The Great Religious Movements – The Kingdom of Darkness

On the foundation of a "false doctrine" that assures people that salvation is limited to the forgiveness of sins, Satan has worked hand in hand with his servants to build a great religious empire.

He laid the foundations of the great religious organisations, which have passed on this teaching and caught the ignorant masses in their trap.

He made use of man's tendency to get what he wants without paying for it, knowing that people readily turn down an offer that costs them more. So he came with an offer that costs you little: you pay for indulgences, you give alms for the dead, or you believe in the sacrifice on the cross (that the Lord Jesus paid for you), and you get your **ticket to heaven.**

So for most people, Satan's offer is far more attractive than God's offer, which costs you the crucifixion of the flesh and the renouncing of the world. (Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Matthew 7:14)

A Bargain Offer

True to human nature, most people are swayed by the cheap offer, by the "doctrine of the forgiveness of sins," which lets them walk on the broad way, and the Lord Jesus confirmed this too. (For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. Matthew 7:13)

Anyone willing to look more closely will notice that Satan, like a great merchant, has spared no effort to build a vast religious empire with which to keep people in darkness, so that they will not know the truth about God's plan.

So in every country he has set up religious organisations (like supermarket chains) that offer cheap tickets to heaven, and he has managed to catch billions of people in this trap.

Because of ignorance, people are caught in the net of these religious movements, and by belonging to one of them, most often not by personal decision but simply because they were born into it (Orthodox, Catholic, Reformed…), they remain under Satan's rule all their lives.

The Kingdom of Darkness

If we look at all these great religious organisations of our day, founded hundreds of years ago, we can easily see that this great project Satan worked on has succeeded. Not one of them has made God's plan of perfection part of its doctrine, and because people do not know the Scriptures, they stay all their lives on the broad way that leads to hell.

To see how vast this work of deception by Satan is, let us take a brief look at this religious empire spread all over the world.

The first great worldwide organisation Satan set in motion was Catholicism (some 1.3 billion people), which for whole generations indoctrinated multitudes with the teaching that sin cannot be overcome. It deceived them into thinking that God's purpose is only the forgiveness of sins, and that you can obtain this forgiveness by paying for indulgences.

By restricting access to the Holy Scriptures, which only priests were allowed to read, Catholicism kept people in thick darkness for centuries.

We can also note that Orthodoxy (some 280 million people worldwide) has for hundreds of years taught the same thing: that to have eternal life you need only the forgiveness of sins, and that this can be obtained even after death through prayers said for the dead, memorial offerings and the like…

In the Orthodox Church, too, ordinary people were cut off from the Holy Scriptures, which for hundreds of years were available only in Church Slavonic, a language they did not understand.

For some fifteen centuries, Satan managed to hide the Scriptures from people's eyes and offered a ticket into God's Paradise without much cost, asking only for rituals, for paying indulgences, for memorial offerings…

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

Go to the next article: Today's Christian Movements – The Fruit of an Incomplete Gospel

---

Source: *The Great Religious Movements – The Kingdom of Darkness* — Unmodified Word
unmodifiedword.com/articles/the-great-religious-movements-the-kingdom-of-darkness