Indulged In The Devil's Agenda

Tony Mauck · Ephesians 2:1–3

INTRODUCTION

- There was one phrase that he used, also in Ephesians 2, that stuck out with me, and I'm going to do a whole sermon about it. And it is the phrase, indulged in the devil's agenda.
- And you were dead in your trespasses and sins. That statement is riveting and should cause us concern, if that is indeed where we reside.

1 Those Outside of Christ Are Indulged in the Devil's Agenda

Ephesians 2:1–3; 1 Peter 4:1–3; James 1:26

- But where were we before that? Paul says we were indulged in the devil's agenda. And that's where those outside of Christ are.
- To live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For the time already passed is sufficient.
- If we do not bridle our tongues, if we do not exercise some self-control in our speech, if we just pour out whatever comes to mind, he says, this man's religion is vain or worthless.
- They lack perception. They don't see things properly. They have no clue as to their real condition.

2 Not Based on How I Feel, But What God Reckons

Jeremiah 7:4–10; Psalm 50:16–21; 2 Corinthians 2:11

- One's real condition before God is not based on how I feel, but on what God reckons.
- People in sin can rationalize anything, even about God's approval of their conduct.
- Do not trust in deceptive words, say. This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.
- These things you have done, and I kept silent.

3 The Misguided Believer Who Loses One's Way

Romans 6:21; Matthew 16; Galatians 2

- Thus, even covenant people at times return to such indulgences.
- Therefore, what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? Don't go back to that. For the outcome of those things is death.
- He was promoting the devil's agenda in trying to discourage the Lord from dying for the sins of the world.
- Here are people who come under the influence and sway of the devil even after they have come into Christ.

4 We Must Not Become Complacent About Our Walk in Christ

Hebrews 2:1

- It's not just a history lesson. It's also like Romans 6, it's telling them don't go back to that. Realize what you have in Christ.
- We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.
- One of the devil's most effective tricks is to find his way back into the driver's seat of our lives without us realizing what has occurred.

5 The Covenant Person Who Treats Others With Contempt

Luke 18; John 9; James 2

- The covenant person who loses one's way as they treat others with contempt. Or who engage in merciless judging.
- He doesn't care a thing about that younger brother. And his recovery spiritually. All he cares about is himself.
- All their religiosity could not make up for their contempt of others. The judgment will be merciless to those who have shown no mercy.
- If you don't have the right attitude toward people, you're not going to go to heaven.

6 The Hardest Part: The Way We Think

John 3:30; Philippians 2:5

- But there's another part of this. Oh, it's an important part. And I want to suggest to you that maybe it's the hardest part of them all.
- You can't go to heaven with hate in your heart. There may be more people on the day of judgment who were in Christ who will be lost because of poor attitudes than because they were inebriating themselves.
- We're on the same team trying to accomplish the same goal.
- The more you excel, the more I rejoice. Not envy and jealousy and hatred.
- Let this mind be in you. Which was also in Christ Jesus.

THE CHALLENGE

Where are you? Are you sure? You may feel fine. But is it really the case? That you're indulging in the devil's agenda and you need to come out of that mess while there's time and opportunity.

MY NOTES