Efforts to Thwart God's Plan

Throughout history, Satan has used every kind of trick to keep people from understanding the purpose God has for them. Where he could not deceive them with indulgences or almsgiving, he came with **faith in the sacrifice on the cross**, stressing its role and presenting it as the only means by which you can be saved.

Building on the same doubt he slipped into Eve's mind with the question "Yea, hath God said?", and taking advantage of the fact that there is no one without sin, he set to work slipping doubt into people's minds, convincing them that it is impossible to come unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

He planted doubt in the hearts of most people, deceiving them into thinking that the Lord's command cannot be fulfilled when He says: "**Be ye perfect**". (Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. Matthew 5:48)

He has worked hard to keep people from understanding God's purpose, so that they would never begin the life of a disciple in the school of Christ.

Is Salvation Through Forgiveness of Sins Alone Well-Founded?

Each of us would do well to ask: Does this doctrine of "a salvation that amounts to nothing more than **the forgiveness of sins**" have a biblical foundation?

To lead us astray, Satan has used only part of the truth of Scripture, bringing people only part of the Gospel, just as he did two thousand years ago when he tempted the Son of God in the wilderness. In this way he hands us a part of God's truth as if it were the whole truth, persuading us that a person's salvation comes down to the forgiveness of sins.

Satan works hard to strip out of God's plan the work of growing and perfecting the saints, deceiving people into thinking that perfection of character is not necessary for salvation.

So he has persuaded people that even if they live a holy and pure life, perfection is not possible (sin cannot be overcome). He has deceived them into believing that even if they pursue sanctification, it might perhaps earn them a reward, but it will not qualify them for the Kingdom, because a person can be saved only by grace, through mere mental belief, without works. (Ephesians 2:8)

Through this false teaching he has done away with discipleship and with the importance of the school of Christ (His teachings), deceiving people into thinking that these are not part of the plan of salvation. That is how he has brought people to the point of no longer valuing Christ's commandments or the sanctifying work of the Spirit. (...through sanctification of the Spirit. 1 Peter 1:2)

And so, over these 2,000 years, he has fooled whole generations into believing that perfection is not possible, offering mankind the teaching that salvation consists in the forgiveness of sins.

We can see how well he has succeeded. Most of those who bear the name of Christian today stop at a salvation that costs them little, at "**the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins**".

This is plain to see when we look at those who believe they are "born again" yet whose life of faith is bankrupt. They admit that they have no victory over sin, that they do not have the fruit of the Spirit, and yet they are convinced that they will receive salvation through the Lord's mercy because they have believed in the sacrifice on the cross.

This article is taken from the booklet Transformed into the Image of Christ, available free online in .pdf format.

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