

If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1John 2:15

Store In My Heart Deuteronomy 6:6-9

These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

This command to Israel shows God's desire for His people to make His Word a part of all their thinking and reasoning. No matter what we are doing we ought to consider God's desire and commands. The more we read and meditate on His Word, the more it affects our decision making. This column is to keep the Word active in our minds.

Do you read daily? Do you meditate regularly? Do you 'disconnect' from world and just focus on God's Word?

How Satan Works In America

Edwin Crozier

Once upon a time, Satan got scared. Jesus had lived and died and been resurrected and people were flocking to Him like crazy. They were spending time with other Christians. They were consistently worshiping God. They were constantly listening to or reading God's Word. They were praying without ceasing. And Satan was afraid.

So he tried to beat this discipleship thing out of them. He made Christianity illegal, but Christianity kept growing. He threatened disciples with death if they kept studying God's Word, but they kept studying anyway. He sent people to hunt down and disrupt their assemblies, but they kept assembling anyway. He sent people to arrest Christians when they were together, but they got together anyway. He made the Word of God illegal and threatened them with torture if they kept teaching it, but they kept teaching it anyway. He promised to throw them in fires and let them be eaten by lions if they continued to pray and devote themselves to God, but they prayed anyway.

Then Satan saw his failure, and he grew ever more cunning.

He legalized Christianity and gave Christians a nation they were convinced was their own. He provided them a Declaration and a Constitution that honored their God. He provided them with money that pronounced their trust in God. He let 10 Commandments be posted in their courts and on their school grounds. He gave them a pledge that said they were under God. He invited the Christians to be one with this nation and this world. He let them believe that the goals of the nation and the world were not that much different than those of Christianity. He let them believe that blessing from God was equal to finances, food, and fun. He convinced them that getting ahead in their country, company, or college was just about the same thing as growing in their Christianity. He invited them to be true to their schools. He invited them to be committed to their country. He invited them to gain wealth through their work. At first all of this seemed to be in balance and fit well together.

But then he started adding more homework. He started talking about commitment to teams and extra-curriculars. He offered them vacations and retirement if they worked more and harder. He increased trophies,



awards, and recognitions for those who excelled in everything from athletics to accounting. He gave them never-ending entertainment on televisions, radios, and computers. He allowed some people to be really wicked so the Christians could always believe they were different from and better than the world. Worst of all, he did all of this behind the scenes, with soft words, gentle nudges, private promptings so he convinced them he wasn't behind any of it. Surely God would understand.

And now Christians, who never would have abandoned assemblies at the point of the sword voluntarily opt to stay away to earn money, study for tests, throw a ball, and play in the band. Christians who never would have set down the Word of God under threat of pain, torture, and death, voluntarily lay it aside in order to have time to study math, science, and French or worse to keep up with reality on TV. Christians who never would have isolated from their brethren under the watchful eye of government and betrayers, voluntarily ignore their brothers and sisters most of the week in order to keep up with their work, TV shows, and community organizations. Christians who never would have avoided prayer upon promise of persecution, voluntarily forget to pray because it just doesn't seem all that necessary.

They defend all of this because they have forgotten Christ and the World don't mix. They have forgotten that the church is not merely a meeting a couple times of week but a relationship that governs life. They have forgotten that there is only one thing that really matters in eternity—being best friends with Jesus.

What Satan couldn't accomplish with Christians at the point of his pitchfork, he has too often accomplished with a pat on their backs. What he couldn't get done by attacking, he has too often gotten done by asking, "Can't we just get along?" What he couldn't win by force, he has too often won by friendship.

And too few Christians even recognize what he has done to them. And he has too often done it to me. And that makes me sad.

(Written a decade ago and pointed at Americans and our "christian nation" attitudes, this message brings to mind **1John 2:15-17**. It is equally applicable to all Christians. The warnings should also caution our attitude about the "goodness" of our world today. We need to pull ourselves away from the world and its distractions if we expect to be with God in Eternity. Let us take this message to heart. DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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For Our Information

Malcolm Rigsby is to see a cardiologist on February 26th.

Marla Rigsby has a foot infection.

Ruben Keisler is doing well in his recovery from foot surgery.

Jim Soliday is scheduled for cardiac ablation March 10.

Sue Soliday is still dealing with problems from her Bells Palsy.

Sunday Evening – **Isaiah 2:12** Wednesday – **John 17:20**

Gospel Meeting – April 27-May 1 – Alan Blaylock

The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study