

Beware of the Booby Traps

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Introduction.

- A. I want to speak on the subject of booby traps.
- B. We need to identify the traps in the spiritual realm.
- C. In golf I have learned to stay on the fairway because off the fairway is trouble.

I. Paul reminds us that we are not in the dark with respect to demonic strategies. (2 Corinthians 2:11)

A. The devil is like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour and his favorite food is effective Christians, not the ineffective ones.

B. I want to recommend a study of the term “leaven,” which is always used in an evil sense, in four ways.

1. The leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. (Matthew 16:11-12)

a. The disciples thought Jesus meant the bread of the Pharisees.

b. Jesus meant the teaching, however, as hypocrisy is the following:

1) Ritual without reality.

2) Motion without meaning.

3) Rule with out relationship

4) Performance without character

5) It is counterfeit of the real thing.

i. Counterfeiters spend little time with false bills but much time with genuine bills.

ii. We need to spend much time with the true teaching of Jesus in order to identify the counterfeit.

c. Jesus hates hypocrites, people trying to pull off a profession.

d. Hypocrisy means to speak from under a mask.

1) It is a theatrical term.

2) It came to mean a phony, like the Pharisees, who Jesus faulted not for their doctrine but for their failure to do the right thing. (Matthew 23:3)

3) The goal from true instruction is love from a good conscience and a sincere faith. (1 Timothy 1:5)

i. Sincere means without wax, as in a vase that is without cracks patched up by wax.

ii. A sincere person is without wax, but not necessarily without cracks.

e. There is a cause effect relationship between an impure heart and a guilty conscience, which produces a phony lifestyle.

1) We need to be open to self-disclosure.

2) We don't need more guilt but true disconnections with the truth of God's word.

3) It's not other's expectations that count but God's expectations.

4) Revelation teaches reality that we need to respond to.

i. Correct it.

ii. Fake it.

iii. Chunk it. Hundreds of people bail out of Christianity, rejecting phony Christians.

2. The leaven of the Sadducees is humanism, eliminating the supernatural.

a. These denied the resurrection and angels.

b. They believed the universe is a closed system.

c. This is the philosophical system of today.

d. Deity and revelation will not save us, starting with Nietzsche.

e. But the key teaching of humanism is that man is to glorify man and live as long as he can.

1) Many Christians live by this philosophy.

2) Jesus says if you want to live give your life away.

3) Philosophical humanism is invading the church today.

f. Humanism limits human accomplishments to human ability.

- 1) How would the Navigators be like if not for the supernatural?
- 2) The same or drastically different?
- 3) Are we doing only what a human organization can do, or we doing what no human organization can do?
- 4) Are we convinced that God is sovereign or do we believe God is biting his nails?
- 5) Is the supernatural possible or are we just grinding it out?
- 6) The Jews balked at possessing the land. (Numbers 13)
- 7) Are we convinced we can take the land with God's help?
- 8) Only Joshua and Caleb entered the land because they believed in God's power.
- 9) Their secret is that they saw more than the giants and the grasshoppers; they saw God.
- 10) Remember we are serving God.

g. The deceptive thing about humanism is its reasonableness, but the dramatic thing of Christianity is its radical ness.

- 1) The righteous ones live by faith and if they shrink back God has no pleasure in them. (Hebrews 10:38)
 - i. To shrink back means to take down your sail.
 - ii. This one does not please God.
- 2) The supernatural power of God wants to use your sail.

3. The leaven of the Pharisees of immorality is deeply rooted in evangelisms.

1. A little leaven leavens the lump of God, which is impurity. (1 Corinthians 5:6-7)
2. Right now we have evangelical leaders living in sin.
3. God wants to place a clean person in a corrupt society.
4. Are we making an impact on society or is society making an impact on us?

5. DaVinci said that if a cube of lead is placed on gold the two will intermingle, and the lead will debase the gold and not the other way around.
 6. Computer industry tells us “Garbage in, garbage out.”
 7. Jesus said that looking with lust is sin.
 8. What we read will determine what we think.
 9. Do you have the spiritual guts to walk out on a film that poisons your mind?
 10. A seminary student got involved in pornography and it destroyed him.
 11. No clever arrangement of rotten eggs will make a good omelet. (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5)
 12. We are not to be complicated by sin, though we embrace sinners.
4. The leaven of legalism.
- a. Christ set us free and we are to remain in that freedom. (Galatians 5:1)
 - b. Are you free today or are you in bondage?
 - c. I was raised in a culture that said a woman with red fingernail polish could not lead a person to Christ.
 - d. Faith works through love, regardless of what kind of fingernail polish they use.
 - e. I was trying to love Christianity by man made rules.
 - f. Nothing we do will make God love us more or less.
 - g. We don't need to live according to other's expectations.
 - h. We don't do whatever we want, but whatever God wants.
 - i. Love does not work by rules but by relationship.
 - j. Legalists build walls; lovers build bridges.
 - k. God will discipline us but he does it in love. (Titus 2)
 - l. I am jealous of the Navigators because their objective is close to the heart of the Savior. This is why I am also concerned for you because Satan opposes you.

- 1) The leaven of the Pharisees will wipe you out if you are not careful.
- 2) Many have already fallen.
- 3) A friend is serving God in Canada doing a marvelous work for God and he was recently interviewed by a Satanist who told him they are praying to Satan for the destruction of evangelicals.
- 4) Serving God is not a fun and games operation.
- 5) We need to stand strong in the faith and face the battle.

C. God protect us from the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

1. The leaven of hypocrisy.
2. The leaven of humanism.
3. The leaven of immorality.
4. The leaven of legalism.

II. Concluding prayer.

Father thank you for these workers. Place them in strategic ways. We desire to please you. The devil is out to devour us. He is subtle and we need discernment to resist him. Instruct us and change us into your likeness. We pray in the name of Jesus.