

What the Adversary Knows

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. What do we know of the Adversary?
 - 1. Devil - "diabolos" - An accuser; a slanderer.
 - 2. Satan - "satanas" - An adversary.
 - 3. He is incredibly intelligent and cunning.
 - a. An opponent who does his homework; studies us and the book by which we live.
 - 4. He knows the Bible - Matt. 4:1-11. He quoted Psalm 91:11-12.
- B. We are warned to beware of him - Eph. 6:11 - "wiles of the devil."
 - 1. He lives to destroy the faith of God's people.
 - a. Has time to concentrate on them, as he already has everyone else under his influence.
 - 2. Satan is not ignorant nor unsophisticated.
 - a. When we begin to think that, we become open for his next trick.
 - 3. He knows and understands many things religious people and some brethren don't know.
 - 4. We must study and believe to the point that Satan won't have a greater knowledge of the word of God than we.
- C. Some things the Adversary knows:

I. KNOWS THAT GOD IS AND THAT JESUS CHRIST IS HIS SON

- A. A look at nature and the complexity of creation - Psalm 19:1-4
 - 1. Spiritual fingers in the ears of their soul.
 - 2. Child in a tantrum; "I doan wanna..."
 - 3. They don't want to know Him - Psalm 139:14
- B. A look through a perfect book - Psalm 19:7-11
 - 1. God's word is perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, true & righteous.
 - 2. Can be depended on as THE source the absolute truth.
 - 3. Historically accurate book tells of Christ; the open tomb cannot be disputed; abounding evidences cannot be denied.
- C. Satan doesn't try to deny it; he knows Christ; he confronted Him and lost.
 - 1. His efforts are directed at distracting our attention away from the infallible proofs.
 - 2. We are without excuse if we do not see what is all around us.
 - a. Rom. 1:20
 - b. There is no reason why we should doubt the existence of God and His Son.
 - 3. Satan knows - James 2:19.
 - 4. He is terrified by the evidences that lead people to believe.
- D. That's why he is pleased when, in spite of the evidence, some still doubt.
 - 1. James 1:6-8 - vulnerable.
 - 2. Heb. 12:12 - Their faith had grown so weak that...
 - 3. Doubt causes some to draw back away from salvation - Heb. 10:38-39

- E. True commitment and service is based on solid faith.
 - 1. Find one who is lacking in service or dedication, likely he is doubting.
 - 2. Belief moves people to action - Acts 2:36-37.
 - 3. Belief and obedience so locked together that the opposite of belief is not unbelief but disobedience.
 - a. Heb. 3:18-19; 1Peter 2:6-8
- G. Satan knows there is a God and that Jesus is His Son.
 - 1. And, he acts on it!

II. KNOWS THAT RELIGION IS NOT ENOUGH

- A. A person can be religious and be lost.
 - 1. Cornelius was religious - prayed, gave alms, devout, and feared God.
 - a. Acts 10:2
 - b. Yet he had to obey the Gospel in order to be saved - Acts 11:14.
 - 2. Ethiopian treasurer - very religious.
 - a. He was not saved until he obeyed the Gospel - Acts 8:27-39.
- B. The Bible is clear on this - Matt. 7:21-23; 2Thes. 1:7-8
- C. Satan doesn't mind if we are religious.
 - 1. Disguise for Pharisees - Matt. 23:28.
 - 2. Converts to that religion - 23:15.
- D. Satan knows that being religious isn't enough, but many do not.
 - 1. "One Church is as good as another."
 - 2. "As long as you are sincere."
 - a. As long as you are... (fill in the blank with your favorite word).
 - b. Nice to everyone, devout...
 - 3. Response to a request for Bible study - "I already have a Church."
 - 4. Satan is delighted.
- E. He knows that we will be lost if our religion does not coincide with the word of God 1Peter 4:11; Col. 3:17
 - 1. I wish everyone knew what Satan knows about this.

III. KNOWS THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

- A. The Gospel preached today by faithful men is the same Gospel preached by the apostles; exciting to know that I am repeating a principle that Peter or John would have preached.
 - 1. It has the same effect today that it had then.
 - 2. Rom. 1:16 - Headlines: "Sins removed! Souls bound for heaven! Satan loses!"
- B. God is pleased when it is preached - 1Cor. 1:18, 21.
 - 1. His word will never be sterile or impotent - Isa. 55:10-11.
- C. Changes vile men into saints; can you name something else that can do it?
 - 1. Saul of Tarsus, chief of sinners (1Tim. 1:15) into
 - 2. Apostle Paul, chiefest of Christ's servants - 1Cor. 15:10.
- D. The Adversary is terrified of what that power can do to you.
 - 1. If we could learn what Satan knows, the Church would grow.
 - 2. Society would improve.

3. Some justify their lack of zeal (laziness) by saying that it won't do any good to teach the world; implying the Gospel is powerless today.
4. Tickles Satan. He knows that the Gospel can change the world.
5. Doesn't it bother us that we are helping him to work his plan?

IV. KNOWS THE DANGER OF FALSE DOCTRINE

- A. Has taught some a few trendy catch phrases:
 1. "Tread lightly" "Don't say things that will upset folks" "Stop stirring up trouble" "Just let things be" "Positive preaching" "Watch what you say or they won't come back"
 2. It is not possible to preach the truth in such a way that no one will be offended. If Jesus Christ could not do it, no man ever will. If a man pleases everyone with his preaching, he is not preaching anything.
 - a. Gal. 1:10; 1Tim. 4:1-2
 3. Satan knows that teaching opinions and doctrines of men is dangerous; That is why they are some of his favorite tools.
- B. Jesus despises false teaching - Rev. 2:12-17.
 1. Matt. 16:6-12; 15:8-9, 13-14
- C. Satan knows what a little false teaching can do to a Church; if uncertain sounds continue, he wins.

V. KNOWS WHAT A LITTLE SIN CAN DO

- A. Some believe that as long as one isn't guilty of a big sin, he need not worry.
 1. Satan tempted Adam and Eve into committing one sin.
 - a. That was enough to separate them from God - Gen. 3:1-6, 2:17.
 - b. Knew if they committed one sin, they would commit more.
 - c. John 8:42-44
 - d. Satan trained people to lie, easiest sin to commit; harder drugs.
 2. Acts 5:1-11 - Ananias and Sapphira
 - a. "Just one lie is all."
 - b. "Justified, because it was a moment of weakness."
 3. Sins of weakness will cause one to be lost - Gal. 2:11-12.
 - a. Weary of hearing how that the young or aged or those in difficult situations "have it so hard, we understand if they aren't faithful..."
 - b. 1Cor. 10:13 applies to the young, old, sick, and burdened.
 4. Sins of ignorance will cause one to be lost - Acts 8:18-24.
 - a. Simon didn't know.
- B. Not only will a little sin defile the man, but it can corrupt the Church.
 1. 1Cor. 5:6 - "a little leaven..."
 2. Satan knows that.
 3. Why can't we accept the fact that a little sin condemns.

VI. KNOWS THE DANGER OF EVIL ASSOCIATIONS

- A. Being around dancing, drinking, or immodesty will not bother us (?)
 1. "As long as we aren't participating."

2. Is it a commentary on a Christian if he is more comfortable among sinners than saints?
 3. Some are embarrassed for the worldly to see them stand apart as Christians.
- B. Satan wants us to view worldliness as pleasure, rather than destruction.
1. Heb. 11:25 - Moses.
 2. Progression into sin is slow and gradual.
 - a. Psalm 1:1 - steps to scornfulness.
 - b. Start by observing it -- initiates tolerance.
 - c. Move to proximity -- breaks down resistance.
 - d. Progress to participation -- sinning.
 3. First step on road to hell isn't necessarily a sin; it is bad judgment.
 4. 1Cor. 15:33 - Satan knows that verse; why do we think we know better?
 5. Eph. 5:11 - Only acceptable answer to works of darkness.

VII. KNOWS WHAT MISSING SERVICES WILL DO

- A. Many who do (regularly or occasionally) think very little of it.
1. "But what else could I do?" "Had no choice." "Got to eat." "Got to have an education." "Don't feel that it was wrong." headache, backache
- B. Not only do we sin when we are willfully absent (Heb. 10:23-26), we commit a deliberate act to weaken ourselves and others.
1. Satan knows that being absent will make us more vulnerable.
 2. We build our faith by feasting on the word - Rom. 10:17.
 3. Satan knows that strong Christians are out of his reach at services.
 4. More vulnerable when we are home by ourselves.
- C. He knows that missing services will hurt; why don't we know that?

Conclusion:

- A. Do we know as much as our Adversary?
1. He knows there is a heaven and hell.
 2. He knows there is a Judgment Day.
 3. 2Peter 3:3-11; 1Peter 5:8