feeling of peace and serenity. I knew at that point that I was saved."

Feelings are not reliable and can most certainly be wrong. How many examples can we see in the Bible of people that assumed they were doing something right because they "felt" like it was right when, in fact, they were not following God's instructions at all? The one that comes to my mind first is the apostle Paul. Paul, when he was called Saul, was very zealous in attempting to destroy Christianity and the church. Of course we know that he was completely wrong. What about Uzzah? I have always felt bad for poor Uzzah. The Israelites were moving the Ark of the Covenant. No one was supposed to touch the Ark. When the cart carrying the Ark shook, Uzzah instinctively reached out his hand to steady the Ark and touched it. God struck him dead. I'm sure Uzzah "felt" like he was doing the right thing but he disobeyed God. What about Nadab and Abihu—the sons of Aaron? They were making an offering to God and may have "felt" like it was the right way to do it but they were not doing it according to God's instructions and God struck them dead (Leviticus 10:1-2).

Christianity is a taught religion. Those with a good heart that are truly seeking God will experience overwhelming emotions when they *learn* the gospel of Christ **from the Holy Bible**. There will be feelings of shame and sadness learning that they are a sinner and their sins separate them from God (Romans 3:23; I John 1:8; Isaiah 59:2). There will be feelings of gratefulness and urgency when they learn that they can still go to Heaven despite their sins if they obey the gospel of Christ by hearing, believing, repenting, confessing, and being baptized for the remission of sins. There will be feelings of excitement knowing that they are now a member of the Lord's church and ready to begin serving and working for God. There will be feelings of peace knowing that as long as they are faithfully obedient to God, nothing can

separate them from the love of God and they will go to Heaven (Revelation 2:10; Romans 8:35-39).

Do not just blindly trust your feelings. Salvation is not found in personal feelings. It is found in Christ and one must learn how to get into Christ and stay in Christ.