

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Review Republican
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PRESENT YOURSELF APPROVED TO GOD

Satan is not warring over those who are in the world, for he already has them in his grasp. His war is to conquer those who are sitting in the pew. Those who have been reconciled, he longs to take hostage once again. His strategy is deceptive, because he uses them to hinder the work of the church.

First, he deludes them with other goals in life which soon take priority over the work of the church and personal involvement. They become members of the body which becomes dysfunctional. Hands that will not work. Feet that will not travel to God's appointed place. A mouth that will not confess Jesus to others. Ears that soon fail to listen. A brain that refuses to think and dwell on the things above. Lame, blind and deaf, the church struggles to fulfill its purpose.

Second, he lures them into complacency. Having become satisfied with less than God's desire for their lives, they settle for adolescence rather than maturing to adulthood, while at the same time believing they are adults. They fail to meditate upon God's Word, except while sitting in the pew. They give token gifts instead of sacrifice. They listen to lessons with change or repentance far from their mind. Maturity is not even in view, because their eyes have been blinded. Eventually, they find themselves attending but not involved.

Third, he tantalizes their sense with false teachings with the purpose of taking others off course. Having become numb, new sensations must fill the void. Having not understood God's purpose they change their attitude from not wanting to go beyond what is written to stretching the limits as far as they can. Deluded themselves, they delude others to a false sense of security. They now must seek bigger, greater sensational things to keep the momentum going so their individual spirits can feel fulfilled. The appearance of great things happening blinds their eyes to the fact they have been taken hostage, and pride keeps them from being set free.

Forth, he stalemates their vision with past accomplishments. Boasting in the glory of a successful past program they fail to launch out into new, more productive, fruitful efforts. They might even nurture a program long after its

death. Individuals stop teaching and serving others after just a few victories. They fail to dream of God's use of their lives and God's vision for the church.

If the church and, we, as individual members, are ever going to be what God desires, the hostages in the pews must be freed. The only thing that can set them free is the truth. No mystical, sensational experience, just reasonable, plain truth. Only the Bible can reveal if we are held hostage. Only the Bible can set and keep us free. Read it, study it, and make it yours, that you might heed the warnings and not be taken hostage.

2 Timothy 2:14-26 (NASB)

14 Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless, and leads to the ruin of the hearers. 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth. . . . 19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness." . . . 22 Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23 But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. 24 And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

So What Should We Do? Take the time to study your Bible. You will not know real truth until you have found it within the pages of this dear book. You need to know it well enough that you can share it with others logically and patiently. When we continue reading the Bible we learn the difference between right and wrong. We learn the difference between righteousness and evil. We learn how to obey the Lord, serve Him and honor Him with our lives. How are you handling the word of truth? Don't be diluted, don't become complacent, don't be tantalized with false teaching, and don't rest on your past accomplishments as a child of God. We need to come to our senses and escape from the snare and bondage of the devil. So, will you choose God's will, or the will of satan in your life?

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