

Perdition's Policies

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Zech. 2:10 - 3:4
- B. God will always, inevitably defeat Satan - John 12:31; Col. 2:15; Rev. 20:1-3
- C. Satan has lost much of his power
 - 1. His power to send evil spirits ended with the apostles
 - 2. His power over sin a death ended with the resurrection of Jesus
 - 3. He can only influence, persuade, and deceive
- D. "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle." (Sun Tzu, The Art of War)

I. SATAN PERSUADES PEOPLE THAT HE DOES NOT EXIST

- A. A Barna poll question among people who self-identify as Christians:
 - 1. Do you agree or disagree that Satan is not a living being, but is simply a symbol of evil?
 - a. 59% agree that Satan is not real
 - b. 35% affirm that Satan is real
 - c. 6% were not sure what they believed
 - 2. Do you agree or disagree that the Holy Spirit is not a living entity, but is simply a symbol of God's power?
 - a. 58% agree that the Holy Spirit is not real
 - b. 34% affirm that the Holy Spirit is real
 - c. 8% were not sure what they believed
- B. The Adversary is skilled at forming popular opinion, re-packaging, advertising
 - 1. Majority of those who claim to be Christians don't believe he exists.
 - 2. Many who do believe that he exists view him as a cute, but naughty little imp. Consequently, they do not have their guard up against him.
 - a. Many who believe he exists think he is harmless - 1Peter 5:8
 - 3. He has killed everyone on the planet - Rom. 5:12, 3:23, 6:23

II. SATAN IS THE ORIGIN OF ALL EVIL ON EARTH

- A. Satan is the author of sin - John 8:44
 - 1. Satan incited man to rebel against the authority of God, and sin entered this world.
- B. Satan is the author of suffering - Acts 10:38; Luke 13:16
- C. Satan is the author of death - Heb. 2:14
 - 1. He kills by influencing people to dwell on earthly things - Rom. 8:6
- D. Satan is the author of temptation - 1Thes. 3:5; Matt. 4:1; Mark 4:15
- E. Satan is the author of slavery - 2Tim. 2:26
 - 1. Jesus redeemed us from slavery to sin - Rom. 6:16-18

III. SATAN IS THE MOST DANGEROUS BEING IN THIS WORLD

- A. Satan invades and colonizes - John 13:2
 - 1. Ananias' lie was prompted by Satan - Acts 5:3
 - 2. Satan's evil is like a viral infection, extremely contagious.
 - 3. Parents cook food until all bacteria is destroyed and serve it on plates that have been sterilized in a dishwasher, and then after dinner let them sit for hours in front of an open septic tank (TV and smart phones)
- B. Satan enters into peoples' hearts the way a con man enters the homes of his victims, with a smile and a persuasive sales pitch
 - 1. Creating welcoming environment for Satan - John 13:27; Matt. 12:43-45
 - 2. Christians are protected - 1Peter 1:5; 2Peter 2:9; John 10:28-29
- C. Satan blinds his victims - 2Cor. 4:3-4
- D. Satan steals what is priceless to his victims - Luke 8:12
 - 1. Satan actively works against God in the salvation process - John 8:44
 - 2. Satan doesn't want God to have our souls so he steals our only hope, the truth; he would rather destroy our soul than let God have it
 - a. 1Peter 5:8
 - b. It is a well-known tactic of war. As the Germans retreated during WWII, they burned everything so the Allies could not profit from the German retreat.
- E. Satan multiplies evil people and unbelievers - Matt. 13:25, 38-39
 - 1. Our goal is to gather as many souls for Christ as possible, but Satan is tirelessly working to prevent people from being saved.
- F. Satan empowers wickedness. His ultimate deception is in religion; he impersonates Jesus - 2Cor. 11:13-14; 2Thes. 2:9-10
 - 1. On Sunday morning mega church programming, in the popular media (Christians and overweight people are the last groups that is it politically correct to make fun of), in civil government working feverishly to take away the rights of Christians and to create rights for the wicked.

Conclusion:

- A. Never underestimate our enemy; Satan is a brilliant, deceitful adversary.
 - 1. Satan opposed the prophets of old - Zech. 3:1
 - 2. Satan even was able to limit some works of the apostles - 1Thes. 2:18
- B. Though powerful, Satan is a defeated enemy. On the day that Jesus returns, Satan will be consigned to eternal punishment - Rev. 12:9-10
 - 1. Though powerful, he cannot take away our salvation if we resist him
 - 2. Rom. 8:38-39