The Work of Thwarting God's Plan

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

He worked from the same doubt he slipped into Eve's mind with the question "Hath God said?" Using the fact that there is no man without sin, he planted doubt in people's minds, persuading them that it is impossible to come to 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 therefore perfect**". (Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. Matthew 5:48)

He worked hard so that man would not understand God's purpose and would never begin the life of a disciple in the school of Christ.

Is Salvation Through the Forgiveness of Sins Alone Well Founded?

Each of us would do well to ask: does this doctrine, "a salvation that comes down 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 man only part of the Gospel, just as he did two thousand years ago when he tempted the Son of God in the wilderness. He brings us a portion of God's truth and presents it as the whole truth, assuring us that man's salvation comes down to the forgiveness of sins.

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

So he has convinced people that, even if they live holy and pure lives, perfection is not possible (sin cannot be overcome). He has deceived them into thinking that, even if they pursue holiness, it may earn them a reward but will not qualify them for the Kingdom, because man can be saved only by grace, through a merely mental faith, 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 man into thinking that these are not part of the plan of salvation. In this way he has led man to stop giving any weight to Christ's commands and to the sanctifying work of the Spirit. (...through sanctification of the Spirit. 1 Peter 1:2)

And so, over these 2,000 years, he has deceived 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 becomes plain when we look at those who believe they are "born again" yet whose life of faith is failing. They admit that they have no victory over sin and no fruit of the Spirit, and yet they are convinced they will be saved by the Lord's mercy because they believed in the sacrifice on the cross.

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