



## The Inscrutable Question: L. S. Chafer's "Satan's Method"; Human Good Achieves Only Temporary Solutions to Man's Problems

Satan has always adapted his methods to the times and conditions. If attention has been gained, a complete denial of the truth has been made, or, when some recognition of the truth is demanded, it has been granted on the condition that that which is vital in redemption should be omitted. This partial recognition of the truth is required by the world today. 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-truth-ism has come into final conflict with whole-truth-ism, and woe to the soul that does not discern between them!

The real Church has by no means lost her foes, for they are now even more numerous, subtle, and terrible than ever before. These present enemies, however, like the unclean birds in the mustard tree, have taken shelter under her branches. They are officiating at her most sacred altars and conducting her institutions. These vultures are fed by a multitude, both in the church and out, who, in satanic blindness, are committed to the furtherance of any project or the acceptance of any theory that promises good to the world if it is apparently based upon Scripture, little realizing that they are often really supporting the enemy of God.

A system of doctrine may be formed which includes every truth of the Scriptures save one: exalting the *Person* of Christ, but not His *work*, and thereby emphasizing some secondary truth as its central value. This system will be readily accepted by blinded humanity, though the real power of God unto salvation has been carefully withdrawn.

Sad is the spectacle of churches meeting week after week to be beguiled by the philosophy of men, and raising no voice in protest against the denial of their only foundation as a church, and the individual's only hope for time and eternity! Far more honorable were the infidels of the past generation than those who minister in these churches. They were wholly outside the church. But now, behold the inconsistency! Men who are covered by the vesture of the church, ministering its sacraments, and supported by its benevolence, are making an open attack upon that wisdom of God which made Christ Jesus the only ground for all righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. Great religious activities are possible without coming into complication with saving faith. It is possible to fight against sin and not present the Savior, or to urge the highest Scriptural ideals and yet offer no reasonable way of attainment. There is a strange fascination about these undertakings which are humanitarian, and are religious only in form and title. And there is a strange attractiveness in the leader who announces that he is not concerned with the doctrines of the Bible, because the helping of humanity is his one passion and care; yet all his compassion is lost and his care is to no real end unless coupled with a very positive message of a particular way of salvation, the true understanding of which demands a series of most careful distinctions.

The moral problem, which is felt to some degree by every human being, is seized upon by almost every unscriptural system. The idea that man will stand on a basis of personal worthiness has been the chief heresy, opposing the central doctrine of grace, from the time of Christ's death to the present hour. It so permeates the church that few who preach are able to exclude it from their attempts at gospel preaching. It is safe to say that wherever the element of human merit is allowed to intrude into the presentation of the plan of salvation, the message is satanic to that extent.



- 1- This has been an extensive quote from Dr. Chafer. But we have taken the time to analyze his comments, written 55 years ago, and see its applications to our present day. Evil men and seducers do indeed wax worse and worse, and more and more believers are as a result being deceived by them. It is imperative that you not be among them. Human good not only penetrates the modern Gospel but it has also captured the imagination of pastors, crusaders, politicians, and the spiritual paupers of benighted Christendom into not only believing but executing Lucifer's desires by engaging in impossible attempts to reform and restore the *cosmos* to its Edenic heritage or to legislate a man-made millennial kingdom. This is the battle in which we have become engaged and over which we cannot be victorious without the consistent filling of the Holy Spirit and the continued and ongoing pursuit of the sophisticated spiritual life.
- 2- Therefore, we must come to appreciate that the most subtle part of the subtle battles that characterize the Invisible War are those waged between good and good.
- 3- It must be remembered that mankind is born genetically corrupt and spiritually dead. Absolutely nothing can be done about the former and only one solution is available for the latter.
- 4- The body is adulterated by the sinful nature in every one of its cells. The condition of the lost soul is resolved only by faith alone in Christ alone.
- 5- We have recently learned that if the soul is saved it is accompanied by the power to overcome the desires of the flesh.
- 6- Most efforts in the field of human good are motivated by desires to control the activities of the flesh or the ramifications brought about by the activities of the flesh which may be real or imagined.
- 7- You must remember that unbelievers are at the mercy of *cosmos diabolicus*. There is nothing anyone can do to help them on a permanent basis and efforts to help them on a temporal basis must realize this going in.
- 8- It is proper and advisable to help and assist an unbeliever in need. But doing so has no lasting impact on their eternal future. Thus your assistance should be motivated by grace but with the intent to make sure that along the way they understand that faith in Christ provides the only permanent solution.