

**A MESSAGE FROM SATAN TO YOUNG PEOPLE***Curtis A Cates***THE PLEASANT VIEW PLUMB LINE**

Dear Young Person,

Do you at times feel neglected, that no one is interested in you? Please do not ever feel that way again. I am keenly interested in you, for I realize that you are most impressionable in your youth. I cannot reach many of your “old foggy,” “know it all,” “set in their ways” parents. Consequently, perhaps most of my most valuable time, attractive “tactics,” and smooth conversion “techniques” are spent on you.

Yes, you can count on me to be your “friend.” Let me give you some “fatherly” advice.

One, do not spend much time in studying the Bible. I want to help you make vital decisions, those which will affect you for a lifetime, even for eternity. However, those who meditate upon the Word of God find themselves not desiring to listen to me. Do not feel that you need to quote scriptures, like Christ when He was tempted.

Two, please do not really think that you need to attend every worship service. Just look at the example of many so-called Christians who are grown; when you grow up, you will be able to forsake the assembly also. You see, you too will learn that other things are more important.

Three, it is vital to remember that you are young only once. My, everybody has the “right” to sow his wild oats, does he not? Have you not observed that religion is really for old folks? Besides, do you wish to give the impression to your friends that you are a coward, that you are not the master of your own life, that you cannot think for yourself?

Four, expect the church to entertain you. Do you not have every right to expect the same excitement within and without the worship of the church that you receive from television, the movies, at the ball park, etc.? If they do not have a comedian in the pulpit and a ministry of recreation, be loud in your complaints. If this fails, show your disapproval by staying home or by seeking out a church which is “really interested” in young people. Remember, “ask not what you can do for the Lord, but what He and the church can do for you!”

Five, demand a Bible that reads like a comic book. NO one should expect you young people to study hard to understand God’s will for your lives. It is just so frustrating not to have a “Bible” that you can understand. Certainly, that old archaic King James Version and even the American Standard Version are just beyond your ability to grasp.

Six, do not let anyone tell you how to live your life. Anyway, how can one really “know the truth” from a Bible so full of contradictions? Oh, have you been told you can trust the Bible? Do not believe it! Your guess as to what the Bible teaches is as good as that of anyone else. Besides, have you not heard? It is the age of “do your own thing.” Have you not learned by now that certain things are “wrong” only in certain situations? What was “wrong” when your parents came along (dancing, drinking, smoking, immodest dress, gambling, sex outside of marriage, drugs, etc.) is not wrong now. They warn you of these “forbidden pleasures” only because they do not want you to have a good time.

If any of your friends need to feel “loved,” pass my letter on to them. However, if your parents, the elders, or the preacher see it, they may not be impressed. I am interested in having you spend eternity with me, also.

Your friend (?),  
Satan

“...then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel...” (Amos 7:8)

**COMMON SENSE CHRISTIANITY**  
**ARROGANCE IS EVIL**

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

I. The Arrogance of \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

II. The Arrogance of \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

III. The Arrogance of \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

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**THE BENEFITS OF BIBLE CLASS**

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

I. They Learn to \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

II. They Learn to \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

III. They Learn to \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

**THE WRONG ROOM**

On June 6, 1981, Doug Whitt and his new bride, Sylvia, were escorted into their hotel's fancy bridal suite in the wee hours of the morning. In the room they saw a sofa, chairs, and table, but no bed. Then they discovered the sofa was a hide-a-bed, with a lumpy mattress and sagging springs.

After a fitful night's sleep they woke up in the morning with sore backs. The new husband went to the hotel desk and gave the management a tongue-lashing.

"Did you open the door in the room?" asked the clerk.

Doug went back to the room. He opened the door they had thought was a closet. And there, complete with fruit baskets and chocolates, was a beautiful bedroom!

How often we miss out on life's greatest blessings because we are looking in "the wrong room." We often look for happiness and fulfillment in the world. But we're looking in the wrong place!

The world offers many pleasures. Some are acceptable to God; some are not. A beautiful sunset, the majesty of mountains, brightly colored flowers, and inspiring music are great blessings to man. But some, such as the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, are sinful in God's sight (1 John 2:15-17).

The greatest blessings in life—things like peace, love, forgiveness, and hope are not found in the world; they are found in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). And Jesus is the door through which we must enter to receive these truly great and lasting blessings (John 10:7-9). Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Have you been looking in the wrong room? Enter through the Door of Life on God's terms and you'll find, by God's grace, the greatest blessings of all.

*-David A. Sargent*

**SAVE THIS NATION**

In the days of the Civil War, a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln was a visitor to the White House. "I had been spending three weeks with Mr. Lincoln as his guest. One night I was restless and could not sleep...from the private room where the president slept, I heard low tones, for the door was partly open. Instinctively I wandered in, and there I saw a sight which I have never forgotten. It was the president kneeling before an open Bible...his back toward me. I shall never forget his prayer: 'Oh, thou God that heard Solomon in the night when he prayed and cried for wisdom, hear me. I cannot lead these people, I cannot guide the affairs of this nation without thy help...O God, hear me and save this nation.'"

*-Author Unknown*

**ATTITUDE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE**

It was believed to have been about two years prior to Jerusalem's inevitable fall. Rome was in turmoil and first century Christians were suffering the brunt of the discord begun by the very ranks of Nero himself years earlier. Corruption by ungodly leaders was endangering the church's purity and if Christians were to succeed in their first extreme test as disciples of Jesus Christ they would need to give diligence to righteousness. It was in that context that Jude would write to them stating:

“Beloved, when I have all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ” (Jude 3-4).

What is clear from these two verses is that error was being promoted and it served as an immense complication for the ongoing efforts of God's children. Error could not be tolerated and inspiration cited the need for boldness in facing that error head-on and contending **earnestly** for the faith. What is likewise clear, though, is the manner in which that defense needed to be administered.

Amazingly, many assume that we have the right to confront error not out of love and concern, but out of spite and contempt. Wrath, not just for error, but toward those who espouse error has among many become normal. Rather than lovingly seeking to restore their brethren to truth and saving their souls, the concerns of many are steered more toward assassinating characters and promoting self. Seeing the bitterness of those involved in such and desiring to avoid it in their own lives, many others will avoid contending for truth altogether believing it will only lead them down the same road. And standing back and surveying it all we ask the question where the balance lies? The Bible's answer is that attitude makes all the difference.

**I must have an attitude of concern not contempt.** Religious, doctrinal error is the single most dangerous weapon in Satan's arsenal of evil; because it not only affects those who despise truth, but also those who sincerely are seeking truth. It is a wolf in sheep's clothing, lying in wait and anticipating its prey. And knowing the immense danger it represents to all mankind, but especially our brethren in the faith, we should have a honest and earnest concern for all, especially those who do fall prey. It is that error that will cause an individual to experience eternal death if they are not plucked from the fire (James 5:20). Are we concerned for their soul or contemptuous toward them. Some have more wrath for the sinner than for the sin and its origin, and such will show no productivity in the overall efforts to contending earnestly for the faith. It is the attitude of concern, not contempt, that will make all the difference.

**I must have an attitude of affection not apathy.** The concern that is absolutely necessary to effectively discharge Jude's command must be rooted in something, and the only two choices are love or hate. Common sense dictates that concern is not going to grow out of hate, but out of love or affection. It is a natural response to the Hebrews writer's plea to “let brotherly love continue” (Hebrews 13:1). Love will lead to action, but the indifference of apathy will end with inaction. The person who feels no sense of loyalty or love will feel no responsibility in warning the soul found in error. The attitude of affection, not apathy is going to make the difference.

**I must have an attitude of self piety not self promotion.** The word “piety” refers to a devotion to a particular cause realized to be much bigger than self. That is the will of God and the work of the church—both are much larger than self. And protecting the will of God and work of the church serves as an act of self piety. Some, though, look at rebuking error and those who teach it as an act of self-promotion. There are people who are so hungry for power and influence that nothing and nobody is too important for them to tread over on their way to the top. James' plea for humility is lost to them as they seek the glories they believe await them (James 4:10). Such an attitude proves to be counterproductive, though, because self piety, not self promotion, will make all the difference.

Two men went to the same congregation seeking the opportunity to work with them. On successive Sundays each preached on the reality of the rich man's anguish in torment's flame (Luke 16:19-31). Each taught the truth, but after the leadership met they unanimously decided to hire the first candidate. An inquiring member asked one of the elders how it was they were able to reach a unanimous decision when each man did such an outstanding job. The elder's answer was telling. “The second,” he said, “did do an outstanding job, as did the first. Both preached Lazarus to heaven and the rich man to hell. The difference was that when the first man preached Lazarus to hell he did so with regret, knowing the horrors that awaited him. When the second preached Lazarus to hell he did so with the thought that it was good enough for him. It was attitude that made all the difference.”

-Andy Brewer  
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