

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

Message: Satan's Synagogue

**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.**

Satan's Church is the subject tonight, and I want to give you two scripture references in which you will find, not in exactly the same way, but almost the same way, four words. The four words are: The Synagogue of Satan.

Now, the two references are: Revelation 2:9 and Revelation 3:9. And when we turn to them, or when you turn to them, you will find there is a slight difference in the wording in each case, but the heart of what is being said is in those four words: The Synagogue of Satan.

*[Revelation 2:9 – "I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan."*

*Revelation 3:9 – "Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."*]

Now, we have been talking together about Satan's Substitutes, Satanic Blindness, Satan's Strategy – the way in which he does things, the way in which he moves; not maybe the purpose that he has in mind; but also, the way in which he carries it out. And we have been following along to some extent this thought, in the center of which is this: that everything that God has planned in His plan of redemption, Satan has imitated - provided a substitute for it, with the idea of destroying what God had in mind and putting something else in its place. And we don't have to look far or think deeply to know that when Satan produces a substitute for something that God has, that it's always something like it – always

something that so resembles it that it is difficult sometimes to detect the difference, unless the Holy Spirit comes and does that which He alone can do – quickens our thoughts and quickens our hearts and quickens our eyesight so that we can see things that we otherwise would not see.

Now, one of the tragedies of the day in which we live, and it's an increasing one, and it has been going on from the time the early church was born – this matter of something as a substitute for that which God had provided. And behind it all you can see the movement of Satan.

Now, if it be true that the great purpose of our Lord, or one of the great purposes – because the great purpose for which He came is expressed in quite a number of different ways, and you put them all together. But one of the ways, one of the things that He Himself said was this, "I will build my church."<sup>1</sup>

Now, in the heart and center of the purpose of God in redemption is the gathering together of folks who will be both intangible and also touchable, seeable; and we call both of them, 'the church,' which is His body. Now, if that be so then we can be quite sure that Satan will produce his church too.

Now one of the things that we are noticing in these days, these strange days in which we live is that there is unusual Satanic activity going on around about us – things that would have been considered impossible even 25 years ago. 50 years ago, it couldn't even have been thought of. And yet they are right before our very eyes right now.

Now, the Church of Satan certainly exists and it has existed all the way along. Now it's coming out into the open in these strange days in which we live – in a way that hasn't been seen before. Now the way in which Satan has been working up to this particular time has been through the channels of the recognized church, where he takes over the thought of those who are in leadership in the regular churches; until some depart from the faith once delivered to the saints. And that has been his plan all the way along.

Now we read of it in the scripture that some of his ministers are ministers of righteousness, or are ministers that are working under his direction. Now if that is so, a minister working under Satan's direction in the channels of the regular church will not produce something that is obnoxious, he will be talking about something that is obviously like God's original. And this is the way in which we have been watching it – departures from the faith that occur in and through the regular channels of the churches. There are any number of churches that used to preach the Gospel, and they don't preach the Gospel anymore. They've got something else that sounds just as good and all you have to do is to just keep your eyes open when you're riding down the streets of Detroit, or anywhere else for that matter and watch the bulletin boards outside the churches; and you can see at once that the title of the sermon would indicate that the sermon itself is a million miles away from the original Gospel message, and you can see it everywhere – not only here, but you can see it in every church, every city you go to. No matter where you go, this is it – great churches that were dedicated; great denominations that were dedicated to the preaching of the simple, sweet, beautiful, powerful, transforming Gospel no longer preach it.

Now here's Satan working through the channels through the church. Now in these last days, in the days in which we are now living, we are seeing something else and we mentioned it I believe on Sunday morning, or last Wednesday. But the amazing thing about it is, that everywhere you turn, and almost everyone to whom you listen, seems to have this thought in mind.

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 16:18.

Did you hear Billy Graham last night? Now here's Billy Graham preaching, several weeks ago it's true, but it comes on TV last night from Lexington, Kentucky; and here's this great crowd, and sure enough this is the theme all the way through. All the way through his message, this was it. And here we were listening to another voice, another voice, another voice – and one of the startling things that he said last night was, that while he was in California not too long ago on that one Sunday when he was there, there was an ordination service for 450 people, either men or women, or whatever they might be – but there they are, 450 of them all ordained into Satan's church in America.

Now, my dear, you take 450 people whose business it is not just to belong to Satan's Church, but to head up some branch of it, and preach whatever doctrine there is coming out of it. Now you couldn't have thought of it 50 years ago. You couldn't have thought of it scarcely 25 years ago. It's not any new thought that Satan is working all the time through the regular channels of the church, taking away the purity of the message and consequently producing something that is obnoxious to God, but satisfactory to him. Not only is he doing that, but now it's out in the open.

I think one of the comforting things about it is that if Satan's Church is out in the open, we have less to fear from it than we do when it's under cover and working through the regular church channels. There, we don't know what's going on. We can't discern it. Now we do know. Here, it is right out in the open and it will be almost certainly one of the recognized religious cults of this cult-plagued land in which we live. And here we've got it before us.

Now when we turn to the Book of Revelation and we read there about the Synagogue of Satan, and then we listen to this – 450 of them in one day were ordained as ministers in the Church of Satan in America. Now when we talk about the Synagogue of Satan, we're not too surprised, it's right before our eyes. Here it is now. Here it is now, right before our eyes and it certainly exists.

Now because it has come out into the open, that doesn't mean to say that there is any lessening activities in the undercover movement of it through the regular church channels – that will go on just the same. But now it's out into the open and we've got it here.

The church of Christ exists in a double form: one, as an organism, the other as an organization. The body of Christ: an organism. The Church at Ephesus: an organization. The churches on the Island of Crete: organizations – the outward expression of the central, great fact that the church is the body of Christ. But in the mystery of God's arrangement, the body of Christ expresses itself through local groups, like Grace Bible Church.

Now, you will find that Satan's Church is exactly the same. It is an organism, a body that is being gathered as much for Satan as the body of Christ is being gathered for Him. But now we've got to the place where outwardly now we begin to see some organization in Satan's Church.

Now, years ago that would not have been so evident, but here it is now and it's right before our very eyes. The Synagogue of Satan – it most certainly exists and it is a body of which anti-christ is the head, just as the body of Christ is a body of which Christ, Himself is the head, and it exists.....Now you will notice that in these two references, Revelation 2:9 and Revelation 3:9, you will see a suggestion of that thought. Notice there: one, they are of the Synagogue of Satan, or they belong to the Synagogue of

Satan. And then you will find the next reference gives you the thought of the total group gathered together as an organism. They are the Synagogue of Satan. They are of the Synagogue of Satan, belong to it; they are the Synagogue of Satan. They are an integral part of it.

Now this is the fact that we are there, this is where we want to start and talk a little bit like sensible folks ought to talk in these days. I get a little tired of folks who come together in meetings of this kind solely for the sake of receiving a blessing. What we need is not merely to receive a blessing that most of us haven't got sense enough to handle it when it comes, and don't know enough to give it away to somebody else – because that's the outcome of we call, 'the average blessing.' That's one of the difficulties that's going on in these crowds of young people that are looking for a blessing. And when they get it, they don't know what to do with it, and haven't got sense enough to give it away to somebody else, and it dies on them, and then they've got to get it all over again and get it all over again and get it all over again.

But the time has come, I'm quite convinced when thoughtful people, even a little handful of us like are gathered in this room tonight ought to be looking for something else beside that. We ought to be looking and listening for God's warning voice as to what's going on all the way around us.

And so we're talking tonight about a Synagogue of Satan and in it you won't find any blessing at all. You will find instruction. You certainly will. You will find exhortation. You will find illustration. You will find the stirring of heart that we ought to have. We shall find all of these. But if it's just some effervescent something or other that we call a blessing, we're not in for it tonight at all. Not at all. I hope it'll be instruction that you can use perhaps in the raising of your children, perhaps.

There is in the world a Satanic church. We don't need to argue about that. And there it is – carefully camouflaged, highly organized, skillfully financed, terribly effective, growing more rapidly than any one denomination, and almost more than all of them put together. And this is the situation that we are facing.

Now, Satan's business is to form this body that will be his, and just as when the Lord, Himself shall come with a shout and the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God and gather together those who will belong to Him, so in like manner, Satan's christ will come and gather together those who belong to him. Now that was one thing that we were emphasizing almost with an apology on Sunday with the thought that any of us had been inadequately aware of that.

But there it is, and something's going on all the way around us and it seems to point to the fact that we are in what is called, 'the last days.' The evening shadows are falling as sure as we sit in this room tonight. Somebody's on the way back and somebody underground is just ready to show himself and gather together those that belong to him, just as the one whose footsteps we can hear in the sky, coming nearer and nearer and nearer can hardly wait to gather together those who belong to Him. Now that's the situation that we are facing all the way around us.

Now, in this scripture of ours and in this Book of God, we are not merely told the fact that Satan will have a synagogue, a church if you prefer that word, not merely that, but we are told definite things about it. For instance, one of the marks of the average church, it isn't always so, but it is in 99 out of every 100, a church is headed up by a minister. Now it's an unusual, extraordinary gathering together that doesn't have a minister in the center of it. The church has a minister in the center of it – that's the usual

mark of it. Now, here's Satan's church appearing and one of the first things that you find out about it is: he not only has a church, but he has his ministers. And it's so interesting to see what the Word of God says about them – what kind of people they are. It has its ministers and through whom, its organization is administered, and by whom its gospel is preached – because there is a gospel that isn't a Gospel, to quote the words of the scripture. There is something that masquerades as 'Good News.' What do you think the ministers of Satan are going to be preaching from their churches? Bad news? Oh, no. No, no. Not at all. They're going to take the darkness of bad news and so clothe it in a religious phosphorescence that it looks like the real thing. That's what they're doing and you can see it everywhere you look – Satan's ministers.

Listen to this. II Corinthians 11:15. II Corinthians 11:15. And this is what it says, "Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as, or to look like the ministers of righteousness." You can't tell the difference by just looking at them, they look like the real thing. II Corinthians 11:15 and Satan's ministers are at work in the world, in pulpits, in radio hook-ups, in newspaper offices, on street corners as the authors of books galore, in classrooms, particularly high school and college and halls of legislation of all kinds; and Satan's ministers, my dear, are much more numerous than Christ's ministers and their followers are more numerous than the followers of Christ. I don't mean those who merely wear His name and bear His name, I mean those who are the genuine article. The Lord Jesus never spoke of His crowd, those who belong to Him in any other terms except a small group. "Fear not little flock, few there be that find it."<sup>2</sup> And you can find it all the way through. You can find it everywhere you go. "Will there be faith in the earth when He returns?"<sup>3</sup>

Now Satan's ministers are busy building the body of anti-christ, just as the Holy Spirit and the ministers under His control are busy building the body of Christ. Now that's only an expression and we know what it means. It's gathering together those who belong to Him. Now you can find the movement is going on on the other side.

Now, my dear, if Satan is to control this world, one of the things that we mentioned on Sunday, one of the things he must control is religion and he is gathering together right now, before our very eyes, with all kinds of approvals from top clear on down, a world religion. And it's going on right before our very eyes.

Now you'll find as you listen that there are any number of people who will talk religiously about everything and everybody but Jesus Christ. For instance, you can find any number of religious people who will talk about 'The Great Creator,' 'The Original First Cause,' 'The Supreme Being,' 'The Great Architect of the Universe.' You can hear them everywhere you go and this is the language - anything, everybody, anything, any name at all but Jesus.

Now, that brings us back to the way we started our meeting tonight, doesn't it? – about somebody whose name is the sweetest name I know. And so it is. But there are a lot of folks outside who call themselves just as religious as we are who don't give a snap of their finger about the name of Jesus.

I went to address a club meeting some time ago and the religious leader of this club meeting said to me, knowing me I guess, but said to me, "Now look, don't you talk about Jesus in your message because the

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<sup>2</sup> Luke 12:32, paraphrased.

<sup>3</sup> Luke 18:8.

Secretary General of this crowd is a Jew, and he don't like you to talk about Jesus, and he's a very influential man in the financial circles of this city." They didn't mind who else... I could get up and talk about 'The Great First Cause.' I could talk about 'The Supreme Being.' I could talk loudly about 'The Great Architects of the Universe.'" Certainly, and they wouldn't mind one bit. Not at all. But the moment you talk about Jesus, you see.

Now there's the test. "Listen, see what he says about Jesus. Listen, see what he says about the blood," and you've got your finger on the pulse of something or other. Don't talk about Jesus. These ministers of Satan, and quite frequently they are endowed with miraculous powers – healing, financial prosperity, power over natural forces, and so on. And the Lord Jesus talked about them when He said, "They sow tares among the wheat."<sup>4</sup>

Now, they don't go and buy their own field and grow their own tares in their own field, they sow the tares among the wheat.

Now, this is the thing that we see and another thing that we are told about them is this: they wear sheep's clothing, and you can tell them by appearances in all kinds of ways, but the chief appearance is that certain something that is there about a child of God. That certain something. I can't explain it. Neither can you, but you know as well as I do, it's there and every once in a while, you find somebody and maybe somebody looks at you and sees some little reflection of that mystic somebody by which you instinctively say, "I'm sure he's a Christian." Get on the bus and occasionally you'll see it. Walk down the streets, occasionally you'll see it, that certain something or other, and every once in a while, you'll see it. Their teaching is so carefully wrapped up, although when you take the cover off, you find it's exactly opposite to what the message of the Gospel – it repudiates the cross, it will have nothing to do with the atonement and the blood and the substitute that God provides in His son. Nothing like that.

And another thing: they nearly always have something in addition to the Word of God. Now, watch it. They've nearly always got some additional thing to the Word of God, so that if you're going to understand the Word of God, you've got to understand this, or read this and read it along side with this. And you can find them there.

I clipped an ad out of a paper, newspaper in the Sunday section – not in Detroit, and this is what it said. It was inviting us to a Unitarian church. Now I don't mind if they call themselves Unitarian, I'm not quarrel with a name, I'm going to quarrel with what they're teaching. There's where my quarrel is. I don't give a snap of my finger what their name is, but I do care about what's coming out of it. And this is what it says in the newspaper there. It says, "Maybe your ideas are in harmony with the Unitarian faith. Unitarians are chiefly interested in religion as a way of life. Their beliefs are realistic and free from the miraculous." Now doesn't that sound nice, you see? Wouldn't that appeal to so many folks, you know. Wouldn't it? They have given up their creeds and the thought patterns of traditional religion – the faith once delivered to the saints. That's out. "They welcome to membership anyone with a will to righteousness, no matter what they believe," and how in the name of heaven they can ever have a 'will to righteousness' without believing righteousness, they fail to tell us. But as long as you believe something, they don't care. As long as you want to do some kindly little act to your neighbor, which is righteousness in their ideas, that's all right. "Unitarians do not believe in the fall of man and his necessary redemption. They see man as fundamentally good, not evil – the product of God's great

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<sup>4</sup> Matthew 13:26, paraphrased.

evolutionary process still going on. The language and point of view of a Unitarian church is fresh and forward looking. You may find such a church inspiring.” And you may too. And a lot of folks do.

Now, it’s all right to read it when it appeared in the newspaper, isn’t it. And there it is. There it is.

Here is something, I’ll tell you where this is found, if you’re interested and want to know – you are interested, I don’t mean that. But if you’re interested enough to know where it came from, and here is something a great German theologian remember – not a German pagan, not a German atheist, a great German theologian says this:

“We deny the authority of the scriptures. We see in scripture both truth and error. It goes without saying that we do not consider ourselves under duty to abide by the teaching of scripture. We do not believe the miracles which are recorded in scripture, nay we positively deny them. All stories of miracles contained in the scripture we believe to be either fables or allegories. We do not believe Jesus Christ was the Son of God. We do not believe that He was the Godman. We do not believe that He was a perfect man. We do not believe that He was free from every error or from every sin. Neither His sayings nor His life are to us authoritative in every respect. He is to us a great prophet, like many others.”

Now that’s a theologian talking. Whose theologian, my dear? Certainly not God’s theologian, but he’s a theologian just the same, and he’s talking in a church circumstance and you’ll find that in the book called, *Modern Religious Liberalism*, by John Horsch on pages 12 and 13.<sup>5</sup>

Professor [Arthur C.] McGiffort of the Union Theological Seminary of New York says this, “What a man requires is not regeneration in the old sense, or a change of nature, but simply an awakening to what he really is.” Now isn’t that marvelous. You see, my dear, you didn’t need to be born again, all you needed to do was to just awaken to what you really are, you see, and most of us will be looking at what we really are in the mirror for quite a while, we’re sick and tired to death of what we saw. And that’s for sure. And here they are.

I was doing some visitation in Chicago several years ago and I had the temerity to go into the area of Chicago University, which is one of the Synagogues of Satan, if ever there was one. And I called at the door of one of the professors. Now I knew where I was going and I knew what would happen when I went there, but I thought, “Well, it’s about time that somebody stood on his door and knocked on his door and told them that he believed Jesus Christ was the Son of God and that Jesus Christ died for him.”<sup>6</sup>

I didn’t get in, but this is what this man says. Here’s a quotation from the very man on whose doorstep I stood and talked to him and gave him my testimony and told him what Jesus had done for me. And this is what he says, “What man needs is not supernatural regeneration, but natural growth. Not divine

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<sup>5</sup> Subtitle: *The destructiveness and irrationality of modernist theology*. Published in 1920.

<sup>6</sup> Undoubtedly, Sidney Cox is referring here to the period 1922 – 1927 when he and his young family resided in Chicago. He was associated with the Moody Bible Institute and the Moody Bible Church and Sunday School. He served as Director of Sunday School. One of his principal responsibilities was to visit throughout the neighborhoods of Chicago promoting the Moody Sunday School. The University of Chicago is located near Hyde Park, about 10 miles south of the Moody Church located at the intersection of LaSalle Blvd and North Avenue. The University of Chicago has a reputation for devotion to intellectualism and liberal education and certainly stands in contrast to the Christian, religious outreach of the Moody Bible Church. John Douglas Cox, grandson of Sidney Cox. November, 2010.

sanctification but human education. Not supernatural grace but natural morality. Not the divine expiation of the cross but the human heroism or accident of the cross. Not Christ, the Lord but the man Jesus who was a child of His time. Not God and His providence but evolution and its process. This is the new turn in the affairs of religion.” And we stop just long enough to ask, “Whose religion? God’s religion?”

The Synagogue of Satan.