

The Devil's Business Meeting



SATAN'S PLAN TO DESTROY THE INFLUENCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

The Bible tells us that Satan has a kingdom of demons under his control. They are classified in ranks as "principalities, powers," and "the rulers of the darkness of this world." (Ephesians 6:12) In Matthew 12:24,26 Jesus spoke of "...Beelzebub the prince of the devils," and Satan's "...kingdom."

SATAN TARGETS THE PASTOR

First Peter chapter five tells us that Satan has his sights on the pastors that stands true to the Word of God. Verse one begins saying, "*The elders (pastors) which are among you I exhort.*" Verse eight continues, "*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour...*"



No doubt the devil has regular business meetings with those under his power to make sure they are all actively involved in attempting to thwart the plan God has for His pastors and His local churches.

The word "devil" is mentioned twice in First Timothy, and **both times it refers to him focusing his attack on the pastor.** God warns the pastor about "falling, into the condemnation of the devil," and falling into, "the snare of the devil." (Chapter 3:6,7) Second Timothy 2:26 also warns of being caught in "...the snare of the devil," and being "...taken captive by him at his will."

"Satan has been successful in getting many pastors to get their focus off the truth of the Word of God, and replace it with human reasoning."

"PERILOUS TIMES" IN THE LOCAL CHURCHES

Second Timothy chapter three gives us the condition of the local churches in the last days. The reason for the failure of the local church rests with the pastor.



THE CONDITION OF THE LOCAL CHURCHES - NOT THE CONDITION OF THE WORLD

"Perilous times," in Second Timothy 3:1, is not referring to the condition of the world in the last days, it is referring to the condition of the local churches.

In verse one, God warns the pastor that *...in the last days perilous times shall come.*" According to Strong's Concordance, the Greek meaning of the word "perilous times" means "hard to do times." **Reaching the world has always been "hard to do."** Noah had that problem. Paul also had that problem. In verse twelve Paul referred to his, "*Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.*" (vs.11) He also said, "*Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*"

A CHURCH FULL OF LOVERS?

It has become "hard to do" what God wants done in His local churches because pastors have swelled the ranks of God's local churches with those who are, "...lovers of their own selves," and "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." (vs. 2,4) That is why it is commonly reported that only 5% of the church members in our fundamental (?) churches do all the work.

WHAT SPIRIT WILL CONTROL THE LOCAL CHURCH?

Obviously, the Holy Spirit will not empower a local church where the pastor and the people have "...a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof..." (v.5)



When the Holy Spirit is not in control, First Timothy 4:1 tells us pastors will be “...giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

TRUTH IN THE LOCAL CHURCH IS REPLACED BY HUMAN REASONING

Satan has been very successful in getting many pastors to get their focus off the truth of the Word of God, and replace it with human reasoning. **Human reasoning is the process of thinking about something to form a judgment by a process of human logic.** The



problem with that is God says, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8,9)

GOD HAS GIVEN PASTORS PLAIN INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE LOCAL CHURCH. WE DON'T NEED TO REASON IT OUT, WE NEED TO OBEY

First and Second Timothy was written to the pastor, giving instructions concerning how he is to “...behave...in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” The devil knows if he can get pastors to ignore these commands, and operate God’s church according to the pastor’s reasoning, he can destroy the influence of the local church.

HUMAN REASONING REPLACES PLEASING THE SAVIOUR, WITH PAMPERING THE SINNER

When we reason things in our minds, rather than follow the Scriptures, we change our focus from *pleasing the Saviour* to *pampering the sinner*. We focus on being *seeker-sensitive* rather than being *Saviour-sensitive*.

Church services become a performance with an audience, like a Broadway theater with a religious theme. Human reasoning changes the focus from *edifying* Christians to *entertaining* Christ-rejectors, with hopes of seeing them saved. All we need to do is “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” (Second Timothy 4:2)

THE PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH IS NOT TO ENTERTAIN THE UNSAVED, IT IS TO EDIFY THE CHRISTIAN

As individual Christians we are under orders to witness to all we can about the saving power of the Lord; however, nowhere in the Scriptures will you find that local churches exist for the benefit of those outside its membership. The local church exists to worship God and to edify Christians. Ephesians 4:12 tells us God gave pastors “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry” and “for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

MARKETING THE CHURCH

Rather than worshipping God, and edifying Christians, human reasoning stoups to marketing the church to reach a crowd. When we develop the marketing techniques, and business styles of the business world, what God designed as a *holy place* degenerates into a *market place*.

Human reasoning replaces the *power* of God with the *programs* of man. Human reasoning focuses on what method will work rather than relying on the Holy Spirit to work. When pastors operate under human reasoning they ignore the plain commands of Scripture, replacing them with “...the process of human logic.”

Human reasoning leads pastors to focus on having a purpose-driven church rather than a Holy Spirit -driven church. Reaching crowds becomes more important than being obedient to the Word of God, and *crowds* becomes more important than *conviction*.

“Happiness becomes the pastor’s focus, rather than holiness, and pleasing the whims of the saint is more important than pleasing the Saviour.”

Happiness becomes the pastor’s focus, rather than *holiness*, and pleasing the whims of the *saint* becomes more important than pleasing the *Saviour*. The focus to *entertain* the Christian soon outweighs the command to *edify* the Christian.

PLEASING PREACHING REPLACES POWERFUL PREACHING

Human reasoning replaces the powerful and even *painful* type preaching like that of John the Baptist or Christ, with preaching that *pleases* everyone. When John the Baptist preached, he preached it like it was. We read, “But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto



them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance."

Repentance? Many of today's fundamental Laodicean pastors have followed the false teaching that repentance is not necessary for salvation. This false doctrine teaches that simply voting for Jesus will get you to Heaven. (You can put the right information in a computer and it will vote for Jesus but it will not go to Heaven.) Jesus said, *"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."* (Luke 13:3)

"It was to the local churches that God invested the responsibility of guarding the truth."

When Christ preached, he preached very directly. About twenty times he called his listeners *"hypocrites."* **Maybe if John and Jesus had been a little more seeker-sensitive they could have built a big church, rather than getting themselves killed.**

THE CHURCHES WERE ONCE THE FOUNDATION FOR TRUTH

God invested the responsibility of guarding the truth to pastors in local churches; however, things began to change in the late 1800s. The devil began his work of changing the thinking (*"...the process of thinking to form a judgment by the process of human logic."*) of many fundamental pastors. His plan was to get preachers to replace God's truth with human reasoning.

THE DEVIL'S SKEEM WORKED

Satan began a program to get sincere Christian leaders to bypass the local church, and begin a flood of para-church ministries. Soon, there would be no positive foundation for truth, and truth would be mixed with error, which always leads to confusion and apostasy.

THE SO-CALLED UNIVERSAL CHURCH VIRUS BECAME THE CATALYST FOR THE LOSS OF RESPECT FOR GOD'S LOCAL CHURCHES

For nearly two thousand years we did it God's way. The local church was the *"pillar and ground of the truth."* It is only in recent years that **God's** local churches have been pushed aside for **man's** so-called universal church where, *"...every man can do that which is right in his own eyes."* (reasoning) The leaders of para-church ministries can do what is right in their own thinking, because there are no Scriptures telling them how to operate any ministry of God outside of, *"...the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."*

We now have thousands upon thousands of websites, operating outside of the local church with no Scriptural grounds to exist. Many promote false doctrine. The so-called universal church view opened the door for the beginning of these and all para-church ministries.

MANY FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS SAY THEY BELIEVE IN A UNIVERSAL CHURCH

The reason many fundamental preachers hold the doctrine of the Universal Church is that they have accepted the view of commentaries and Bible margin notes without searching the Scripture to see if these things be so. Rather than studying to *"show themselves approved unto God,"* **as the pastor is commanded to do,** they chose to spend a few minutes in a Bible commentary or simply believe what they learned in a forty-five minute class in a Bible college.

SATAN'S PLAN HAS WORKED

Satan's plan to destroy the influence of the local church has worked. If we use human reasoning, the many para-church ministries appear to be far more successful than our little church on the corner of George and Russell in Sarnia.

Rather than relying on human reasoning and determining what is logical, we would do better to heed the command of God in Isaiah 41:1 - *"Keep silent before me...let them come near, then let them speak."*

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TIME TO LOOK IN THE MIRROR

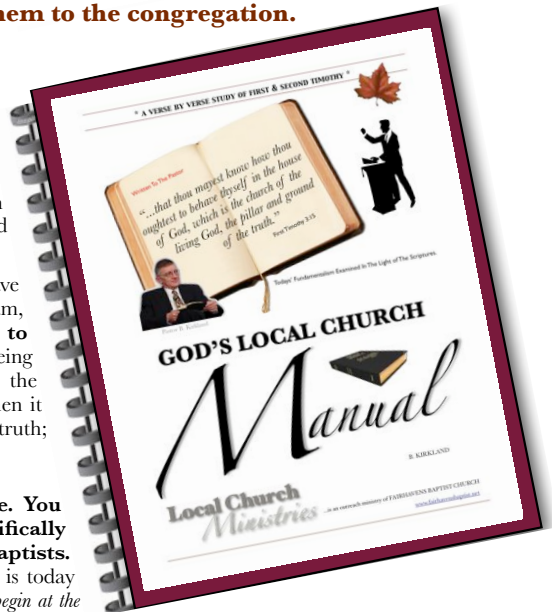
It does not take much spiritual discernment to see that men such as Jack VanImpe, and Billy Graham, have changed from the positions they once held. **To their credit, however, they are not pretending to be something they are not.** They are traveling through the swamp of the present day apostasy and we all know where they stand. They once stood with fundamentalists. They now align themselves with the Pope and publicly make it known.

The truth is, those of us who know what fundamentalism is have no problem expressing our views about men such as Graham, VanImpe, and other turncoats; however, **the time has come to take a look at our own problems.** There was a time when being a fundamentalist meant more than having a sign in front of the church with the word "fundamental" on it. There was a time when it meant preaching the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; however, **things have changed!**

The contents of this book is written plain and simple. You will not have to guess what is being said. It deals specifically with the issues facing fundamental independent Baptists. Fundamentalism as we once knew it and fundamentalism as it is today has very little in common. *"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God..."* (First Peter 4:17)

SOME ISSUES OF CONCERN DEALT WITH:

1. **Pastors** separate from men who have poor standards concerning music and fellowship with men who promote the heresy of Calvinism and promote the "damnable heresy" that promote the false doctrine that repentance is not necessary for salvation.
2. **Pastors** refuse to teach God's commands concerning how women should dress. Many women in our fundamental Baptist churches, **in leadership positions**, who wouldn't think of wearing pants, wear their tops and skirts so tight they leave little to the imagination. Many of our churches have become a fashion show of carnality and immodesty.
3. **Pastors** put their stamp of approval on trashy internet sites like facebook that feature pictures of boys and girls kissing, punk rockers, people drinking booze, girls kissing and licking other girls, demonic and occult graphics. One site of one of the "friends" of young people in one of our fundamental Baptist churches had a close up photograph of a man's privates. One had a "**Sex Button**" that says, "Browse profiles of hot looking people and Have Sex! with them in different positions and places! Put a "Have Sex!" button on your profile so your friends can Have Sex! with you." One button said, "Someone has a crush on you. Press this button to see who it is." I pushed it and immediately my computer screen was flooded with the filthiest possible pornography. I am not talking about a few nude pictures. **I am talking about the rankest possible pornography. I also found over a dozen fundamental independent Baptist pastors and youth workers, mostly here in Ontario, who are on facebook. AND WE CALL OURSELVES FUNDAMENTALISTS?**



Dealing With How The Pastor Is Commanded To...*"behave thyself in the house of God."* (1 Tim. 3:15)

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God..."

(First Peter 4:17)

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