

**"THE DEVIL'S MISSIONARY PROGRAM" or
"SATAN'S COUNTERFEIT COMMISSION"**

TEXT: *Matthew 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

Matt 23:15 *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.*

THESIS: To expose the Devil's missionary activity & to challenge Christians to fulfill Christ's Great Commission.

INTRO.: A. Satan is the great counterfeiter. Jesus gave His Great Commission and Missionary Program to the church in **Mt.28:19**. In **Mt.23:15** Jesus reveals **"SATAN'S COUNTERFEIT COMMISSION"** or **"THE DEVIL'S MISSIONARY PROGRAM"**.

One of the biggest problems in the church today is a lack of spiritual discernment & one of the preacher's most difficult tasks is to convince people that Satan is real & that he counterfeits everything God does. Of course the secret if a good counterfeit is to keep it secret & as much like the real thing as possible.

B. Religious leaders are known for their smooth talk & loving words. They generate a following by their persuasive speech. Jesus too is known for His words, but more importantly, for TRUTH! Even when it hurts His hearers! Some of the most sharp words He spoke are recorded in Mt.23 in His 8 "Woes" to the Religionists of His day.

TRANSITION: Let's look at the **Devil's Missionaries, Mission Field & Ministry...**
In the Great Commission Christ speaks to His disciples, here Christ speaks to the Devil's disciples...

I. THE DEVIL'S MISSIONARIES:
("Go Ye..." - "Ye Compass...")

A. Religious Leaders: "Scribes & Pharisees..."

II Cor.11:13-15 *13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

ILLUS.: They counterfeit & duplicate the outward forms of the church. They have prophets (charismatics), apostles (Mormons), preachers (Neos), evangelists (Televangelists), Missionaries (cultists, J.W.'s etc.), ordinances (sacraments), prayer, etc.

B. Religious Phonies: ***"hypocrites..."***

1. They like authority & position. v.2
2. They use (& abuse) the Bible. v.3,4

ILLUS.: The N.I.V. removes v.14 entirely! These "scholars" always add to or subtract from God's Word.

3. They like to dress up in religious garments. v.5
4. They like titles. v.7-10 ***"Rabbi" - "Father"***

ILLUS.: Originally the word "hypocrite" had to do w/male actors playing the part of a female. In other words they appeared to be something they were not! (Like homosexuals and transvestites today!)

II. THE DEVIL'S MISISON FIELD:
("Into all the world..." - "sea & land...")

A. The Whole World:

1. Jesus identified the field for the Gospel Seed as **"the world"** & told His disciples to **"go ye into all the world..."**
2. The devil is said here to be willing to do what Christians are often unwilling to do **"compass sea & land..."** to spread the false seed.

ILLUS.: Most Christians never go soul-winning & strike a fatal blow to the very heart of the Great Commission. The devil's disciples are busily making other converts wherever & whenever (including "idols" & "stars" in sports, music, TV, Hollywood, the internet, etc.) while God's people will not visit lost people on their street, their neighborhood or even share the Gospel with their family members who otherwise will spend eternity in HELL!

B. The Church:

1. The most fruitful field for the devil is in **the "church"**.

ILLUS.: The wheat & tares must grow together for want of an infallible judge till harvest time. **Cf. Mt. 13:24-30**

2. The most subtle form of Satanic doctrine is **religion**.

ILLUS.: There are more frauds & phonies in the professing church than anywhere in the world. A pimp is easily identified & his followers at least know what business he (or she) is in. A religionist is a deceiver pretending to be what he is not!

III. THE DEVIL'S MINISTRY:

("Make Disciples..." - "Make One Proselyte...")

A. To Deceive Sinners:

ILLUS.: Proselyting differs from **"making disciples"** in that to proselyte means **"to secure outward conformity rather than inward piety, a change of external religion rather than a change of heart."** It is like getting a bath & then putting the same dirty clothes back on. Someone said **"Religion puts a new suit of clothes on the man, Salvation puts a new man in the suit!"**

1. If all a man does is "get religion" he is worse off than before.
2. If the religionist can persuade people that they can get to heaven by doing works of any kind he has been successful in deceiving a soul.

B. To Damn Souls: **"child of hell..."**

1. **"twofold more the child of hell..."** has to do w/the diff. between being a heathen and being a religious heathen.
2. It is bad enough to be lost w/out being actively engaged in **"THE DEVIL'S MISSIONARY PROGRAM."**

CONCL.: Oh, Christian, the devil is out to damn souls, to deceive sinners & to drag men into hell! We must obey the Savior's Great Commission & enlist in the holy war for the souls of men. Let's get busy! Let's make disciples! Let's win souls! Let's obey the Savior's command. Let's prove that we have more dedication than the Devil's Disciples. (These days that includes the cults, Catholicism and even main line denominations!)

Unsaved, friend, **BEWARE RELIGION!** Avoid hell! Come to Christ!