

**THE SERMONS, LECTURES, AND SONGS OF  
SIDNEY EDWARD COX**

Message: Satan's Strategy  
(The quality of this audio recording is poor, but audible)

**Editorial Note: What follows is one of a series of 3 sermons delivered by Sidney Cox on the subject of Satan: Satan's Strategy, Satan's Substitutes and Satan's Synagogue.**

**These sermons were delivered to the Grace Bible Church in Detroit, Michigan sometime in 1971. Sidney Cox was 84 years of age in 1971.**

**Sidney and Violet Cox resided in Detroit during their retirement years. In 1962, they retired to the Salvation Army retirement home in Detroit, "The Eventide." Violet was in failing health and ultimately died in 1967. Sidney continued residency there until a late in life move to Birmingham in 1972.**

**During the latter part of his life, Sidney Cox had developed a close relationship with the Christian and Missionary Alliance ("CMA"). CMA operates as a vast network of churches, similar to a "denomination." Grace Bible Church was a CMA church to which Sidney and Violet belonged during their years in Detroit. Sidney was often asked to lead Bible studies and often filled their pulpit to preach.**

**John Douglas Cox, grandson of Sidney Cox. December 29, 2008.**

What do think would be the meaning of the word, 'strategy?' What do you mean by that?

Well now, a suggestion my dear, if you don't know the meaning of a word, go to the dictionary. Now that ought to be plain enough for almost anybody, shouldn't it? You know, it's amazing how much information you can get out of the dictionary, if you look for it. When you're talking about "Satan's Strategy," what do you think Mr. Webster has to say about that? We may not be clear about it, but he sure is. He'll tell you quite quickly, a strategy or a stratagem, which is only another way of saying the same thing, is a trick in war for deceiving the enemy. Deceptive devices. Now, let me read that again. A strategy or stratagem is a trick in war for deceiving the enemy. Deceptive devices.

Now, we're talking about somebody who is our great enemy and whether we realize it or not, he's at war and you, my dear are the adversary on the other side. The war is between Satan on one side, and you on the other. Now, you can add folks together and call it a church, or you can call it a movement, or anything you like. But, there's a war going on and somebody is right clever in disguising his purposes and his methods.

Now, let me give you scripture: II Corinthians 2:11. Here's what it says: "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

Now there's the word that Webster uses, 'deceptive devices.' Now here it comes right out of the Word of God.

E:\Sidney Cox Library Project\Subject Folders\The Satan Trilogy. 1971. Grace Bible Church. Detroit, Mich\Satan's Strategy.doc

Ephesians 6:11: "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Now 'wiles' is only another way of saying 'devices' - \_\_\_\_ in the battle that's going on when Satan is seeking to get you, my dear. Now that's what he's after, and he's after for a definite purpose.

Now, you've got three words: strategy or stratagem and beguile and wiles, and they all come into the circle of our thinking when we are considering the method of Satan in his warfare against us.

Now you will remember that one of those words occurs right in the beginning of the Word of God. This is not something that developed later on, that's in evidence now. This is something that was there in the beginning of things. When was it he said, "Satan beguiled me." You can look this up. Another reference for it is Genesis 3:13, "Satan beguiled me." Strategy. Strategem. Beguiling. Wiles. Devices. Here we're taking about methods of warfare.

You all have three words then and they are used in connection with and form a part of "Satan's Strategy."

Now, just a word of explanation again. I want to remind you of a law that occurs, and we would do well to keep in mind in our Bible study. It is called, 'the law of first emergence.' Now the meaning of that is, that whenever a truth appears for the first time in the scripture, that that sets the pattern for it wherever it occurs later on. You can always go back and see the pattern of it, the form of it in the first emergence of it.

Now we're going to watch something appearing for the first time – Satan attacking for the first time and we're going to watch how he did it, right at the beginning of things - that Satan beguiled our first parents by definite methods. There wasn't anything hap hazard about it. First, there is doubt. "\_\_\_\_ hath God said." Second, there was desire – pleasant to the eye and taste. And third, there was disobedience – go your own way instead of God's way.

What Satan was really doing then and what he's doing now is attacking God by leading men astray; and that's an important statement. Satan is attacking God primarily, but the instrument he uses to attack God is to lead you astray. There isn't anything that will injure God, if it's possible to do that; there isn't anything that will injure God like something that happens out of His will to one of His children. And if Satan can get us out of the will of God, he has injured God and almost destroyed us.

Now, that's the plan and that's what he's doing. God intended that man should be dependent upon Him – should accept as His free gift everything necessary to make life beautiful and fruitful. God desired to live in harmony with man and fellowship with man, the creature of his \_\_\_\_ love. The point at which Satan could most effectively attack and injure God would be at the point of His fellowship with man. Therefore, something must happen that would separate God and man and man from God.

This was accomplished by persuading man to become independent of God. Now let your mind go back to that first emergence of Satanic temptation in the garden. The heart of it was, "You can get along without God," - to be self-sufficient. The moment the plan succeeded, and it did, God and man were separated the one from the other. And every child of Adam since that day has inherited that separation. The Word of God calls it, "Alienated from the life of God."

Satan's strategy from that day until this has been the same mark: it is designed to make man independent of God – "My way instead of God's way."

I have a great illustration of it that brings us much nearer than the Garden of Eden - is the temptation of the Lord in the wilderness. Notice exactly the same thing happened – "Make your own bread. Use your own power. Claim your own kingdom." The heart of sin was man's determination to have his own way and to be independent of God.

Now God's purpose is to bring mankind back to a condition of fellowship with Himself and dependence upon Himself. The heart of His purpose is seen in the death of the Son of God upon the cross, the place of atonement in the shed blood, the \_\_\_\_\_ of atonement. The cross makes possible renewed and eternal, unbreakable fellowship between God and man. Sin's debt is paid. The sinner is regenerated and becomes a new creation. God's manner is vindicated before the universe. His law \_\_\_\_\_ by utmost satisfaction in the offering of the Lamb of God. Satan is judged and defeated and Satan punished and banished forever.

Now, in the heart of that plan of God, there are three words that indicate dependence upon Him. One word is faith. Another is trust. And the third is obedience. And everyone of them indicate dependence upon God.

Now, if that's the case, when Satan's strategy to accomplish his purpose to injure God and to destroy us will be centered in these things that we've been talking about. The will of God, the cross of Christ, salvation by substitution, the sacrifice of the lamb, the atoning blood, and Satan seeks to turn every man from the cross, the only meeting place of holy God and sinful man. If he can keep us from the cross and the blood, he has gained the victory.

He therefore attacks the cross. I won't forget a comment here, but you would be amazed my dear at the attack that is going on and has been going on and is going on in increasing intensity upon the fact and the value and the meaning of the cross and the man who hung upon it.

You would be amazed at how \_\_\_\_\_ is said about it and the tremendous efforts that are being made to find a detour around the cross, some other way of salvation other than the blood of Christ, and the value of the atonement that our precious Lord brought to being upon the cross of Calvary.

If we could keep in mind that Satan has no warfare or controversy with his own degenerate people but will make unceasing warfare on the Christian. The man who has become a partaker of the divine nature when he can say, "Christ liveth in me," becomes the obvious target for the fiery darts of the evil one. \_\_\_\_\_ believer in a connecting link between God and a sinful world. He holds God with one hand and reaches for the sinner with the other. His big business is rescuing the perishing, and no wonder that Satan is the constant and unwitting imagery of the believer. The scriptures constantly warn us of this:

"In this world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world."<sup>1</sup>

"All that is godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John 16:33.

<sup>2</sup> II Timothy 3:12.

“Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hates you.”<sup>3</sup>

“Your adversary,” not the sinners adversary, but “Your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”<sup>4</sup>

“This terrible enemy that inevitably crushes but for the prayer of Christ.”<sup>5</sup>

“I pray.....that thou shouldest keep them from the evil one.”<sup>6</sup>

Thus we see the terrible activity and strategy of Satan all through this age. From the time that Christ became an accomplished fact, the method of his attack was not always the same. In the opening years of this Gospel age he instigated his attack by slaughtering by millions those who were true to the cross. But in God’s providence, the Gospel light beamed once more and the Word of God was released and Satan then attacked by the attacks of infidel man. Now some of us remember those names quite well. \_\_\_\_\_, Ingersoll(?), Voltaire, Spencer, Hucksley, \_\_\_\_\_ - these are the men who now became the focal point of Satan’s attack. Not \_\_\_\_\_ with evils, destroying their faith from all sides – Satan’s attack has always been first: persecution from the outside, which always fails; and then second: the sowing of seeds of guilt within and that \_\_\_\_\_ succeeds.

Now those are the two things. That was the second point of attack. Now you find following this was the development of the false cults emphasizing some of the principles of Christianity and stressing its benefits and benevolences by the \_\_\_\_\_ and denying the cross and the blood - the fact of sin and the consequent punishment for sin. Every false cult has mixed in it some of the goodness that we find in the story of the Gospel but the blood is left out. And the atoning value of the cross is left out. And the fact of sin is left out. And the punishment for sin is ignored.

Ask any of your casual friends who do not go to church and who are not believers, ask them what they think about God’s punishment of sin, and you’ll get the answer immediately. “We know whoever God is, he isn’t going to place \_\_\_\_\_ somebody forever for doing something for a little while down here on earth.” Have you ever heard that? And you kind find it seeping through every false cult, no matter what it is. He attacks the cross and the blood and so-called Christian purpose.

Now, this is the next step in his attack. First, persecution and slaughter; then the attack by the sowing of seeds of doubt from the outstanding infidels that have gone on out there – we’ve got a little suggestion that some of them that are still alive, but mainly the great names have gone, scarcely ever recognized anymore, or ever thought about. But he attacks now the Christians from orthodox pulpits, and you can find him diluted by the preaching of a program of the light independent of God through moral development, religious education, charitable deeds – anything but the blood. Everything but the blood.

Now that’s the way in which it’s moving. There is only one way of salvation – to look to the cross, to trust in the blood. “When I see the blood, I will pass over you.”<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> I John 3:13.

<sup>4</sup> I Peter 5:8.

<sup>5</sup> Source unknown.

<sup>6</sup> John 17:15.

Now those are the notes of a little message on, “Satan’s Strategy” and you’ve been very kind and patient to listen tonight and I thank you very much.

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<sup>7</sup> Exodus 12:13.