

It's Super Bowl Sunday. Today, the San Francisco 49ers will face off against the Kansas City Chiefs. If you are familiar with the two teams or have watched any coverage leading up to the game you are aware that one team has a dynamic and explosive offense while the other has a very good defense.

The Chiefs have the best quarterback in football and he has countless weapons at his disposal. They're the kind of offense that can score on you every time they get the ball. Meanwhile, the 49ers have a stout defense. But as good as it is, it is going to be a challenge for them to keep the Chiefs from putting up points.

That's why every analyst points to the same thing for San Francisco to be victorious; control the ball and the clock. Everything the 9ers do will be built upon this strategy. The goal is to keep the Chiefs offense on the sideline. That means their offense will focus on running the ball and chewing up time, limiting the number of opportunities the Chiefs have to score. The San Fran defense will focus on impeding the passing game of the Chiefs, forcing them to run the ball and take even more time off the clock; again leading to fewer chances to score.

Their game plan is built around one key principle

Similarly, Satan's attack against humanity is built on a primary tactic. That tactic is deceit. Everything the Devil does flows from this principal principle. Whether it be false religions, humanistic philosophies, or political punditry all schemes of Satan are rooted in this one key stratagem. The Bible makes this clear to us in . . .

Scripture: Revelation 12:9

I. The Foundation of Satan's Schemes

A. **Satan's Deceit**

1. Whole World

a) Humanity breaks down into two groups

(1) Matt. 12:30; Lk 11:23

(2) 1 John 2 :15

b) Satan attacks both

(1) Deception of the Lost

(2) Deception within the Church

(a) Corporate and Individual

B. **Satan Snatches Away the Gospel** (Matt. 13:19)

1. Worldly Wisdom

a) Worldly wisdom deceives the lost into mistaking knowledge for wisdom and knowledge makes man arrogant (1 Cor. 8:1)

b) Worldly wisdom deceives the lost into believing the Gospel is foolishness (1 Cor. 1:18)

- c) Worldly wisdom deceives the lost into trusting their own wisdom for salvation (1 Cor. 1:21; Col. 2:23)
- d) Worldly wisdom deceives the lost into thinking they're superior when they're in fact sinful (James 3:13-16)
- 2. Godly Wisdom
 - a. Godly wisdom reveres the Lord and humbles man (Prov. 9:10; Matt. 5:3)
 - b. Godly wisdom reveals the truth of the Gospel (2 Tim. 3:15)
 - c. Godly wisdom reveals that worldly wisdom is foolishness (Rom. 1:22; 1 Cor. 1:19)
 - d. Godly wisdom reveals itself through Christian living (James 3:17)
- C. **Searching Ourselves to Determine Who We Are Serving** (Rom. 6:13)
 - 1. Weapons
 - a) Unrighteousness
 - (1) Are you serving in your own wisdom?
 - (2) Does your behavior reveal worldly wisdom? (James 3:17)
 - (3) Does your wisdom deny or compromise the truth of God's Word?
 - (4) Does your wisdom have you fighting the lost?
 - b) Righteousness
 - (1) (James 1:5)
 - (2) Does your behavior reveal godly wisdom? (James 3:18)
 - (3) Does your wisdom defend and confirm the truth of God's Word?
 - (4) Does your wisdom have you fighting the Enemy and his schemes?

This morning, we have seen that the foundation of Satan's schemes is deceit. He desires to deceive not only the lost but also the saved. In the case of the former, he is seeking to prevent salvation. In the case of the latter, he is trying to retard sanctification and kingdom growth (both in width and depth).

In order to ensure we are serving as weapons of righteousness rather than as weapons of unrighteousness we must allow the Holy Spirit to search us and try us. We do not want to be used by Satan to harm the cause of Christ.

So, I encourage you to use our time of invitation to undergo a wisdom analysis performed by the Spirit? And if upon doing so, you find yourself practicing worldly wisdom rather than godly wisdom, come and repent. Petition the Lord for his wisdom for his glory and the advancement of his kingdom in your life and in the life of others.