

Text: Matthew 10:16 Behold I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Luke 22:31-32 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: (32) But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy bretheren.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

SUBJECT: Devil's Food



Growing up in a farming community, I ate a lot of field corn. Yes, not sweet corn but field corn—and it tasted good! In those days, farmers did not mind if community members pulled a few ears of corn from their fields for a quick meal. Growing up around so much grain and eating so much field corn, I had a natural assumption that most of it was for human consumption. When I became an adult I quickly learned that my assumption was wrong. Most of the grain produced worldwide is not produced for human consumption but it is produced for animal food; to feed horses, pigs, goats, cows, sheep, poultry, etc.

One may ask what does that have to do with devil's food? Before answering that question let us review a dictionary definition of Christian. *1.

1. A believer in the religion of Christ.
2. A professor of his belief in the religion of Christ.
3. A real disciple of Christ; one who believes in the truth of the Christian religion, and studies to follow the example, and obey the precepts, of Christ; a believer in Christ who is characterized by real piety.
4. In a general sense, the word Christian includes all who are born in a Christian country or of Christian parents.

With these broad definitions in view, many people can and in fact do lay claim on Christianity without ever receiving salvation from sin. Some have accepted Jesus Christ as the savior of their souls and some intend to accept Him as savior someday. Many attend church services week in and week out and do not realize they need to accept Him as the savior of their souls.

Observation of many of these people from the surface would leave one to assume they are feeding the fire of evangelism, they are sending up the praises that brings down the glory of God, they are feeding the fire that keeps the prayer wheel turning. But as the assumed primary use of most of the grain produced in the world is false, so is the assumed primary use of many of these people. The primary use of grain is for animal food. The primary use of many who fall under the broad blanket of Christianity are Devil's Food.

You probably say come on preacher, what are you talking about, human beings—devil's food? What is devil's food? Devil's food is human activity or inactivity as influenced by the devil (Satan), which helps feed his campaign of destruction against the purposes of God in human affairs.

Do you know that if the devil could not influence human activity either actively or inactively, he would be out of business? Each one of us should take a critical observation at our lives to see if the devil is influencing any of our activities. We should take the same observation to see if he is influencing any inactivity concerning God's purpose and plan for our lives. If you find influenced activity or inactivity in your life, you can rest assured you are being used to feed the devil's campaign against the purposes of God and can consider yourself a direct or indirect stockholder in the devil. If all the people who hold stock in a company sell all of their shares and no one bought them and the price go to zero, the company would go out of business. My Christian brothers and sisters and sinner friends, I declare unto you that if we withdraw ourselves from the devil's influenced activity and inactivity, the very activity and inactivity that he feeds upon, we can put him out of business. But everyone must do his or her part. Will you do your part, or will you be devil's food?

The Bible has given advance notice that the devil intends to feed on us to continue his campaign against God and God's purpose and plan for our lives. The description that Jesus gave, that we are like sheep in the midst of wolves, indicates the ferociousness of the devil's attacks upon us. Sheep cannot survive in the midst of wolves unless they have a watchful shepherd who leads them. We cannot survive against the devil unless we follow our watchful shepherd Jesus Christ as he leads us from the cross to glory.

Shortly before His crucifixion in which He died and paid the death penalty for our sins, Jesus warned Simon (Peter) of the devil's desire for his life. Jesus said, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat."

What did Jesus mean? The word desire in this context comes from (exaiteō), meaning to "ask from, demand of to ask or beg for one's self, to ask that one be given up to one from the power of another, for torture, for punishment." The word sift comes from (siniazō), meaning "to sift, shake in a sieve by inward agitation, to try one's faith to the verge of overthrow."

In other words, the devil demanded of Jesus, begged of Jesus that Peter be turned over to him for trial as Job had been turned over. The devil wanted to wreck his life! The devil wanted to try Peter's faith so severely that Peter would give up. He was betting against Peter, that he could make Peter jump ship, that he could make Peter abandon the faith, he was betting that he could make devil's food out of Peter. The devil is also betting against you today. He wants to beat you up, strip you down, and pulverize you for his consumption. He is betting that he can make devil's food out of you.

The devil and his demons are nothing but wrecking crews. They show up at the church service ready to do business. They show up at your home ready to do business. They show up at your job ready to do business. They show up wearing hard hats and steeled toed boots with the bulldozers and wrecking balls of hell, looking for somebody to pulverize and sift them like wheat. They show up looking for someone to make into devil's food. The devil wants to wreck your life today. Will you let him?

Jesus told Peter that Satan desired to have you to sift you as wheat. Jesus also told him, I prayed for you Peter, that your faith fails not. Notice that Jesus did not pray for him that he would not have trials. Jesus did not pray for him that he did not have to walk any high mountains or low valleys, but that when he would have trials and had to face the mountains and valleys and all the forces of hell beat against him that his faith fails not. One must take the proper precautions to ensure his faith fails not; for if his faith fails him, he will become devil's food.

Peter having learned well the lesson that Jesus taught him about the devil's desire and intention of sifting and devouring Christians, gave the exhortation to be sober - (alert) be - vigilant (watchful); because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. Devour (katapinō) means "to drink down, swallow down, to devour, to swallow up, destroy." (1 Peter 5:8)

When the devil is in this mode, he does not want to fool around with taking nibbles and bites. He wants to make a nice cocktail out of you and entirely gulp you down all at once. He wants to rock and capsize the ship of your faith that God has provided for you to cross the stormy seas of life on, and swallow you up in those stormy seas. He is trying to shipwreck the vessel that will steer you clear of hell and navigate you to heaven. Dearly beloved, you can rock the boat only for so long before you find yourself capsized on the seas of life, with the devil there to pull you under. My sinner friends you can only rock the boat for so long before you find yourself capsized in the lake that burns with fire.

Are you devil's food? You don't have to be devil's food. You don't have to be used by the devil to feed his campaign against the purposes of God. What are some characteristics of those who have become devil's food? In the corporate world personality typing is used to help understand the workforce as a means of helping stay focused on task. One worker may be typed A and another typed B, and so on. In the Kingdom world, observation shows there are several types of Christians who have become devil's food. Remembering Christian types can help us stay focused on task. Four of the Christian types are the Spotted, Light Bulb, Picture Frame, and Paper Tissue:

I. *The Spotted Christian* – This Christian type spends the requisite amount of time with



church activity, does good in the community, practices doing right by his fellow man, empathizes with the hurting, gives to those in need, and more. This type is also worldly in his behaviors because although he has a good practice of religion as James 1:27a tells him: “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction,” he missed James 1:27b “and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” Unspotted means “spotless, free from censure, irreproachable, free from vice, unsullied.” *2.

Unfortunately, he does not apply to his life the teaching of Titus 2:12, which teaches to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world. The world in this context means “the ungodly multitude; the whole mass of men alienated from God, and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ.” *3.

His worldly behaviors do not allow his life to show a clear distinction between being a child of God’s kingdom and a child of the world. It is hard to live in this world, have our social activity in it, transact our daily business in it, and not be affected by all that is in it. John in 1 John 2:16 states it like: “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” We must remember what Jesus said about those God had given him in John 17:14—“They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” We are in this world but we are not of this world, and we must make it our every endeavor to keep the world from tainting and spotting us.

The Spotted Christian generally does the good and right things in life but is a mistaken hypocrite because of his spots. Mistaken hypocrites are Christians who truly accept Christ and heartily rely on his redeeming blood for the salvation of their souls but are mistaken by those of the world to be hypocrites because of the worldly behaviors they display. Therefore, when someone who is not saved from his sin and knows of the Spotted Christian’s association with the Church and observe their worldly behaviors, they call them hypocrites. In reality they are not hypocrites because they are not pretending to be something they are not, they are just not being something they can and should be, and that is unspotted from the world.

Their spots lend to invalid reasoning of some to have no association with the Church. The devil feeds upon the Spotted Christian to discourage would be converts to turn away from the gospel message, saying I do not need to go to church to be around hypocrites.

II. *The Light Bulb Christian* – In Matthew Chapter 13 in the Parable of the Sower, Jesus tells of a person who planted seeds. Of the seeds planted, some fell on stony ground that did not have deepness of soil. Because the ground did not have deepness of soil the seeds quickly took root and plants quickly sprang up from them because the soil was not deep enough for the seeds to sink down into, for proper germination time and deep root.



Therefore, when the mighty power of the sun bore down on them they were scorched and because they had no deepness of root to extract enough nutrients from the soil, they withered away. We find a description of the Light Bulb Christian in this parable, in how quickly they whither—how quickly they burn out.

This Christian type has light bulb characteristics. When you buy a light bulb, it has a rated lumen-hour for its lighting element. It may shine up to that lumen hour, it may shine a little less, and it may shine a little more, but eventually it is going to burn out and stop shining. That's a depiction of the Light Bulb Christian. Jesus said in Matthew 5:14-16, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

God's light does not shine through the light bulb Christian very long because the lighting element in him stops shining and he quickly becomes devil's food. A big problem with the Light Bulb Christian is that the devil is often in control of the switch that sends the energy to the lighting element. The devil turns the Light Bulb Christian on and off at will. He turns him on to illicit drugs, alcoholism, sexual immorality, vices, conduct unbecoming of a child of God, and anything else that will keep that Christian from walking with God into maturity and being that light of the world. The light bulb characteristic is Satan's design for you, not God's.

If you find yourself walking in the shoes of the Light Bulb Christian, you will find that the devil will eventually turn you on and leave you on until you finally blow out. Then every now and then he will shake you around and listen to the blown-out element in you, and try to prevent you from going back to the potter for recycling. A whole lot of us today need to go back to the potter for recycling.

Why does one end up being a Light Bulb Christian? One of the primary reasons is the failure to nurture on the life sustaining nutrients in God's word. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” Ps 119:9, 11, 105 instructs us, “⁹. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? ¹¹. By taking heed thereto according to thy word. ¹⁰⁵. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” In God's word we find the source of strength to defeat the devil's design against us rather than fall prey to him and become devil's food.

III. *The Picture Frame Christian* -- This Christian type is characteristics of a picture in a frame of a person smiling. When you look at it, it just sits there and smiles at you. The picture is neatly enclosed in its protective frame. It depicts life, but it is just an inanimate object. It has no life at all.



This type looks like a Christian, his conduct is not unbecoming, he is in church most every Sunday, and he professes faith in Christ. But as a picture in a frame cannot talk and tell you of the joy depicted by the picture, so is the Picture Frame Christian for he does not share the joy of his faith in Christ with those who have not faith in Christ. He does not warn the unsaved of his eternal destination, by propagating God's word. As a picture does not think, the Picture Frame Christian does not think to not show respect of person to the rich over the poor and engage in the charitable works required to assist the destitute of this world. He does not think to tell others who needs to know, that Jesus loves them. This Christian type has received justification by faith, is satisfied with it, and his faith is quite inactive in the core of Gods work of redemption, beyond himself.

James depicts this Christian type in James Chapter 2. As part of his exhortation on having faith with respect of persons, in verse 18 he instructs: ¹⁸ "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." In verse 20 he instructs that faith without works is dead: ²⁰ *But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"*

To be clear, James is not speaking against justification by faith and he is not speaking for works under the Law of Moses as the means to obtain righteousness. Rather, he is speaking of works done in conjunction with justification by faith, works that are the natural outflow of the operations of faith, works that are evidence of faith. In other words, faith and works are inseparable under obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Works are consequence to, fruit of, and companion with faith.

Unfortunately, the Picture Frame Christian also has become devil's food through his inactivity. We must remember God has not given us this great salvation to keep to ourselves. He has not given us the great access to His throne of grace for our blessing alone. God wants us to share the blessings of salvation and love of the Father, He has given unto us.

IV. *The Paper Tissue Christian* – Observing the uses of paper tissue helps to understand



the Paper Tissue Christian type. What is paper tissue most commonly associated with? It is associated with messiness. When you make a mess by spilling something, you look for a piece of tissue in the form of a paper towel. When you want to wipe your mouth and hands during meals you look for a piece of tissue in the form of a napkin. When you want to blow your nose, you look for facial tissue. When you want to use the rest room you look for toilet tissue. When the devil wants to involve

someone in a messy situation to feed his campaign, he looks for a Paper Tissue Christian. Like paper tissue is associated with messy situations, so is the Paper Tissue Christian. This type habitually and consistently involves himself with messy situations. Whenever there is a messy situation going on, you will be able to find the Paper Tissue Christian. As paper tissue gets caught up in natural messiness, the Paper Tissue Christian gets caught up in all kinds of devilish messiness, and particularly when it comes to his Christian brothers and sisters and common fellow man.

Where you find situations with loud, confused, vehement shouting; bitterness; rage; evil speaking; ill will; slander; arguing; ruination; and such; you will find the Paper Tissue Christian. Where you find entire assemblies of local congregations disrupted, you will find the Paper Tissue Christian. Where you find sexual immorality among local congregation membership you will find the Paper Tissue Christian. Where you find division within local congregations, you will find the Paper Tissue Christian. Where you find droves of people leaving the congregation overnight with unexplained reasons, you will find the Paper Tissue Christian. Where you find church splits for no good reason, you will find the Paper Tissue Christian.



The Apostle Paul describes this type in his Epistle to the Ephesians when he says in Ephesians 4:31, “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.” He also describes this type in his Epistle to the Galatians when he says in Chapter 5 verses 15 and 26, “¹⁵ But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.” “²⁶ Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”

James in his Epistle describes this Christian Type in James Chapter 3. He gives his description through the untamed tongue that is an unruly evil and full of deadly poison; which is used to bless God and curse men; which is used to issue blessing and cursing out of the same mouth. He describes the bitter envying and strife in heart as something to not be gloried in and as lying against the truth, which is not heavenly wisdom, “but is earthly, sensual, devilish.” (James 3:8-10, 14-15)

God however, assigned us to the opposite. He assigned us to that which does not become messy with argument, to that which does not become sticky with ill will, to that which does not become stained with bitterness, to that which does not become rancid with slander, to that which does not become putrid with division. He assigned us to what Paul describes as a sweet savour.

In 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 he states, “¹⁴ Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. ¹⁵ For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: ¹⁶ To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?”

God assigned us as a sweet smell, a fragrance, a sweet-smelling odor, a thing well-pleasing to God. Note the verbiage-- a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish; to the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life.

The word savor (osmē) in both renderings means the same thing—fragrance. What a beautiful thing God is doing. We are not to only emit a sweet fragrance among those who are saved, but also emit a sweet fragrance among those that perish. Jesus said in Mark 16:16: “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Even among those who hear God’s word from us and bring damnation on themselves due to their unbelief, can still in their spiritually dead and condemned state experience the hope of salvation through the sweet fragrance of God in us.

God is doing a conformation work in His children. Romans 8:29 tells us “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” Think of the image of Jesus as He walked this earth. Among many wonderful things, He was humble, meek and lowly in heart, holy, righteous, a healer and forgiver. He was truth and brought light and life. God is working to conform you into this wonderful image.

As God does his conformation work in you to conform you into the image of Christ, stay mindful of what the devil is trying to do to you. The devil is trying to sift you as wheat. He is trying to turn you into a *Spotted Christian* to make your Christian witness ineffective. He is trying to turn you into a *Light Bulb Christian*. He wants to turn you on and off at will, and eventually turn you on and leave you on until you finally blow out. He wants to turn you into a *Picture Frame Christian*. As a picture in a frame depicting life is just an inanimate object incapable of activity, the devil wants you to be inactive in the core of Gods work of redemption. He wants to turn you into a *Paper Tissue Christian* to engage you in feeding his campaign against the purposes of God.

As you continue your journey, remember that as Jesus prayed for Peter, He also prayed for you: “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.” (John 17:20) Stay encouraged!

Prayer:

Father God, as I find myself in life as a sheep in the midst of wolves, give me your wisdom. Help me be sober and vigilant and protect me from Satan’s designs against me as you work to conform me into the image of Christ. Help me strengthen my brothers and sisters and cause no harm to them. Help me keep myself unspotted from the world. I ask that you show me how to live so I can be a part of Your light of the world. Help my faith be a living faith that produces good works to the helping and healing of others and bring glory to Your name. Please help me not be bitter, wrathful, saddled with anger, and given to evil speaking and ill will. Help me not be among those that feed Satan’s campaign against your purposes. I ask these things in Your son’s Jesus name. Amen.

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1. Webster's Dictionary 1828 - Online Edition, American Dictionary OF THE English Language: <http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/christian>
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