

Religion: Man's Effort to Impress or Appease God; Christianity Is Man's Acceptance of God's Love & Forgiveness through Christ: Equal Privileges & Opportunities; Lucifer's False Apostles, 2 Cor 11:13-15

From cosmic 2 hatred and antagonism are: negative volition, antiestablishment, demonism, cosmic panaceas, anthropocentric academic speculation, and evil.

In religion, man seeks to gain the approbation of God through personal merit and human works. In Christianity, God seeks man through the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

All organizations have a structure with policy, plan, and a purpose. The plan of Satan is called evil and functions under a policy of works. Its purpose is the delusion of the human race. The organizational structure which Satan uses in this effort is called religion.

The plan of God is called The Good and functions under a policy of grace. Its purpose is to bring many sons into glory. The organizational structure which God uses in His effort is called, in this dispensation, Christianity.

Therefore, religion is man seeking God through works; Christianity is God seeking man through the work of Christ on the cross.

Thus Christianity is not a religion but a relationship with God through the grace provision of Christ's substitutionary spiritual death on the cross. We have a relationship with the God of the universe because of our faith alone in Christ alone.

As a result we are provided with equal privileges and equal opportunities to overcome assaults from the Dark Side and become winners in the angelic conflict.

We have the privilege of the royal priesthood by sharing Christ's destiny through the baptism of the Holy Spirit: positional truth by means of union with Christ.

We have opportunity to succeed in our mission by means of logistical grace provisions and the enabling power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

We not only have the privilege of prayer but the confidence of knowing that those prayers were heard and processed by God in eternity past and their answers were inserted into the computer of the divine decree.

We have historical impact by virtue of membership in the pivot which is the invisible force that preserves client nations in history.

We have confidence that we have divine protection and that our environment is encapsulated by Him. We know that we have meaning and purpose in life and that our lives are important in the overall scheme of things.

We therefore approach life with a positive mental attitude, content in the knowledge that through Bible doctrine we will be able to achieve spiritual sophistication through the protocol plan of God.

Religion does not possess and therefore cannot offer any of these privileges or opportunities.

The problem of religion is discussed in detail in Scripture and several passages will introduce us to several of Lucifer's current cosmic inventions.

2 Corinthians 11:13 - For such as these are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

The false apostles presented themselves as apostles of Christ in an effort to sway new believers away from grace and into legalism. False teachers today infest local churches disguising themselves in a cloak of pseudo righteousness while practicing heresy.

2 Corinthians 11:14 - And no wonder, for even Satan himself disguises himself as an angel of light.

By the agency of false teachers, concepts and ideas are communicated by the Dark Side. Couched in catch phrases lifted from Scripture, the lie is delivered to undiscerning souls, a tactic identified and described by Lewis Sperry Chafer:

By advocating much truth, in the form of a counterfeit system of truth, Satan can satisfy all the external religious cravings of the world, and yet accomplish his own end by withholding that on which man's only hope depends. It is, therefore, no longer safe to subscribe blindly to that which promises general good, simply because it is good and is garnished with the teachings of the Bible; for good has ceased to be all on the one side and evil all on the other. In fact, that which is evil in purpose has gradually appropriated the good until but one issue distinguishes them. Part-truthism has come into final conflict with whole-truthism, and woe to the soul that does not discern between them!¹

2 Corinthians 11:15 - Therefore, it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness whose end shall be according to their human-good production.

There is a correlation between the leader and the follower. Lucifer's goal and desire is to be like the Most High; his duplicitous followers wear the façade of sweetness and light.

¹ Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology* (Dallas: Dallas Seminary Press, 1947), 2:104.