

The Crafty Old Devil And Email Attachments

The old devil and Satan walks about as a roaring lion with his eyes peering first this way and then that way, seeking some unsuspecting soul to devour (1 Peter 5:8). Satan is wily (Eph. 6:11), and will not hesitate at deception to entrap a person in sin (2 Cor. 11:14). Elders are to have a good report of them that are without, because of the danger we all face in falling into the snare and reproach of the devil (1 Tim. 3:7). Paul reduced to a few words what our resistance against the devil is to be, “Neither give place to the devil” (Eph. 4:27).

One of Satan’s most utilized darts to present temptation to man is deceit. The devil was a liar from the very beginning (John 8:44). When man began to advance in technology some two hundred years ago, the devil was not caught napping, he never is, you know. So when the inventions of man resulted in the big screen and the small one, he knew right away that using entertaining movies and television shows with a coarse theme thrown in here and there, and a bad word or two coming from the mouths of a Hollywood role player, might just be an effective way to deceive the children of God to a point where regardless of the muck and mire displayed for their entertainment pleasure, they would be saying, “It’s only fiction.” They could then be led away from the high standard of God’s righteousness to the muck and mire like the unwashed hog wallows in with passion and pleasure under the hot summer sun.

It didn’t take Satan long to find out there was some resistance to his plan by faithful Christians who were not asleep, so he said, “Just strictly fiction shows and movies aren’t appealing to all of them, so why don’t I throw in some true stories, maybe documentaries or heart-warming, generous, or helpful acts of people that will make them look like the salt of the earth, but I can slip in a bad word here and there in the dialogue, and those Christian’s will overlook it a little bit, because it depicts something real.” The result was that the wily old crafter entrapped a gaggle of more unsuspecting souls.

Satan, you know, is not satisfied with less than 100% participation in evil, so how his eyes must have lit up with the advent of the Internet, and he didn’t mind at all if it was Al Gore or someone else who invented it; what a tool it could be! Of course for those he already had under his thumb, the devil could use the rapidly increasing number of pornographic sites to keep his goats in the fold, but what could he do about those faithful Christians like Gospel preachers, elders, and others? With a flash of brilliance he noticed the thing called emailing, “I wonder if I could use that?” Sure enough he could. For instance, there were plenty of sob stories and political videos emanating from that miserable old American right, which had the purpose of defending the liberties of

freedom loving Americans. You know the people, members of the church of Christ. But Satan also noticed that many of those videos, speeches, and other clips were full of bad language and some other offensive content here and there. So the devil figured he could appeal to the patriotism and the soft bleeding heart feelings of some of those folks, and they would produce their emails attaching those videos without even stopping to think that at first their recipients would be offended by them, but gradually they would get used to the profanity, curse words, and the taking God's name in vain that showed up in the cuts and maybe even start slipping some of that language into their own vocabulary from time to time. The devil isn't dumb! He knew how gullible fickle man is, and he already knew that many of them had a longstanding practice of rationalizing that a bad word here and there doesn't ruin a good story.

I have said all of this to say that I am disappointed, and saddened by some of the video attachments that have been forwarded to me from time to time. One I received (a true story about a father and a son), had a player in it that all in the space of about ten seconds, used the word "hell" as a curse word, and then proceeded to take God's name in vain in the very next breath. And I am supposed to watch and appreciate such things? I do not. Once the bad word comes out of the person's mouth I immediately close the attachment and delete the email. The day I received the aforementioned email attachment I made a decision that anyone who forwards such videos to me in an email in the future will have their names added to my block sender list. I would like to think I can watch, without any concern about the content, the things brethren send to me, but unfortunately I cannot always do that.

I realize that there is a lot of important information on the web from conservative news sites, that as Christians and citizens of our nation we need to know about. Some of the news attachments are long, and it is not always easy for a sender to catch every instance of something offensive. Those are not the kind of attachments under consideration here. Any patriotic American wants and needs that information. So please keep sending those my way.

I do not like computers, and I use mine no more than I have to. More than once I have considered getting rid of the Internet, and my computer. I have thought that if I could find a good word processor, I would do just that. But then, there is information that I need from the web, so I'll keep it and the PC. But there are two things I can control. I can control what websites I visit, and I can control who can have messages delivered to my inbox. I automatically delete all spam that comes to my junk box, so that solves the problem wouldn't you say? But it does not solve the problem for those who continue to send such attachments to others on their contact lists. Theirs is a heart problem, and

my block sender list doesn't fix that. But anyone in that number can fix it themselves through repentance and asking God for his forgiveness.

Brethren, when Paul wrote, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth" (Eph. 4:29), had the Internet existed back then he may well have been inspired to add, "Nor your email messages, either." What was that short admonition of Paul again? "Neither give place to the devil." Be assured that when the apostle wrote that he meant not to give place even a little bit.