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THE BRIEF

Brief
#109

All Your Commandments Are Righteousness

In The Brief # 108, Satan's relentless schemes to deceive mankind were confirmed (cf. Gen. 3:1). In this short article, we will examine how effectively he uses religion. Of note, he does not mind speaking about God; even implying that he has a close relationship with Him. Hence, "*Has God indeed said?*" (cf. Gen. 3:3b) and "*For God knows that...*" (cf. Gen. 3:5a).

By using religious terminology, Satan can appeal to those who are seeking to know more about the Only True God (cf. Jn. 17:3), even though his intention is to mislead them. His "*human instruments*" are very effective at following "*their master's agenda*," which is first and foremost "*lawless*,"

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light (as he did when talking to Eve).¹⁵

Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works (2Corinthians 11:13-15; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

So, Satan and his ministers appear to be "*righteous*," but by God's definition of "*righteousness*" they are teaching the exact opposite,

For all Your commandments are righteousness (Psalm 119:172b; emphasis added).

And, as Jesus Christ said:

But *if you want to enter into life* (everlasting), *keep the*



I Marvel that You are Turning Away So Soon

commandments (Matthew 19:17b; cf. Mt. 4:4; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

But soon after Christ's death and resurrection, a new "*lawless gospel message*" was being taught within the church founded by Christ (cf. Acts 4:10-12),

I (Paul) marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him (Almighty God) *who called you in the grace* (forgiveness of sin) *of Christ, to a different gospel* (Galatians 1:6; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The truth is that no one can be justified by claiming they obey God's law and commandments because everyone has sinned (cf. Rom. 3:23). However, once a person has repented of their sins, they are not to return to them,

For when they (false religious teachers) *speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through licentiousness* (lawlessness), *the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.*¹⁹ *While they promise them liberty* (from obeying God's word), *they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.*²⁰ *For if, after they have escaped the pollution of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.*²¹ *For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness* (cf. Ps. 199:172b), *than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.*²² *But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed* (repented of sin), *to her wallowing in the mire* (returning to a life of sin)." (2Peter 2:18-22; Ed. notes in parenthesis; emphasis added).

So, Satan continues to teach "*the same religious message*" that he taught Eve. Specifically, you do not have to obey God's word in order to inherit everlasting life. This is another of his many lies, which ends in everlasting death.