

## GOD'S PLAN & SATAN'S ATTACKS

### on

## THE CHURCH

### I. The DIVINE INSTITUTIONS. These institutions are designed by God for the protection, prosperity, and preservation of the human race. In each of these divine institutions, God requires personal responsibility to respond by faith in obedience to His will with consequences that follow. (Gen. 2:16-17)

- #1. \_\_\_\_\_ – One man and one woman in a mutually beneficial partnership (ideally designed for a lifetime) with the husband in the position of final authority and family provision. (Gen. 2:22-24; Eph. 5:22-25, 33)
- #2. \_\_\_\_\_ – Children are to be viewed as a gift from the Lord (Ps. 127:3-5) and created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27, 9:6; James 3:9), with parental authority to be obeyed and honored to benefit the child spiritually, physically, and emotionally in leaving a legacy of godliness in the next generation. (Genesis 4:1; Eph. 6:1-3)
- #3. \_\_\_\_\_ – Governing authorities within various spheres of a national entity with the responsibility to punish crime, praise law-abiders, protect its citizens, and create & maintain law and order. (Genesis 9:1-7; Romans 13:1-5)
- #4. \_\_\_\_\_ – The reality & establishment of various national entities in order to hinder satanic globalism & his desire to establish a one world government. (Gen 11:1-9; 2 Thess. 2:1-12; Rev. 13)
- #5. \_\_\_\_\_ – The spiritual union of saved Jews & Gentiles in the Body of Christ during this present age, which finds visible expression in regenerate local churches. (Mt. 16:18; Eph. 2:14-22, 3:1-12; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:15) Should the church be considered a divine institution?

### II. The DIVINE INSTITUTION of THE CHURCH.

#### A. The SCRIPTURAL BASICS of the “CHURCH”. {Matthew 16:13-18}

1. The *meaning* of "church" is a \_\_\_\_\_.  
What determines the nuance of “ekklesia” in each Scripture passage?
2. The *Builder* of the church is \_\_\_\_\_. What does the word “build” denote?
  - Who are not the builders & why is this important to remember? What does Satan promote?
3. The *beginning* of the church would be \_\_\_\_\_, beginning on the Day of Pentecost {John 14:20, 15:2, 17:20-25; Acts 1:4-8, 2:1-4, 5:11, 8:1-3, 11:22, 26, 12:1, 5: 1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 16:7}. What false teachings do these biblical truths destroy? That the Church ...
  - a. Started with \_\_\_\_\_ – some in Covenant/ Reformed Theology teach this
  - b. Started with \_\_\_\_\_ – most in Covenant/ Reformed Theology believe this
  - c. Started with \_\_\_\_\_ – some Baptists embrace this
  - d. Started during \_\_\_\_\_ – some Baptists & others teach this
  - e. Started after the conversion of \_\_\_\_\_ – Hyper-dispensationalists. When you consistently apply a normal, grammatical, historical contextual method of interpretation consistently applied to all the Scriptures so as to “rightly divide” them, what doctrinal position will you arrive at?

What difference does correctly understanding the nature, origin, and mystery of the Church make?

4. **The *owner* of the church is \_\_\_\_\_.** Why is this important to always remember and acknowledge? Because the church does not belong to the pastor {s}, the board of elders or deacons, the big giver, senior statesman, founding family, or to the denomination. It belongs to Jesus Christ.
5. **The *foundation* of the church is the \_\_\_\_\_.**  
What does Jesus Christ think of His Church? {Acts 20:28}

What issues does Satan incessantly attack toward believers and unbelievers? {Genesis 3:1-5; Acts 20:29-32; 2 Cor. 4:3-7, 11:3-4, 13-15}



What imbalances of spirituality are we naturally attracted or inclined to & must be warned about?

6. **The *durability* of the church is seen by \_\_\_\_\_.**  
\_\_\_\_\_. How can Christ's promise both encourage and warn us?
7. **The *nature* of the church is that there is the \_\_\_\_\_ church which consists of saved Jews & Gentiles from Pentecost to the Rapture who have become spiritually united in the Body of Christ {Eph. 1:22-23, 2:14-16} which finds visible expression in \_\_\_\_\_ churches around the world consisting of believers in Christ who are to regularly assemble or gather locally {Rom. 16:5; Col. 4:15-16; Heb. 10:24-25} to glorify God {Eph. 3:20-21}, to hear the Gospel & the supremacy & sufficiency of Jesus Christ preached {Col. 1:28}, to learn the Word of God {Acts 2:42}, to worship God in spirit and in truth {John 4:23-24}, to fellowship one with another {Acts 2:42}, to become equipped for their work of ministry {Eph. 4:12}, and so forth, and to then scatter to evangelize the lost in their spheres of influence.**

What about when a sound local church is not available in your area?

What about the "parachurch" and the "local church"? It is clear from Scripture that God has chosen \_\_\_\_\_ as the focal point of His ministry today (Eph. 4:7-16; 1 Tim. 3:15), including missions. Any missionary agency or parachurch ministry following this biblical blueprint must view itself as a servant and not sovereign to those churches. The mission's existence must serve to enhance and facilitate this divine model and mandate given to the local church, not vice versa.

**B. The SATANIC BATTLE Against the CHURCH. {Ephesians 6:10-24}**

**1. The Believer's ENABLEMENT. (6:10)**

**2. The Believer's ENGAGEMENT. (6:11-13)**

- a. The *command* - God wants you to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. What can you learn from this?
- b. The *purpose* - This command is needed in order to \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of spiritual warfare. Do you have spiritual battle fatigue?
- c. The *wiles or strategies* of Satan you need to withstand:
  - 1) The *promotion* of \_\_\_\_\_ - to DENY the supremacy & sufficiency of God and our constant need of dependence upon Him, which arrogance originated with Lucifer / Satan himself {Isa. 14:12-15; Ez. 28:11-15} and which objective or lie was later presented to Adam & Eve {Gen. 3:1-5}. and is still occurring today instead of walking in humility & faith toward God and His Word. {Mark 4:15; Eph. 6:14; Matt. 4:1-11; Rev. 2:1-7}
  - 2) The *permeation* of \_\_\_\_\_ - in which Satan seeks to DESTROY believers physically {John 8:44; 1 Peter 5:8-9} or have them COMPROMISE their walk & testimony out of fear and worldliness instead of being faithful to our Lord unto death & being later rewarded by Jesus Christ. {Mark 4:16-17; Rev. 2:8-11; 2:12-17}
  - 3) The *fabrication* of \_\_\_\_\_ - which undermines the truth, authority & sufficiency of Scripture {2 Tim. 3:16-17} in order to DECEIVE both the unsaved & saved with many lies or human viewpoint utilizing religion, "education", the media and many other means of deception {1 Timothy 4:1-5; John 8:44} instead of holding fast in faithfulness to the Lord till Jesus comes again. {Rev.2:18-29}

SATAN'S COUNTERFEIT RELIGIOUS SYSTEM	
Satan has...	
1.	his counterfeit <b>TRINITY</b> . (Revelation 16:13)
2.	his counterfeit <b>SYNAGOGUES</b> . (Revelation 2:9)
3.	his counterfeit <b>WORSHIP</b> . (Revelation 13:4)
4.	his counterfeit <b>ANGELS</b> . (Revelation 12:7)
5.	his counterfeit <b>SACRIFICE</b> . (1 Corinthians 10:20)
6.	his counterfeit <b>FELLOWSHIP</b> . (1 Corinthians 10:20)
7.	his counterfeit <b>DOCTRINE</b> . (1 Timothy 4:1-3)
8.	his counterfeit <b>GOSPEL</b> . (2 Corinthians 11:3-4)
9.	his counterfeit <b>MINISTERS</b> . (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
10.	his counterfeit <b>CHRIST</b> . (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)
11.	his counterfeit <b>MYSTERIES</b> . (2 Thessalonians 2:5-7)
12.	his counterfeit <b>POWER, SIGNS, &amp; WONDERS</b> . (2 Thessalonians 2:8-9)

- 4) The *seduction* of \_\_\_\_\_ - in tempting believers in Christ to live in ongoing carnality & worldliness in order to spiritually DEFEAT believers and HINDER their spiritual walk, growth & testimony for Christ {1 & 2 Cor.} as His ambassadors or to practically DIVIDE Christians due to an unforgiving spirit {2 Cor. 2:1-11} in order to hinder the practical unity of the church and their ability to strive together for the furtherance of the Gospel {Phil. 1:27}.

### C. The Believer's EQUIPMENT – Put on the Whole Armor of God. {Eph. 6:13-20}

For your own further study: **THE STRATEGIES OF SATAN**

#### **Satan's Activities Toward The LOST**

The Word of God teaches that...

1. Satan directs and enslaves the unbeliever's life. (Ephesians 2:1-3)
2. Satan blinds the eyes of the lost from the Gospel. (2 Corinthians 4:3-7)
3. Satan indwells certain unbelievers. (Mark 5:1-20)

#### **Satan's Activities Toward The SAVED**

The Word of God teaches that Satan seeks to...

1. terrorize believers with fear. (1 Samuel 16:14-23)
2. incite believers to trust themselves which is pride. (1 Chronicles 21:1-2)
3. discourage believers so they would curse God and not serve Him. (Job 1 & 2)
4. hinder believer's prayers. (Daniel 10:7-21)
5. confuse believers by twisting Scripture. (Matthew 4:1-11)
6. dominate believers with human viewpoint. (Matthew 16:21-27)
7. sift believers like wheat. (Luke 22:31-34)
8. encourage believers to compete with one another. (Acts 5:1-11)
9. tempt believers to sexually sin. (1 Corinthians 7:1-5)
10. promote unforgiveness among believers and divide them. (2 Corinthians 2:6-11)
11. corrupt believers doctrinally from the simplicity that is in Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:3-4)
12. buffet believers who are serving the Lord. (2 Corinthians 12:1-10)
13. gain a foothold in a believer's life through nursing anger. (Ephesians 4:26-27)
14. hinder believers from missionary activity. (1 Thessalonians 2:18)
15. entice needy believers to meet their needs outside of God's will. (1 Timothy 5:3-16)
16. persecute faithful believers. (Revelation 2:8-11)
17. deceive believers into a false one world religious system. (Revelation 12:9; 17:1-18)
18. accuse believers before God. (Revelation 12:10)
19. others?

