

Satan's Strategy

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Romans 1:18-21 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

- I. When we talk about spiritual warfare we are referring to the battle for the soul.
 - A. It is that battle, conflict, struggle that goes on in the individual soul.
 1. We look with wonder and amazement when we see someone slide off into darkness and sin and depravity and destroy themselves.
 2. We have known many people who sat in church with us and whose conversation was about God and his Word and spiritual things who now are in the darkest place they can be on this earth.
 3. Although it causes such wonder in our minds it is really no mystery how and why it happens.
 - B. But the enemy also has a broader strategy that just one individual at a time.
 1. Satan has in mind the destruction of the entire human race by bringing them under his power and his reign.
 2. Each individual he is able to conquer makes it easier for another to fall into the same trap.
 3. People blindly follow one another like cattle in a field.
 4. The falling of one person into evil and darkness has a strange power of influence to draw more after them.
 - C. It is amazing that what he does is so out in the open and obvious, and has been repeated billions of times over, for each person who has ever been born on earth, and it still works for him because of the blindness of the minds of people.
 - D. The Bible shows us very clearly the way to hell and destruction, including all the waymarks along the way.
 - E. Romans 1 is one of the best and clearest presentations of how Satan wins the victory and destroys one soul, or a nation, or the whole world.
 - F. It is a spiritual battle and each step of the way is accomplished through spirits working on your mind and persuading you to take that step in tiny increments.
 - G. The devil's plan is like an elevator going down to the lowest depravity.
 1. Each level is a little lower and not everyone goes all the way to the bottom.
 2. Some people seem to stop at some of the upper levels, but they are as doomed to hell as those that go all the way to the bottom.

- II. God has not left himself without sufficient witness and evidence in this world for men to know and understand all about Him, so all are without excuse.
 - A. God's image and signature is on everything in his creation, from the most infinity large, to the most infinitely small.
 - B. The invisible things of God are clearly seen by all men, even his eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.
 - C. We tell our children that God made everything and they believe it.
 - 1. But at some point in their life they are going to be given another option to consider – the devil will make sure of it, no matter how careful and diligent we are to protect them from it.
 - D. Even people who have professed to believe in God and some who have appeared to live a very strict religious life are faced with the temptation, or suggestion to consider other ideas than God for answers and direction for their lives.

- III. God is God of all, the Almighty, the all-knowing, all-powerful, eternal One and is worthy of all our praise, all our attention, and deserves all the glory we can give to anything or anyone.
 - A. This whole world system is overseen by Satan and he makes sure that there is so much to look at and think about that before you know it God is not in your thoughts at all.
 - 1. This explains why the great push to remove any reminder of God from all public view in this country.
 - 2. They started with public property and it won't be long until they start enforcing it on private property.
 - 3. It is the devil himself and he wants to remove God from the thoughts of everyone.
 - B. The first step in the direction of hell is when we stop glorifying him as God. (v. 21)
 - C. When we stop seeing Him everywhere and in all things.
 - 1. When we glorify God as God we see God in everything, everywhere, all the time.
 - D. When our mind begins to not be satisfied in explaining things with God.
 - 1. When we begin to explain things with a carnal mind full of man's wisdom and knowledge of the physical and carnal and leave God and his word out of it.
 - 2. We begin to think that men cause problems and blessings and that men can solve their problems by themselves. (this is humanism)
 - 3. When we have some desire or dream and it seems to be stalled or impossible and we start blaming people instead of trusting God.
 - 4. Anything that takes the focus of our mind off of God as the source of all wisdom and knowledge and therefore the place we get our answers from.
 - E. The cares of life and the affairs of this world are a major influence in getting our mind away from God.
 - 1. Just making a living and having a job that demands so much of our mind and our attention.
 - 2. Being so involved in listening and watching the politics and power plays that the princes of this world are doing.
 - F. The affections of the heart are a major influence that takes us away from God.
 - 1.

- IV. With God set aside from the center of the mind's thoughts there is a change in the disposition of the heart – there is no longer any gratitude or thanks for anything.
- A. Who do you give thanks to and who do you feel gratitude toward if you put God aside?
 - B. You don't believe God gave it to you; you believe you got it yourself, or someone else gave it to you.
 - 1. In any case, you deserved it and it was rightfully yours anyway, so there is no need to be thankful to anyone.
 - C. But when the heart is not grateful and thankful to God it is not grateful or thankful to anyone else either.
 - 1. Parents, teachers, family, spouse, police, soldiers, leaders, the person who opens the door for you at the store, etc.
 - D. Without God people become very ugly creatures inside and out.
 - E. This is where most people live and it is enough to assure them a place in hell for eternity.
 - F. Simply "godless" – ungodly, without any awareness, thankfulness, or regard for God and they chose to live that way.
 - G. Many do not go any further into depravity than this, but their children do, and then their grandchildren go further, and the next generation usually is destroyed by their wickedness and ungodliness.