



Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices

Satan's Devices to keep Saints from holy duties, Pt. 3

Introduction

One of the things we always do, for good or bad, is make inferences. In our assessment of a situation, we never have all the information, so we infer a conclusion based on what we know. This takes place in marriage – inferring that your spouse is upset when he/she isn't, or assuming things are fine when they're not. It could take place in your workplace, or even in the investment world. Based on something happening, we infer a reasonable conclusion. Sometimes, even oftentimes, we infer wrongly and draw a false inference from a situation.

In seminary, I was the Greek TA for three years. In one of my first years, a guy name Gary was in my class. He was deeply struggling, and he regularly failed his quizzes, not doing much better on the tests. He did okay in Greek I, but he barely passed Greek II. I made an inference about him: he's either not putting in any work or languages just aren't his thing. Gary became my best friend, and after I got to know him, I realized I made a false inference from his work. He's incredibly gifted with languages. Likewise, Satan will cause us to draw false inferences from the great & glorious things Christ has done.

Device: “By causing saints to draw false inferences from the work of Christ.”

Definition: Satan will suggest that you think things, such as, “Jesus Christ has done all for us, therefore, there is nothing for us to do but to joy and rejoice. He has perfectly justified us, and fulfilled the law, and satisfied divine justice, and pacified his Father's wrath, and has gone to heaven to prepare a place for us, and in the mean time to intercede for us. Therefore, what need is there in praying, mourning, hearing, serving, attending, or obeying?”

Ah! what a world of professors has Satan drawn in these days from religious services by working them to make such sad, wild, and strange inferences from the sweet and excellent things that the Lord Jesus has done for his beloved ones.

***What are some ways we draw false inferences from the work of Christ?**

James 2:17, 20-26: *Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead... You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is dead? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the alter? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone... As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.*

***How does James expose the danger of drawing false inferences from the work of Christ?**

Remedies

1. **You must dwell as much on those scriptures that show you the duties and services that Christ requires of you, as upon those scriptures that declare to you the precious and glorious things Christ has done for you.**

“It is a sad and dangerous thing to have two eyes to behold our dignity and privileges, and not one to see our duties and services. *I should look with one eye* upon the choice and excellent things Christ has done for me to raise my heart to love Christ with the purest joy, to rejoice in Christ with the strongest joy, and to lift up Christ above all, who has made himself to be my all in all. *And I should look with the other eye* upon those services and duties that the Scripture’s require of those for whom Christ has done such blessed things.”

1 Cor. 6:19-20: Do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body.

Gal. 6:9: And let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

1 Thess. 5:16-17: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

***What role should the law have in a believer’s life?**

“Now, a soul that would not be drawn away by this device of Satan *must not look* with a squinted eye on these blessed scriptures... *but he must dwell* on them. He must make these scriptures to be his chief and his choicest companions, and this will be a happy means to keep him close to Christ and his service in these times.”

“However, there are many who turn their backs upon Christ, under pretense of being interested in the great glorious things that have been accomplished by Christ. The Jews were much in turning over the leaves of the Scripture – but they did not weigh the matter of them... Jesus told them, “You search the Scriptures,” (Jn. 5:39).”

***When you meditate on scripture, do you tend to emphasize the duties of Christ or the work of Christ?**

2. **Consider that the great and glorious things Christ has done, and is doing for us, should be the furthest things from taking us away from religious duties and services, and that they are the greatest possible motives and encouragements to the performance of them, as the Scriptures do abundantly evidence.**

1 Pt. 2:9: You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

***How does Peter emphasize our spiritual blessings in Christ to motivate us to holy duties?**

“Christ has freed you from all your enemies, from the curse of the law, the predominant damnatory power of sin, the wrath of God, the sting of death, and the torments of hell. But what is the end and design of Christ in doing these great and marvelous things for his people? It is not that we should throw off duties of righteousness and holiness – but that their hearts may be the more free and sweet in all holy duties and heavenly services.”

“This I am sure of, that all man’s happiness here is his holiness, and his holiness shall hereafter be his happiness. Christ has therefore broke the devil’s yoke from off our necks, that his Father might have better service from our hearts.”

Titus 2:11-12: For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people, and it teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age.

“Ah, souls! I know of no arguments to work you to a lively and constant performance of all heavenly services like those that are drawn from the consideration of the great and glorious things Christ has done for you. If such arguments will not take you and win upon you, I do think the throwing of hell fire in your faces will ever do it!”

***What are you normally motivated by? How can we become more motivated by Christ’s work?**

- 3. Seriously consider that those who don’t walk in the ways of righteousness and holiness can’t have that evidence to their own souls of their righteousness before God, of their fellowship and communion with God, of their blessedness here, and their happiness hereafter, as those souls have, who love and delight in the ways of the Lord.**

“As David’s daughters were known by their garments of diverse colors, so are God’s children by their piety and sanctity. A Christian’s emblem should be a house walking toward heaven... A tree that is not fruitful is fit only for the fire. Christianity is not a talking – but a walking with God, who will not be put off with words. If he sees no fruit, he will take up his axe, and then the soul is cut off forever.”

1 Jn. 3:7, 10: Little children, let no one be deceived: he who practices righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous... This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God’s child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

“To look after holy and heavenly works is the best way to preserve the soul from being deceived and deluded by Satan’s delusions, and by sudden flashes of joy and comfort; holy works are a more conscious and constant pledge of the precious Spirit, begetting and maintaining in the soul more solid, pure, clear, strong, and lasting joy.”

***How does fruitfulness function as an assurance to us? What do we need to be cautious about?**

***How does this align with backsliding and sin? What are the best grounds for assurance?**

Conclusion

May we dwell on Christ’s duties, being motivated by his work, and trusting that God is at work in us.

***Prayer Requests for the Deceased and Remedies in your lives, as well as in those you know & love.**