



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” MARK 16:15

January-February 2018

## FROM US TO YOU

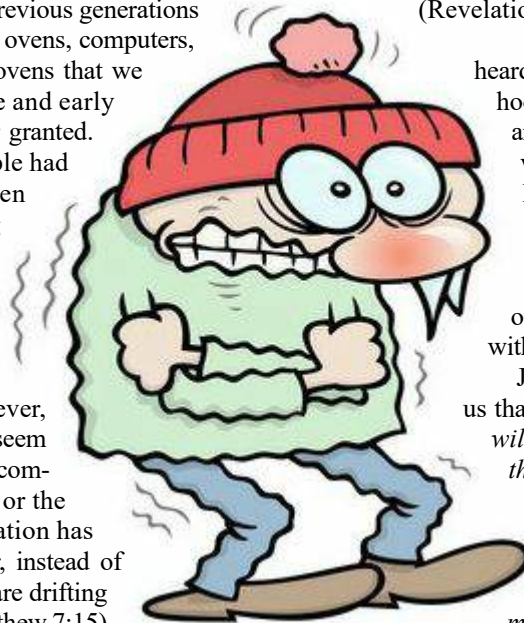
Christmas is over and, for most people, the indoor decorations are being put away. In our town, the beautiful lights and ornaments people put up on their houses made the season more festive. But here in New York, the temperatures are so cold that we suspect many of the lights will remain up for quite a while as the temperatures have dipped below freezing and don't show any sign of getting warmer any time soon. For many people, there is a January depression that sets in as all the festivities of the holidays are over. And the winter chill brings a case of the blahs as ice forms on sidewalks and cars refuse to start. Recently, Anne was all set to go shopping. Her hot coffee was prepared in its travel cup and all her paraphernalia was ready. But the bitter cold had frozen the car doors. The locks were up but the doors wouldn't open. After some tugging on the handles, Eric got the doors open. By then the coffee was cold but off she went.

One cure for the January blahs is to consider how blessed we have been here in Western culture. In previous generations they never had the cell phones, microwave ovens, computers, automatic dishwashers, and self-cleaning ovens that we have today. Go back even further in time and early settlers never had the luxuries we take for granted. There were no fast food restaurants. People had to kill an animal for food. And the women had the job of plucking out feathers, scaling fish, or separating an animal for meat. If they wanted any vegetables they had to grow them themselves. Imagine what it must have been like crossing the prairie in temperatures below freezing in an open wagon covered with a canvas cloth. However, that society had a fear of God that does not seem to be present today. Although it's easy to complain when our cell phone is out of range or the microwave makes a mess, today's generation has been mightily blessed by God! However, instead of getting closer to the Lord, even Christians are drifting further away, due to false prophets (see Matthew 7:15) and the influences of mass media.

While the Laodicean church (Revelation 3:16) in Western society has been indulging in many luxuries, Christians in Eastern culture today are in a state of severe persecution. For God is refining His flock as He did in the early church and during pre-Reformation years. Horrible suffering is going on right now and they desperately need our prayers! In contrast, Western civilization, has mostly been in a state of moral decline for decades. But at least previous generations had respect for Biblical values. It has been said that Christians today are the way the worldly (1 John 2:15) folk were back in the 1940's and 1950's. A [2014 survey states that between 2007 and 2014](#) those who identified themselves as Christians fell from 78.4% to 70.6% in just seven years! You can even see it in television shows. When Grant Tinker tried to sell the “Mary Tyler Moore Show” (1970-1977) to the network, he wanted his wife to play a divorced woman. But the network would not accept it that way. So they made Mary a never

married woman.

The bed was a problem too. Should it be a single bed or a double? They solved that problem in the early episodes by giving her a studio apartment with a convertible couch. In later episodes, Mary moved into an apartment with a bedroom. And by then she had a double bed. In the later episodes of the show, Mary had a romance with Joe, a character played by Ted Bessell, who was known for his portrayal of Don Hollinger in the 1966-71 sitcom “That Girl” with Marlo Thomas. Ann Marie, the character played by Thomas, also had her own apartment. But hers had a bedroom with a single twin bed! How things had changed in just a matter of years! However, being one step ahead of those who have never come to Christ is not what God expects from us! People may say, “Society is different today.” But God doesn't change! He is “...the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End” (Revelation 22:13 NIV).



Yet there are some signs of optimism. We have heard that without the funding that “Planned Parenthood” had received during the Obama years, they are showing signs of going out of business. And we were delighted that, over the holidays, the Hallmark network had some delightful Christmas movies that showed some old fashioned romance. Single couples were getting engaged and married, not just hopping into bed with each other! How nice to see wholesome entertainment with a Christmas theme.

Jude reminded us that the Lord's apostles warned us that “...In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires. These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear - hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy, to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen” (Jude 1:18-25 NIV).

In closing, we would like to say a special thanks for those of you who were kind enough to donate to this work during the Christmas season. We hope this trend continues throughout the year as this ministry has been in debt for decades and we have had to cut back on some of our programs. Have a wonderful 2018 everyone! And keep your eyes on Christ, through His Bible, prayer, and dependence on His Holy Spirit (see Galatians 5:25). Go with God and He will go with you.

In the Love of Christ,

*Eric and Anne Kaestner*

# Satan's Subtle Schemes and Strategy

By Anne Kaestner

Every good lawyer knows that their best plan of defense against the opposition is to know their opponent's strategy. And every good general wants to know what the enemy's plan of attack will be. Likewise, as Christians, the best way for us to protect ourselves against our most evil attacker is to understand how he works. Jesus gave us some clues. He said of Satan, "*He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies*" (John 8:44 NIV). So we know that Satan, the devil, is a murderer and a liar. Now, how does he spread his lies around? We are unable to actually see him physically, because he doesn't have a solid body. After their failed mutiny in Heaven (see Revelation 12:7-9), Satan and the angels who fought with him, were put on trial. Part of their punishment was received right away. As they stood before Him, God cremated their physical bodies, reducing them to ashes (Ezekiel 28:18). He also stripped them of any rights or position they had. Then He had them cast out of Heaven to the earth (Rev. 12:9). Of course, none of us were alive at the time. Mankind had not even been created yet.

Their ultimate punishment will happen after Christ comes back to earth (Revelation 19:11-16). It will be an eternity in Hell and the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10-15). For the fire and sulfur (brimstone) that God placed in the center of the earth (Deuteronomy 32:22, Ezekiel 26:20, 32:24) was never created for mankind. It was "...prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41 NIV). When we see the exquisite beauty that once covered this planet, we get an inkling of how jealous Satan must have been when God formed Adam. For he gave him the authority over the earth that Satan had once controlled (Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:13-15). However, Jesus told us that Satan does control this earth currently (Matthew 4:8-11, John 12:31). He is "...the prince of the power of the air; the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2 KJV). So how did he get it away from Adam? Adam had one big vulnerability. His emotions! It's the same one all of us have. And it's the chief mechanism Satan uses to get us to sin against God!

You see, there was no way that God could give us emotions and the capability to love Him, by our own choice, without giving us an eternal piece of Himself. It's the same way with the devil and demons. They will always exist somewhere. At the moment, some of them are here on earth tempting us. If God didn't allow this, we would have no ability to prove our love for Him by our refusal to give in to temptation (James 1:13-15). Satan and his demons want us to sin because they know that God loves us. They can't hurt God. Their mutiny didn't work. So they attack us instead. Therefore, Satan uses our emotions to trick us into sinning against the Lord.

To show you how deceptive Satan and his demons (fallen angels) are, one of their favorite lies is that humans can come back after death as ghosts and haunt people. Some individuals have engaged in occult practices, such as a séance. This is strictly forbidden in the Bible (Deuteronomy 18:10 and Isaiah 47:13)! But those who have done so have sometimes claimed to have seen their loved one in a ghost-like form and spoken to them. But the Bible tells us that this is the only life we have on earth. Nevertheless, those who have been deceived at a séance have said that only their loved one could know what the ghost knew. So they are convinced that it must have been that person.

Christians, "...man is destined to die **once**, and after that to face judgment" (Hebrews 9:27 NIV). What they saw was a deceptive demon spirit **posing** as their loved one.

The demons have the ability to imitate the voice and appearance of any human. But they cannot do it in human form, unless they do it through "demon possession" (Mark 1:34, Acts 19:13-16). And if that is the case, they cannot appear and disappear at will. So their ghost or cloud-like apparition is the natural appearance of the demon since God destroyed their bodies. These demons know things that people think that only their loved one could possibly know. Because, although we can't see them, they are around us all the time, watching us and tempting us to sin! "*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us*" (Hebrews 12:1 NIV).

The Bible tells us, metaphorically, that the devil's "...tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born" (Revelation 12:4 NIV). In other words, two thirds of God's angels (called stars) chose to remain faithful to Him. The remaining third had taken place in the mutiny and became fallen angels (Revelation 12:9). Satan is also referred to as "the great dragon" in Revelation 12:9. God refers to him with several different names. Sometimes Satan does his evil by himself as in Job 1:8-30. But more often he manipulates humans under his control to do it for him. The "woman" mentioned in Revelation 12:1 is the nation of Israel. The twelve stars on her head are the twelve tribes of Israel (Genesis 49:28). Her pregnancy was with the coming Savior who was to be born God the Son, Jesus Christ. It's confusing to people because, in Revelation, the past, present, and future are all merged together (Revelation 1:8, 21:6, 22:13).

Then, during the time leading up to, and including, the Tribulation, Satan will try to destroy the "woman," the nation of Israel. He will hate her because she was God's means by which He brought the Savior into this world. Israel will flee into the desert. But God will have prepared a place for her where she would be kept safe for 1,260 days (Revelation 12:6). However, the righteous church of Christ will not be around at that time. For those of us who are still alive at the time, will meet Christ in the air (1 Corinthians 15:51-54 and 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17). And that is when we will have resurrected bodies like Jesus had after He rose from the dead. It's referred to as the "Rapture" by the church. There are those who will remain on this earth because they were not ready when Christ came to collect His Bride (Matthew 7:21-23, 25:1-13). They are like those mentioned as the Laodicean church (Revelation 3:14-20). Metaphorically, they didn't have enough oil in their lamps (see Matthew 25:3). The oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit and the lamps are the hearts of the people.

So now is the time to prepare for what is to come. God is still giving us a chance to get ready for Him. But many in the Laodicean church exist today, spiritually, in Western nations. And many, if not most of us, will probably die before the Rapture. Either way, a destiny of eternal joy, love and peace awaits us in Heaven (1 Corinthians 2:9) or a future of hell and the Lake of Fire awaits those who reject Christ (Matthew 13:41-42). And it's not about how many good works you



decide to do (Ephesians 2:8-9). It's about obeying God (Luke 6:46) and living for Christ. Because good works do not erase sin. Only Christ can do that! That's why Jesus said, "... *I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*" (John 14:6 NIV. Also, see 1 Timothy 2:5 NIV).

Satan wants to doom as many of us to the fires of hell as he can. That's especially true today, "...*because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short*" (Revelation 12:12 NIV). That time period that God gave to Adam, to control the earth, is almost up. So, since Satan finagled that control away from Adam, his time of ruling this world system is almost at its end. Therefore, "*be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour*" (1 Peter 5:8 NIV). How does he try to seduce us to sin (2 Corinthians 11:3-4), which leads to separation from God? Through temptation! And, to do this, he uses our greatest vulnerability against us, our emotions! For example, murders are committed through greed, anger, hatred, jealousy, or pride, all emotions! People tell lies out of fear (of being found out they did something wrong), or pride (like claiming credit for something they did not do). Emotions again! Satan and his demons try to manipulate us in so many more ways. For example, there's the:

**(1) Blame God approach.** My mother used to like curly hair, even if it was frizzy. However, when I was about twelve years old, stick straight hair was in style. My mother didn't care what my classmates thought or what was fashionable. And she used to make me go to school with frizzy hair. The other kids would make fun of me and say all kinds of mean things. As a result my seventh grade year was one of the two worst years in my life! But my mother would say "God gave you beautiful curly hair and I'm not going to let you straighten it." When I got into eighth grade I finally won the battle of the rollers. But the painful memories of that time are still with me today. It is the same approach Adam took in the Garden of Eden. He was caught in sin so rather than take the blame himself he told God,

"...*The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat*" (Genesis 3:12 KJV). The insinuation was that it was God's fault, because He gave Adam the woman and she tempted him. It's the sin of pride, the "It's not my fault," attitude. That doesn't wash with God. Remember that "...*God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble*" (James 4:6 KJV).

**(2) Then there's the false prophets and lukewarm Christians.** They make Christ look bad. Many Jewish people to this day hate Christ because the Nazis would call themselves Christians as they tortured and killed Jews. Over and over again Jesus and His Apostles warned about false prophets (Matthew 7:15, 24:11, 24, Luke 6:26, 2 Peter 2:1, 1 John 4:1). And hypocrisy breeds false converts (Matthew 23:15), and very unchristian behavior, that Satan blames on Christ. It's another version of the "blame God" excuse. And Satan will whisper in the ear of a person who doesn't know Christ, "See that's one of those phonies that call themselves Christian."

**(3) Communication issues.** As I write this, an attack of this type, is still fresh in my mind. That's when you will hear something different from what was really said. For example, I could hear my husband complaining about something this morning and he sounded annoyed. "What's the matter?" I asked. "My label is stuck in my printer," he said. At first I couldn't hear him so he had to repeat it. That added to his frustration. When it became clear what he had said,

I asked, "What are you mailing?" "My label is stuck in my printer," he said again. "I know. But who is the label going to?" I asked. "My label is stuck in my printer," he replied. By now, I was getting frustrated as his voice became more impatient. "But who are you addressing the label to?" I asked. "How many times do I have to tell you. My label is stuck in my printer." By now both of us were on the verge of an argument. Finally I said something like, "All I want to know is who are you sending the label to?" "Then why didn't you say so?" he replied. "All I kept hearing was 'what's the matter?'" So what I said and what he was hearing were altered by invisible spiritual forces that wanted to cause an argument between us.

**(4) Seeing Something Different From What It Is.** That's when you look at something and it appears to be something else. It happens frequently to people, but they don't realize it. They think they didn't look at it correctly. For example, I went to the grocery store recently, and Eric was helping me unpack the bags. We're always on a tight budget so we are very careful shoppers. Eric took out some cold cuts and said to me, "Why did you buy this ham for \$9.00 a pound? That's expensive! Couldn't you have bought something cheaper?" I looked at the ham again and was surprised. And replied, "I so carefully examined each package of cold cuts. And, to me, it looked like \$4.50 a pound. Now it looks different." Again, spiritual forces were trying to get us into an argument!

**(5) Satanic Semantics.** It's a subtle form of brainwashing. For Satan controls this world system. So "...*Don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to*

*be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God*" (James 4:4 NIV. Also, see 1 John 2:15-17). Therefore, what is good to the devil is bad to God. And what is good to God is bad to the devil. Thus you hear phrases like "She is drop dead gorgeous." Or "Decadent chocolate cake." Or "I want to spoil my daughter." Or "I'm dying for a taste of that." Or "I'd kill for an outfit like that." Of course, the person doesn't really want the beautiful woman to "drop dead." And "spoil" means to decay or destroy. The person saying this is not going to want



to destroy their daughter. But again, they hear such phrases and, after a while, it doesn't get filtered in their mind. They don't realize what they are saying. They mean something good, but it comes out the opposite.

**(6) The Reverse Victim Scenario.** That's when a person under the influence of evil spirits does something intentionally to provoke another person or entity. But when their opponent complains about it, they claim that the opponent is attacking them, and that they are the victim! For example, on September 15, 2017 North Korea launched a missile from Sunan, the site of Pyongyang's International Airport. It flew over northern Japan before landing in the Pacific Ocean. But when Japan complained about it, the North Koreans insinuated that Japan had no right to complain and that Japan was being the aggressor!

This technique is not limited to politics. It can also be used on a much smaller scale. People under demonic influence sometimes attack someone else verbally, often with hurtful accusations. Then, when the person gets upset, they accuse the victim of saying those things to them. This is more likely to occur when the perpetrator is taking dangerous drugs. And they don't necessarily have to be illegal. I know someone who was a victim of this type of thing when her husband was taking prescription Ambien. And I once had the experience of talking to a pharmacist who, I suspect, was taking some kind of drug. He charged me full price for *(Continued On Page 4)*

a medicine but only gave me a few pills. He said the others were on order and he'd deliver them in a couple of days. Several days went by and I never received the medicine. When I politely asked him what happened, he instantly became angry at me and accused me of being unreasonable. "But I paid for the full amount," I told him. "When will the rest be in?" To that, he became hostile, and told me he didn't want me as a customer anymore. I left the store thinking, "Why was he mad at me? I was the injured party and I was very polite about it."

However, this technique is so often used that it is not limited to politics or drugs. For instance, it is often used with regard to children. I heard a minister once state that he has had multiple confrontations with grandparents when the children would run up and down the aisle during the service and cause a distraction from the message. He'd ask them to control the children better and they would become angry and say how dare he accuse their grandchild of anything! The sin here is idolatry, because they are putting their grandchild ahead of Christ.

Another aspect of the "blame the victim" technique is frequently used by the male gender when a woman is raped or harassed. Lawyers use this method often to defend the attacker. "She wore a short skirt," they would say. "So she wanted to be raped." That kind of defense infuriates me! Every woman knows that no female wants to be raped! People are influenced by television. Viewers see a female character home alone, who opens her door to let a man into her house or apartment. It seems perfectly natural. Often that happens in reality too. Maybe he's a neighbor. Or he may be there to repair something around her house or sell her insurance. Yet lawyers have used situations like this to claim the woman wanted to have sex with the rapist. And juries have often allowed the rapist to go free!

There are many versions of the "blame the victim" attack. I used to watch a television show called "It Takes A Thief." The hosts were two former thieves who had been convicted of their crimes and previously incarcerated. The idea behind the show was to encourage people to have better security on their homes. They would find a house that looked vulnerable and ask the home owner if they would like to have their security checked. If they agreed, cameras were put in rooms around the house and the owner would watch one of the former thieves do a mock break-in. The thief would ransack the home, leaving the refrigerator door open and the food to spoil, sometimes vandalizing items. The home owner would eventually get all their possessions back and damaged items and spoiled food would be replaced. The thief would then meet with the homeowner and answer questions from them. And another former thief would show the home owner how to have better security.

What annoyed me was the frequency with which these former thieves would claim, "These people want to be robbed. They have no security on their house." They would try to make the person feel ashamed with comments like, "Your wife and children live here and you don't have enough security on your house. If someone breaks in and hurts them, you'd be responsible for it." And the home owners usually believed the lie! However, I once heard a woman tell the thief, "I'm not to blame. You are to blame! People should be able to feel relaxed in their homes, not like they are in a prison. You are the one who stole these things. You're responsible for it, not me!" It made me so happy to see her stand up to him, and speak the truth.

Some day we will all stand before God and the books will be opened (Daniel 7:10 and Revelation 20:12-15) of everything we have

ever done. And it won't be the home owner whom God will hold responsible for the burglary. It will be the thief! I once saw a "60 Minutes" segment about Finland. It was many years ago, long before the recent influx of refugees into Europe. They showed a social club for both men and women. The camera focused on the coat closet where numerous women's handbags were placed all over the floor. The announcer said that women felt secure leaving their bags there as no one was likely to steal them. Wouldn't it be nice to have that kind of confidence in every country?

"Blame the Victim" has especially been a strategy in modern times. The onus is placed on the innocent one, thus obscuring the guilt of the oppressor. In many countries, in the Middle East, men have such a problem with lust that women are forced to cover their faces with head scarves or burkas. The woman is taught to be ashamed of her own face! And, in some cases, there are severe punishments for a woman whose face is not covered, sometimes even death. In some Moslem countries a married woman can be gang raped and the men are not held responsible. But the woman is put on trial for adultery! This happened to a [British tourist in November, 2016](#).

**(7) Nervousness, Disruption, and Interruptions.** Have you noticed how impatient some people get when they are interviewed or questioned about something they don't want to admit? Christ brings peace, love, and joy (Philippians 4:7). Satan brings anxiety, fear, and rudeness (Isaiah 57:20, Proverbs 4:16, Gal. 5:19-21). I see this in interviews with people on television. It happens mostly be-



tween those of different political views. It is a technique used often by liberals! If they don't like the question, they will change the subject to attack the opposing side. And they will bring up something that has nothing to do with the original question. When it is the other person's chance to talk, they will constantly interrupt, talk over them, and prevent their opponent from stating their point of view! I once heard an attorney say that, when he was in school, his law professor would say, "If you have the law on your side, argue the law. If you have the truth on

your side, argue the truth. And if you don't have either on your side, confuse the matter." I guess that explains it.

In closing, I want to comfort you with these words, "*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap*" (Galatians 6:7 KJV). Another one of Satan's many lies is that he is getting away with the evil he does. Not so! He is already a defeated foe and was cast out of Heaven long ago (Luke 10:18). His time of ruling this planet (Ephesians 2:2) is soon to come to an end (see Revelation 12:12). By Divine revelation, the apostle John, saw into the future. And when Satan's time is up, "...the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur; where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from His presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death" (Revelation 20:10-14 NIV). And when that happens, Jesus will have come back to earth as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (Revelation 19:11-16). "...And so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:17 KJV).