

A broadcast delivered by radio personality Paul Harvey (1918-2009) in 1965 delivered a harrowing warning to our great nation ... many years later, it seems to have proven nothing short of prophetic.

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IF I WERE THE DEVIL ...

If I were the Prince of Darkness, I'd want to engulf the whole world in darkness. And I'd have one-third of its real estate and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree ... THEE!

So, I'd set about however necessary to takeover the United States. I'd subvert the churches first. I'd begin with a campaign of whispers; with the wisdom of a serpent I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve — “do as you please!” To the young I would whisper that the Bible is a myth; I would convince that man created God instead of the other way around; I would confide that what's bad is good and what's good is square. And the old I would teach to pray after me, “Our Father, which art in Washington ...”

And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd peddle narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction; I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

If I were the Devil, I'd soon have families at war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves until each in his own turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings, I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames.

If I were the Devil, I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions; just let those run wild until before you knew it you'd have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

Within a decade, I'd have prisons overflowing; I'd have judges promoting pornography. Soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches, I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money.

If I were the Devil, I would make the symbol of Easter an egg, and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

If I were the Devil, I'd take from those who have and give to those who want it until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. And what'll you bet I could get whole states to promote gambling as a way to get rich!

I would caution against extremes in hard work, in patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on TV is the way to be. And thus, I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure.

In other words, if I were the Devil, I'd just keep right on doing what He's doing!

Give Satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To Sarah Malcomson at the passing of her grandfather, Michael K. Jones of Wintersville, OH.

FELLOWSHIP DINNER: TODAY at about Noon at the Fellowship Building. Join in this time of food and fellowship.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Canceled for this Tuesday, June 6th. Resumes Tuesday, June 13th.

AREA MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, June 10th, 8:30 a.m. at the Columbian, OH Church of Christ. Men are invited to join in this time of fellowship.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES: Tyler Miskimen, Western Beaver H.S.; McClay Moore, Oak Glen H.S.; Ashlee Phares, Beaver Local H.S.; Isaac Rosohac, Oak Glen H.S. Graduation Banquet: Saturday, June 17th.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: June 19-23, 7:00 p.m. with Gary Bailey teaching the adult class. Classes for all ages.

SUMMER BIBLE CAMP: July 10-15. Teachers are needed. If you would like to teach, a sign-up sheet is on the desk in the foyer. Submit camp applications ASAP.

PANTRY: Whole kernel corn.

REMEMBER WITH PRAYER & CARDS: Angie Malcomson (daughter-in-law of David & Janet), 2322 S. 8th Ave., North Riverside, IL 60546. Margie Chisler (Peggy Williams' sister), 1596 Daybrook Road, Fairview, WV 26570. Margie has been diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer.

SICK & SHUT-IN: David McCoy, Blondenia Orr, Betty Henthorne, Doris Dunham, Lewis Call (Cindy Miskimen's dad). **FOX NURSING HOME:** Mary Nelson. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller, Jim Mick, **CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE:** Eva Stefl (Rehab); Ella Beagle. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

THE NATURE OF SIN

It has been well put: “Sin will take you farther than you ever wanted to go, keep you longer than you ever wanted to stay, and cost you more than you ever wanted to pay.” Though the word “sin” has been dropped from the majority's vocabulary, the effect of its powerful presence in the lives of men should be a constant reminder it is a woeful reality.

1. *Sin is deceitful.* It is characterized in Heb. 3:13 where the writer warns “... lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” The devil is cunning. Jesus says he is a liar. When we commit sin we get more than we bargained for.

2. *Sin enslaves.* Jesus also says in John 8:34, “Whosoever committeth sin is the servant (slave) of sin.” The word slave is the translation of the Greek *doulos*, which means “to tie, bind, ensnare, capture.” In this passage it means “one who gives himself up wholly to another's will or dominion.” (Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon).

3. *Sin's pleasures are temporary.* It would be foolish to deny sin brings pleasure. We know better. What we need to have the wisdom to see, though, is that the pleasure produced by sin is short lived and is not worth the price paid. Think about the Lord's parable about the rich man in Luke 16:19-31.

Through Jesus Christ we can win the victory over sin. He is the only one who can deliver us from its captivating power (Col.1:13). By what Jesus did for us on the cross, and our spiritual response to the gospel, we can be freed and live abundantly forever (Rom. 6:23).

- Tim Childs, *The World Evangelist* (no longer in publication)