

Tonight we will discuss and expose The Devil's Agenda for your life: What he wants to happen to you in this life and how he uses ideas to accomplish that mission.

It all began back in the Garden of Eden. His agenda then was simple: **DESTROY**. Destroy fellowship with God. Destroy eternal life. Destroy paradise. He wanted to hurt God. He wanted to hurt Adam and Eve. His mission was to destroy peace and happiness.

How did he accomplish that goal? **Words that cause dangerous Internal Ideas**. More specifically, deceptive or misleading messages that make me rethink and question and perhaps choose wrongly.

### Genesis 3:1-7

- 1) He first speaks by introducing a question? A reopening of a previously settled case.
- 2) Then he speaks his lie, a suggestion that God's will is not the best way.
- 3) Finally he explains that better things, higher things, are found down his pathway.

She believes him. And she dies. Actually, many things died: her connection to God, their life in the garden, their eternal life, their INNOCENCE.

- Today, one thing has changed: the devil does not audibly speak to you from a snake.

(The age of supernatural activity around us is no more.)

- One thing has not changed: the devil still seeks to DESTROY what God has planned for you.

(**I Peter 5:8** – “adversary” “devour” – he wants to consume us, hurting God and us.)

- One thing is altered: the Devil's INPUT produced Troublesome IDEAS.

- o Reintroduces previously settled questions
- o Suggests things opposite of what God has said
- o Explains why his pathway is best for us.

(*He uses the input of the world around us, sin, lust, humanism to TELL us how to think.*)

(*This puts thoughts in our minds, doubts, consideration, that are dangerous when not addressed.*)

*So, you need to know that. Not everything you think or consider or even believe are healthy because they area happening in your own head. You are thinking things based on carnal influences and the devil's efforts around you. So, let's explore that for a few minutes tonight. His agenda is to DESTROY, and he uses IDEAS, in your own mind, to convince us to eat of forbidden fruit. Let's expose his ways!*

### I. Keep People from joining Christ's Church

- a. **Acts 2:38,41,47** – When people acknowledge the Christ, and their own sin, and submit to Him in penitence and baptism, they are redeemed, saved preserved.
- b. **Acts 20:28** – Christ's blood pays your debt and price of ownership. Jesus is your Lord, protector and friend. **I John 5:8** – Satan cannot touch this fellowship. You belong to Jesus.
- c. SATAN HATES ALL OF THIS, so he doesn't ever want you to get to this point.

### II. Get People to walk away from Christ's Church

- a. **II Peter 2:20-22** – Salvation is conditional about continued faith and reliance on God. So long as we rely on God we can never be lost. But if we escape the world but then go back to it, Satan gets very excited about what that means. MORE PAIN. Grand destruction.

### III. Convince People to be useless in Christ's Church

- a. **Revelation 3:14-16** – If he can't close our doors or pull anyone out, maybe he can get us to stop working. To get hot or cold, don't have hearts that burn to change, or passion to drive more godly living. Just be a “church of Christ” and that's it. He can imagine Jesus spewing out a whole church (what a catch for him) all together because of lifelessness.
- b. He doesn't need people to give away the gift, just bury it (one talent men who bury that talent are his best church going tool).

I'd say that about covers it, don't you think. Don't go it. Come back out. Be a problem while there. Now, that's the agenda. Why? Because any of these will destroy: God's plan, our lives, eternity.

HOW does he accomplish this? I mean, who would want to give up God or God's way. He uses those whisperings in your own mind. Not that he put it there, but his success in the world around you has caused influence in your thinking, and he uses that as a conduit for his lies.

*First and foremost, he wants people to stay away from the TRUTH, the WORD, SALVATION in JESUS.*

### **I. Keep People from joining Christ's Church**

- a. "The Church is not **enough** to help you"
  - i. What do you want? If it's vain, maybe not. If it HOPE and PURPOSE and SUPPORT...
  - ii. **Acts 2:42-47** – They found enough to get them to God and help them stay with God.
- b. "You aren't good **enough** to be in the Church"
  - i. This attempts to get you to belittle yourself in comparison to others.
  - ii. Who is? None of us. We are celebrating Christ's goodness: **Rom. 3:23-27**
- c. "The world is **enough** to give you a great life"
  - i. What is a great life to you? Money? Beauty? Power?
  - ii. **I John 2:5,10,15** – The last one only gives what fades, what tarnishes. No thanks.

*If people enter the church, he then is focused on ideas that would cause them to walk away.*

### **II. Get People to walk away from Christ's Church**

- a. **"Christ's Church is far too strict, destroying your freedom"**
  - i. **I Cor. 6:9-13** – Some things are sinful. They hurt you. This protects you.
  - ii. But yes, there is a point of understanding about self-control (for your good).
- b. **"Christ's People are hypocrites. You don't need anymore of that."**
  - i. Well, we still sin and have our struggles. That's why we are here.
  - ii. **Gal. 2:11-14** – Here was a hypocritical time. Paul stuck in and tried to help.
- c. **"Christ's Blood is there for you later if you ever want to go back."**
  - i. The world entices. And this thought of: "world now. Jesus before it's over" comes.
  - ii. **Eph. 2:1-10** – Instead of reading about brevity, get a grip on what THIS IS!
    1. If Eve had appreciated the garden, she wouldn't have put it in jeopardy.

*If he can't you to walk away, at least maybe he can push you to sit down and do nothing.*

### **III. Convince People to be useless in Christ's Church**

- a. **"You are in now. There is no need to keep studying."**
  - i. "Well, I'm a Christian now so..." these words precede excuses for not studying, reading, growing, digging... But ... **II Tim. 2:15-19** – Keep working to learn.
- b. **"You go to a service or two a week. That is plenty of sacrifice."**
  - i. This happens. Baptized, go to church some – Christian. Satan loves this limit.
  - ii. **Acts 2:42-47** – Part of this doesn't develop, and then, neither do we.
- c. **"You are in this to be blessed. So God and others should do for you."**
  - i. Hmm. This last one seems silly. And yet, it permeates more than most.
  - ii. **Phil. 2:1-8** – We are a community of people like Jesus. Like in marriage, if one goes 100% in for the other. And they both do that. Both are double covered. So it is in the church – seek first the Kingdom. If we all do that, we have each others' back.

Satan is a liar. The world of sin are those who have believed his lie. They let him destroy their purpose, their connection to God. Their future. But misery loves company. So Satan and the world is pushing on you, trying to get you to think things that aren't so. 1) *Re-ask previously settled questions.* 2) *Hear lies enough that they start to sound true.* 3) *Believe that there is a better way, just like with Eve.* **I Pe. 5:6-10!**