

“IF I WERE THE DEVIL”



“If I were the Devil...”

- Recorded by Paul Harvey in 1965
- Only 3 minutes long
- Yet contains much practical insight into how Satan operates
- Not inspired, but based on biblical principles
- Serves as a warning about current events and popular social trends
- Addresses broad set of topics

False Teaching in School

- *To the young, I would whisper that ‘The Bible is a myth.’ I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what’s bad is good, and what’s good is ‘square.’*
- Evolution, the Big Bang
- Humanism, situation ethics
 - *There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. Prov. 16:25*
- “Safe Sex” education
- Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity



Entertainment

- ⦿ *And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. ... I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be*
- ⦿ Pornography Matt. 5:28
- ⦿ Casual sex and “falling in love”, LGBTQ+
- ⦿ Profanity, violence, etc.



Drug Abuse

- *I'd pedal narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.*
- Alcohol
- Tobacco products
- Legalized marijuana
- Abuse of prescription meds
- *...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*
Rom. 12:1



Personal Responsibility

- *If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions — just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.*
- *Parents, schools, police, government*
- *Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Eccl. 8:11*



Work Ethic

- *If I were the devil I'd take from those who have, and give to those who want until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. ... And what do you bet I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich?*
- Welfare, stimulus checks, reparations, etc.
- “Get rich quick” schemes
- Lotto, scratch games, casino gambling, etc.
- 1 Thes. 4:11 “*work with hands*”, 2 Thes. 3:10 “*not work ...not eat*”



False Teaching in Churches

- ⦿ *I'd subvert the churches first — ... With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: 'Do as you please. ... And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science.*
- ⦿ ... on Salvation “Once Saved, Always Saved”
 - *... But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. ... Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 1 Cor. 9:24-10:13*
 - *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 1 Cor. 10:12*

False Teaching in Churches

- ◎ ... on church membership
 - “Join the church of your choice”
 - *...on this rock I will build My church... Matt. 16:18*
 - *Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Matt. 7:13*
- ◎ ... on instrumental music, “contemporary” worship, and “feel good” sermons
- ◎ ... on theistic evolution
- ◎ ... on MDR
- ◎ ... on sexuality, gay rights



All Saints Church, Pasadena, CA



The Devil is Alive and Well



Our Response?

◎ 1 Pet. 5:8

- *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

◎ James 4:7

- *... Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

◎ 2 Cor. 11:13-15

- *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness...*

Our Response?

◎ Attitudes about ourselves

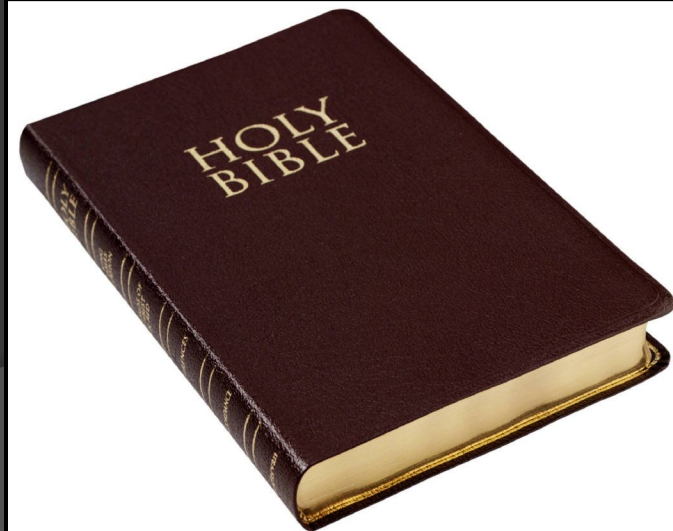
- *and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, ... Mark 4:19*
- *But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed... James 1:14-15*
- *For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 1 John 2:16*
- *fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, Eph. 2:3*



Our Response?

Attitudes toward truth

- *and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 2 Thes. 2:10*
- *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 2 Tim. 4:3*



Our Response?

⦿ Attitudes toward the past/present

- *That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun. 10 Is there anything of which it may be said, “See, this is new”? It has already been in ancient times before us. Eccl. 1:9-10*
- *Do not say, “Why were the former days better than these?” For you do not inquire wisely wisely concerning this. Eccl. 7:10*



THE
GOOD OLD
DAYS

Our Response?

Attitudes about the future

- *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 2 Cor. 5:10*
- *Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, Luke 18:1*
- *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Gal. 6:9*
- *Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself... Deut. 4:9*



Conclusion

- ◎ “If I were the devil...”
 - An accurate even if not inspired warning about our modern culture and all of Satan’s agents at work
- ◎ Should always be on our guard
- ◎ And not grow weary



Conclusion

◎ For more from BibleQuestions.Org

- “A” for “Apostasy”
- “C” for “Church, the True”, “Civil Government”
- “D” for “Devil”, “Divorce”, “Drinking”, “Drug Abuse”
- “E” for “Evolution”
- “F” for “Family”, “Fornication”
- “G” for “Gambling”, “Greed”
- “H” for “Homosexuality”
- “M” for “Music”
- “P” for “Pornography”, “Profanity”
- “R” for “Racism”
- “S” for “Self-Control”, “Sex”, “Smoking”
- “T” for “Truth”
- “W” for “Work, Secular”
- “Z” for “Zeal”

- ◎ *“If I were the devil ... If I were the Prince of Darkness, I’d want to engulf the whole world in darkness.*
- ◎ *And I’d have a third of its real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn’t be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree — Thee. So I’d set about however necessary to take over the United States.*
- ◎ *I’d subvert the churches first — I’d begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: ‘Do as you please.*

- ① *To the young, I would whisper that ‘The Bible is a myth.’ I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what’s bad is good, and what’s good is ‘square.’*
- ① *And the old, I would teach to pray, after me, ‘Our Father, which art in Washington...’*
- ① *And then I’d get organized. I’d educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I’d threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa.*

- ① *I'd pedal narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.*
- ① *If I were the devil I'd soon have families at war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames.*

- *If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions — just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.*
- *Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography — soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress.*

- ⦿ *And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil I'd make the symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.*
- ⦿ *If I were the devil I'd take from those who have, and give to those who want until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious.*
- ⦿ *And what do you bet I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich?*

- ⦿ *I would caution against extremes and hard work in Patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be. And thus, I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure.*
- ⦿ *In other words, if I were the devil I'd just keep right on doing what he's doing."*