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JUST 3 PLAYS!

Paul warns us in **2 Cor.2:11** not to be ignorant of Satan's schemes against the believer. He warns us that we must "not be outwitted" by Satan.

Our lesson text tells that Satan has **JUST 3 PLAYS** in his strategy against the spiritually advancing believer.

In my sophomore year of HS, we played Hesperia in football. In first half, we used one play, slant off right and left guards, and scored nearly at will. In the second half, we went back to that same play, but they finally had a defense strategy against it. So we went to three passing plays, short, cross, and long. Once again we scored at will.

Here is the doctrinal point. It is the responsibility of the opponent to stop the play. "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

The Devil has **JUST 3 PLAYS** in his strategy against the spiritually advancing believer. Our lesson text gives us his 3 Plays. It is up to each of us to stop these 3 Plays.

<p>This lesson will study the 3 Plays in Satan's play-book by the following three points.</p>
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1. John begins by telling us these 3 Plays attack the LOVE of the Father.

They are designed to stop the spiritual progress of the believer and to turn him away from the LOVE of the Father towards the love of the world.

(1 John 2:15a) "**Do not love** (me agapao/ p.a.impv.2pl) [Mental affectionate attachment "I love"/ cosmos diabolicus] the world **nor the things** in the world."

Cosmos diabolicus is a belief system promoted by the Devil that is in opposition to the revealed will of God for your life (Matt.16:21-23; Luke 22:31-32).

This is the first imperative (command) in 1 John. It is given as a BIG RED FLAG warning. Note this command is in two parts (**nor/ 2:15a**).

As Church Age Believers (CABs), we have grace operating assets to equip us for victory in the Angelic conflict.

- "Because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4b)
 - **Spirituality**
- "This is the victory that overcomes the world – our faith." (1 John 5:4b)
 - **The Faith Cycle**
- "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." (2 Tim.2:26)
 - **Spiritual Growth Maturity**

2. **The first part of (1 John 2:15) is the apodosis (the ‘if’ clause) of a 3rd Class Condition (if / maybe) and the second half is the protasis (the ‘then’ clause). It is placed this way to emphasize a doctrinal point.**

(1 Jn.2:15) “**If** anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not (ouk) in him. (**then** or therefore) Do not love the world nor the things in the world.”

It emphasizes the danger of disconnecting yourselves from the love of the Father and connecting to the love of the world.

“Bait and switch” is Satan’s strategy in the Angelic Conflict (A/C) against the spiritually advancing believer (1 Pet.5:8-10; James 1:13-15).

3. **Now John explains the 3 Plays the devil used against the believer.**

“**For all that is in the world, - And those 3 Plays are the:**

- Lust of the flesh Judas Iscariot (Matt.26:14-16; 47-50; 27:1–10)
- Lust of the eyes Eve (Gen.3:1-7; 2 Cor.11:3-4)
- Boastful pride of life Peter (Matt.16:21-23; 26:31-35, 69-75)

is not from the Father, but (alla of contrast) is from the world.” (1 John 2:16)

CONCLUSION:

Satan has **JUST 3 PLAYS** and is confident that he can beat us with them.

BUT GOD!

(Isa.54:17) “**No weapon** that is formed against you will prosper; and **every tongue** that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their vindication is from Me, declares the Lord.”

(2 Cor.10:3-4) “For the weapons of our warfare are **not of the flesh, but divinely powerful** for the destruction of fortresses. **We are** destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and **we are** taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”