

2 Errors. 2 Strategies.

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-7 Kelly: Artists. Real. Thrill. Child@Risk. Thanksgiving Eve. Office Closed Thur.
- B. Slide8 Prayer:

II. Slide9 Intro: 2 Errors. 2 Strategies.

- A. Slide10 Andrew Delbanco, a self proclaimed *secular liberal* from Columbia Univ, in his book *The Death of Satan*, quotes from the the book *Silence of the Lambs*.

Slide11a It's the scene where **Officer Starling** (Anthony Hopkins) goes to meet for the first time the monstrous serial killer **Hannibal Lecter** (Jodie Foster). She goes to the cell and she's looking at him in hearing what he's done, asks, *Why are you here? What happened to you?* And Lecter responds, "*nothing happened to me Officer Starling. I happened. You can't reduce me to a set of influences. You've given up good and evil for behaviorism, Officer Starling. You've got everyone in moral dignity pants - nothing is ever anybody's fault. Look at me, Officer Starling. Can you stand to say I'm evil. Am I evil, Officer Starling?*"

1. Slide11b Delbanco, who is quoting this says, *Modern people, the modern West, cannot answer the Monsters question.* (150 yrs ago the West had deduced: *All evil has natural causes, scientific causes, psychological causes?*) But here in the Scriptures we see and understand...there is something **beyond** the natural, scientific, & psychological realm. *That there is a supernatural realm.*
- B. Slide12a 1 Pet.5:8,9 nkjv *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*
 - C. Slide12b 2Cor.10:3-5 nlt *We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. 4 We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. 5 We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts & teach them to obey Christ.*
 - D. Paul takes time now to prepare his readers for *the spiritual conflict of life.* 2 truths

1. **We have an enemy.** He's powerful and he's a master strategist in his warfare against us.
 2. **We have an enemy.** We can be powerful & we have a way to fight against him.
- E. 1st let's develop out a few words...then we'll look at the 2 Errors & 2 Strategies.
- F. **Slide13a Be strong in the Lord & in the power of His might – His might? Yep!**
1. This is God's inherent strength. Hence believers can be strengthened not only by **the person** of the Lord, **but** also by His **resources**. (How strong is God?)
 - a) **So** we **CAN** say **no** to that temptation that comes our way.
 2. **So, depend on God:** On **His energy**, on **His power**, and on **His resources**.
 - a) **Human effort is not enough.** Strength & power for the fight must come **from God**.
 - b) **How?** Remember your **Position** & your **Power**:
 - (1) **Position** – He has seated us w/Christ in the heavenly places.
 - (2) **Power** – Gods power is available to every believer.
- G. **Slide13b The armor really is a symbolic description of the Lord Himself.**
1. The armor is Christ & what He is prepared to **be** & to **do** in each one of us (He is **truth, rt, peace, faith, salvation, the word**)
 - a) Each piece is **how to lay hold of Him** as our defense against our enemy.
 2. It is not just Christ **available** to us, **but** actually **appropriated** to us.
Put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Rom.13:14
- H. **All armor is necessary** - It is necessary to include **all** the parts of the armor to protect oneself **completely** from the attacks of the enemy.
- I. **Slide13c We wrestle not against flesh & blood – Wait, what?** It sure seems like I am every day, struggling against human beings.
1. **Does a boxer fight against what he sees** (the boxing **glove**) **or** by what he **can't see** (the **fist** that is moving that glove)?
 2. **Since we fight against an invisible foe, we obviously need invisible armor.**
[That's why Peter couldn't fight the devil **w/a sword** in the garden]
 - a) You can only fight **spiritual warfare** w/**spiritual weapons**. [Word of God & Prayer]
- J. **Wrestle** = means, hand-to-hand fight.

1. God gives Satan rules & boundaries. Even UFC/MMA have rules to their fighting
 2. So, God gives Satan rules & boundaries. And one day Satan will Tap-Out.
- K. Slide13d Stand –[Military sense] *to stand & hold out in a critical position in a battlefield.*
1. We are not to **attack** Satan, **or advance against** him; we are to **stand** or **hold our territory**, that Christ has conquered.
 - a) Like Solomon, who simply needed to *keep* what his Father David had fought for.
- L. Slide13e Wiles (scheming/craftiness/strategies) – [μεθοδεία/metho-*DAY*-a; **method**]
1. This is the call to an **intelligent, strategic battle**. *i.e.* don't wear green camo worn in Vietnam, in desert combat (khaki).

III. Slide14 2 ERRORS

- A. We notice in *developing countries* the see life through very **spiritual eyes**.
Whereas in *1st world countries*, seeing things with spiritual eyes seems *foolish*. Normally believing everything can be **explained**.
1. Slide15a Don't **underestimate** - his powers, his strategies, His methods.
 2. Slide15b Don't **overestimate** - *be strong in the Lord. You will stand.*
 - a) **One says everything** is the devil. **The other says nothing** is the devil. (2 equal & opp)
 - b) **Everything is the devil** - this gives too much credit to the devil. **It attributes everyone of your problems to him**. **Your anger problem, your covetous problem, etc.** It's an *unhealthy interest* in the devil. **It's describes all power to him.**
 - c) **Nothing is the devil** - this sees the whole idea as *silly*. [its when you only think its the devil when **their head spins around & green stuff** comes out]
 3. **The devil likes both errors**. They both reduce evil. One is a **super** spiritual approach. The other is an **under** spiritual approach. One is **superstition** (over belief), the other is **substition** (under belief).
 4. Slide16 I believe there are **4 causes** for problems in our lives: 1) physical causes 2) psychological causes 3) moral causes [**you are guilty or angry of something**] 4) demonic causes [or, there can be more than 1, at work]

- a) I believe we must have a *complex* understanding of it, so we can fight successfully *all* that is against us (not just in 1 realm).

IV. Slide17 **2 STRATEGIES** [The devil lies to you 2 ways: through *temptation* & *accusation*]

A. Wiles/schemes/methods -

1. First realize, you are *never free* from his methods. [if I only lived in a **different neighborhood**. If I only was **healthy**. If I was only **wealthy**. If I was free from **TV** or my **computer**. If I only was a **missionary**]
2. The devil has methods. *A strategy portfolio*. The devil's playbook.
 - a) He has **schemes** in Skagway, & **schemes** in San Diego. **Methods** in Mogadishu, & **methods** in Murrieta.
 - b) He has a *middle class* book of **methods**, a *wealthy class* book, & a *poor* book.
 - c) He has an anger book, a covetous book, a **book tailor-made to your situation**.
 - d) He has book to mess you up, to make you weak, to make you fall, too trip you up, & a book to ruin your life. *Don't be ignorant of his devices*.

B. Slide18 So The main way the devil works is that he is a **liar** (devil/diablos=slanderer/accuser)

1. John White (counselor) Here's how the devil works. *Take a piano and open up the top and sing a note into it. The string that vibrates is the string that is a-tuned to your voice. That's what the devil does. He can't make you bad, he just makes a flawed person worse. He just aggravates what's in you, through lies.*
 - a) Eph.4:27 *don't give place to the devil*, vs.26 context is **anger**, letting the son go down on your wrath. Don't give him an anger foothold.
 - b) 1 Tim.3 *don't raise up a young man too early* (as he'll fall to his **pride**, being lifted up to early & thus puffed up).

C. Slide19a **THE DEVIL LIES TO YOU IN 2 WAYS:** through *temptation* & *accusation*. He doesn't speak audibly to you, but he *stimulates talk* that goes on in your heart. *Self-talk*.

1. **Temptation** - to get you to have **too high** a view of yourself. So you go & do things you shouldn't.

2. **Accusation** - to get you to have **too low** (self-hating) a view of yourself. **So you go & do things you shouldn't.**

a) **Slide19b** In **temptation** he is hiding from you *God's holiness & how much He hates sin*. He plays up His **love**.

b) In **accusation** he is hiding from you *God's love*. He plays up God's **holiness & wrath** towards sin.

(1) **Slide20** John Newton was writing a young man who was a christian & dealing with depression, & was under **accusation**. He was saying, *"I'm so awful, so awful, God can't love me."* John Newton knew he was under **accusation** & said, *You cannot be too aware of all your inward & inbred sins. But you may be, and indeed you are, affected by them. You express not only a low opinion of yourself, which is certainly right, but you also express too low opinion of the person, work, & promises of the Redeemer, which is certainly wrong.*

c) **How does this work?** Well, **Temptation & Accusations** are basically lies. *Things he leads you to think in certain ways & moves you to do what's wrong.*

(1) **Too high** a view of His **love**, **too low** a view of his **holiness**.

(2) **Too low** a view of His **love**, **too high** a view of his **holiness**.

D. **Slide21** Thomas Brooks (17cent Puritan), book *Precious Remedies Against Satans Devices*. He talks about 50-70 **remedies**...I've grabbed just a few.¹

E. **Slide22a-g** He asks, **How does Satan Temp us?**

1. **He shows you the bait and hides the hook.** (he has you look at the **short term pleasures** & hides the **long term misery**)
2. **He helps you rationalize sin as virtue.** (I'm not **greedy**, just thrifty. I'm not really **nosy**, just concerned. I'm not an **alcoholic**, just sociable)
3. **By showing you the sins of Christian leaders.** (so you say to yourself, *he/she did it too, nobodies really that pure*)
4. **Do it, God will forgive you, that's His job.**

¹ Adapted from a Tim Keller sermon

5. By making them bitter over suffering. (I have suffered, I deserve this. This is why the powerful, prominent men are always having these affairs, because what they say to themselves, *nobody knows how hard I work, how many sacrifices I make, I deserve this!*)
6. By showing Christians how many bad people seem to be having great lives. (*I might as well do it, playing by the rules doesn't pay off*)
7. By getting you to compare one part of your life to another. (I'm very good over here & over here, I do this & give there, so it's ok if I do that. Extreme form of this...*mafia hit men, I'm good to my mother, ok so I kill people but I really love my mother*)

F. Slide23a-d He asks, **How does Satan Accuse us?**

1. By causing us to look more at our sin than at our Savior. (all the parenting books will tell you, that if you give your child **1 compliment for every 1 criticism**, that child will grow up *hating themselves*. It needs to be 4 or 5 to every 1 criticisms. Because criticisms really lodge...compliments don't. There's reasons for that. The biblical reason is because we know that there's something *wrong with us*. In the same way, *for every 1 look at your sin you need to take 5 looks at your Savior*. And the devils all about making sure that doesn't happen!)
2. By causing Christians to **obsess over past sins** that have done damage that can't be undone.
3. By making Christians think that the troubles they are going through must be punishment.
4. By making people think that the inner struggles & feelings they have, Christians couldn't possibly have. (self talk, If I was a real Christian I would have these thoughts or desires)
 - a) Do you recognize any of these? He's playing you. He knows what *strings* you got & he's vibrating them. Know his schemes! *Tempting & Accusing*.

G. Slide24a This week *the problem*, next 3 weeks *the solutions*.

1. There are 100's of millions of battles being fought every day. **The field of battle is where? In YOUR heart. In YOUR mind.**
 2. **Know** what **he uses on you. Watch** out for self-talk. **Know** what your strings are
 3. **Then** when you're successful...he backs off **tempting** you or **accusing** you in those areas...*but then finds 3 more :[grrrrrr*
- H. **Slide24b** Vs.13 Msg - *Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet.*