

## If I Were the Devil...

As a preacher, I try my best to teach the Gospel and warn people of the dangers they may face. But sometimes we grow callous to the same message no matter how true it may be. One teacher might say  $2 + 2 = 4$  while another says  $3 + 1 = 4$ . Both are true but some may understand one statement better than the other. Sometimes different perspectives can help us understand truths more clearly. For this reason I want to write a few articles entitled, "If I were the Devil..." These articles will address the same warnings you have heard for some time, but we may better appreciate these warnings when we see how Satan uses various tools to drag us down.

If I were the Devil...I would do my best to keep you from going to church. Churches hate me. Preachers talk about how to stay away from me. Christians will encourage you to avoid me. At church you will pray that I don't have an effect on you. You will partake of the Lord's Supper, a memorial of Jesus' victory over me. And you'll sing songs that will make you feel strong and increase your desire to avoid me. I don't like church and I don't want you to go!

How can I keep you from going to church? I think I will make you busy. That's a good idea! Here is work, school, kids, chores, friends, family, doctor visits, errands, bills, and really funny television shows – that should be enough to keep you out of church! For good measure, I'll want you to be tired and maybe on the verge of getting sick – that will be just enough to keep you from feeling guilty for not going. Let's throw in work parties, ball games, math tests, vacation, and holidays for good measure. And besides, the Wednesday night Bible class is talking about Leviticus – who wants to listen to that for an hour?!?!

Once I get you use to "forsaking" that silly assembly, I'll want you to develop some good excuses so when that nosey preacher calls you'll have something to tell him. And besides, you still go on Sunday morning – for now!

I think this will work! Once I get you too busy to go to church and I get you away from all those other "bible beaters" you will have a lot of free time and we can hang out a lot more. After a while, you will be out of the habit and then I can really get you down without anyone to pick you back up. Yes, this will work really well!

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:23-25

"I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Psalm 122:1

"For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness." Psalm 84:10