

## The Attack of the Cultural Christian

“It was a typical Sunday morning with people eating breakfast and getting ready for Church services. And it appeared that the inhabitants of this island were going to be blessed with yet another beautiful sunny day.

But all that was to change in a matter of seconds. At 7:55 AM, Logan Ramsey looked out his window and spied not a palm tree in this tropical paradise, but a plane. And normally this wouldn't have been an unusual sight except that this plane dropped a bomb.

For the next 1½ hours over 350 enemy planes bombarded this American base. The surprise was complete. The destruction made easy. Why?

Because not only was every single warning sign completely ignored, but the American planes were parked in neat rows creating a dive bombers a dream come true.

In fact, 10 minutes into the attack, a bomb crashed through the deck of one of the battleships and ripped the sides open like a tin can and within minutes the massive ship sunk to the bottom taking 1,300 men with it.

And when the smoke cleared and the final explosion was silenced the damage was assessed. More than 180 planes were obliterated, several ships were sunk and incinerated, and 2,343 people were annihilated.

It was a day that will live in infamy. The year was 1941. The attack of course, was on Pearl Harbor.”

Now, we all know about the attack on Pearl Harbor and how it was one of the worst U.S. disasters of all time, right? But what if I were to tell you that I know of a disaster that makes Pearl Harbor look like **child's play**. And what if I were to tell you that **this disaster** didn't occur in just one morning, but it's going on **right now today** and it's been leaving a trail of

death and destruction for centuries. That's right. I'm talking about **The Attack of the Killer C's**.

People of God, as American troops to go off to war to fight an external enemy, so the American Church needs to go to war and fight the **internal enemy** of our souls, satan. Why? Because whether you feel it, see it, or believe it or not, the moment you got saved you entered a spiritual war against a **demonic host** whose sole purpose is to destroy you and extinguish your effectiveness for Christ.

Therefore, in light of these wars raging all around us, we're going to continue in our study, **The Attack of the Killer C's**. Last week we saw that the **first weapon** the enemy fires at us is the attack of the **Casual Christian**. And there we saw that the devil will trick you and I into actually weakening the Church and the gospel. How? By being casual in our attendance and causal in our witness.

Oh, but that's not the only thing. The **second weapon** the enemy fires at us is the attack of the **Cultural Christian**. But hey, don't take my word for it. Let's listen to God's.

**Luke 9:57-62** "As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, I will follow you wherever you go. Jesus replied, Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.

He said to another man, Follow me. But the man replied, Lord, first let me go and bury my father. Jesus said to him, Let the dead bury their own dead,

but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God. Still another said, I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good bye to my family.

Jesus replied, No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

Now according to our text, Jesus doesn't even hesitate to expose the **lame excuses** people come up with, for not following Him like they should.

Oh, they might sound very rational and extremely important, but it only

shows their hearts aren't really devoted to God. They were actually **still**

**devoted** to the things of this world. Therefore, Jesus lays it on the line and

declares that this kind of worship is completely unacceptable to Him.

Anyone who tries to put one foot in God's kingdom and one in this **culture**

is not fit to be His disciple.

And people that's why the **first sign** to indicate a when person's

become a **Cultural Christian** is this, **When They Long for Created**

**Things More Than the Creator**. You see the **first definition** of the word

**cultural** means “to have an acquired taste for the material things of this

world.” And folks this is one of the very first things the devil does to keep

Christians from becoming a mighty army. He throws out the bait and says,

“You don't want study the Bible or pray do you? No! You know that stuff's

boring. I mean, wouldn't it be much more fun to get some entertainment or

go buy something nice for yourself?” And folks you might think a **cultural**

**taste for things** is no big deal because after all it doesn't hurt anyone, right?

Wrong! People of God, this is a lie from the pit of hell because the devil

knows that a **cultural taste** leads to **catastrophes**.

And the **first catastrophe** is that it **Destroys Your Tastes for the Things of God**.

**Acts 2:42-43** "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles."

Folks, the Bible simply declares that the secret to a powerful Christian life is by being **daily devoted** to the Word of God and in praying to God.

And people, the devil knows it's these daily spiritual exercises that gives us the **power** we need in our walk with God. And since he can't take away our salvation, the Scriptures, or even our freedom to spend time with God, here's what he does. Boy is he slick. Since he can't take away the spiritual, **he seduces us with the material**. Slowly, little by little, he gets us to develop a taste for created things instead our Creator. And it's such a **seductive process** that most of the time we don't even realize it's happened to us until it's too late. So how do you know if you've started living for created things more than the Creator? Great question, I'm glad you asked. All you got to do is ask yourself this question, "What really disturbs you?"

- Are you disturbed at missing a day's work or missing a Church service?
- Your garden not growing or your Church not growing?
  
- Your newspaper unread or your Bible unopened?
- Your missing your favorite TV program or missing a good Bible study?
  
- Your children late for public school or late for Sunday School?
- Your housework being neglected or your Church work being neglected?
  
- Your inability to keep up with your neighbors or the millions who do not know Christ?
- A scratch on your new car or a soul lost in hell?
  
- WHAT REALLY DISTURBS YOU MOST?

People of God if you love any book more than the Bible any pleasure more than prayer any satisfaction more than the Savior then WATCH OUT! The enemy's after you! He's sucking you dry of your spiritual power! And the reason why the American Church has it's back up against the wall is because they **hardly even study the Bible at all**. The reason why the American Church is so powerless is because they're so prayerless. Oh, people, do you see the cunningness of the enemy? Do you see what he's up to?

Oh but that's not all. The **second catastrophe** is that it **Destroys Your Time for the Things of God**.

**Matthew 23:11** "Do you want to stand out? Then step down. Be a servant."

Folks, the Bible declares that if you want to live a life that stands out with **true significance**, then you need to get busy serving others. And as we saw in the last chapter, God gives each Christian supernatural gifts for that very purpose. And when that happens, our service becomes **eternally valuable** which makes our lives eternally purposeful. And people, the devil knows this but since he can't take away our spiritual gifts, here's what he does. He takes away our time to use our gifts. How? **By getting us to live for created things instead of our Creator.**

You see, in order to get more things you have to get more money. But in order to get more money you have to **give more time** to earn it, right? And on and on it goes until you have no time to serve God because now you're too busy serving things! And folks, you tell me if the American Church has lost its time to serve God. Here's a list of the activity of the average American Church member.

- 10% of reported church members cannot even be found
- 20% never pray
- 25% never read the Bible
  
- 30% never attend Church services
- 40% never give to any cause
- 50% never go to Sunday School
  
- 70% never give to missions
- 75% are never engaged in any Church activity

- 80% never go to a prayer meeting
- 90% never have family worship
- 95% never ever win a soul to Christ

Now I don't know about you guys, but I'd say the American Church has its priorities just a little bit out of whack, how about you? I'd say somebody's doing a real good of **distracting them**. People of God, we may make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give!

Therefore, if you don't have time to serve God then you better WATCH OUT! The enemy's after you! He's tricking you into wasting your life!

The **second sign** to indicate when a person's become a **Cultural Christian** is **When They Long for the Teachings of Man More Than the Word of God**. Folks, the **second definition** of the word **cultural** means "to have an acquired taste for the intellectual things of this world." And here's what happens. The devil throws out the bait and says, "You don't want to be labeled as being intolerant or narrow-minded do you? I mean, doesn't it make sense to listen to what other cultures have to say?"

And folks you might think a **cultural teaching from man** is no big deal because after all it doesn't hurt anyone, right? Wrong! People of God, this is a lie from the pit of hell because the devil knows that a **cultural teaching** leads to catastrophes. And the **first catastrophe** is that it **Keeps You from the Truth**.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.”

Folks, contrary to what society would say, the Bible not only came from God **but it's the only book that gives us the power** to live for God. And people, the devil knows this but since he can't keep the Bible away from the Church, here's what he does. **He keeps the Church away from the Bible.** How? By seducing us with fun-filled entertainment and feel good teachings of man. I mean after all, everybody likes to have fun and be told how wonderful they are, right? Of course! And so slowly over time the American Church no longer wants to hear the truth. No! They only want to hear what makes them **feel good**. And people how ironic it is that the very Scripture that warned of this behavior, is the very same Scripture people no longer want to hear.

**2 Timothy 4:3** “For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to right teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever they want to hear.”

People of God, pay attention! This Scripture has been fulfilled before our very eyes! People in the Church don't want to hear the truth anymore. No! That might make them feel convicted and by cracky that doesn't **feel**



**good.** And folks this attitude has gotten so bad that it even has it's own label.

It's called, "salad-bar religion," Check this out.

"Salad-bar religion denotes the trend where people pick and choose religious beliefs, doctrines and practices – mixing and matching them much as they would select food in a cafeteria.

This is not just popular among non-Christians, but also among people who consider themselves to be Christians. People borrow from different traditions, then add them to whatever religion they're used to.

Americans write their own Bible. They fashion their own God. More often than not, the God they choose is more like a best friend who has endless time for their needs, no matter how trivial.

Scholars call this, 'domesticating God,' turning Him into a social planner, therapist, or guardian angel. We have trivialized God. We assume that God is the butler who serves you for one reason, to give you a happy life. We've turned Him into a divine Prozac."

People of God, the American Church **is on drugs** if they think that God is going to conform Himself to their **culturally created** desires. We are to be conformed into His image, not the other way around. Oh, do you see the cunningness of the enemy? Do you see what he's up to?

Oh but that's not all. The **second catastrophe** is that it **Keeps You In the Dark.**

**1 Corinthians 1:19-20** "As the Scriptures say, I will destroy human wisdom and discard their most brilliant ideas. So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made them all look foolish and has shown their wisdom to be useless nonsense."

People of God, the Bible declares that even the most brilliant words of man is merely nonsense in comparison to the Word of God. In fact, they're not only nonsense, they're **poisonous**. And people, the devil knows this and so he not only keeps us away from the truth, **he gets us to stay in the dark**. How? By eating the poisonous teachings of man. And boy, have people been falling for this one hook line and sinker. People we live in a society today where the average person listens more to the baloney on talk shows **than the truths contained in the Bible**. People would rather go see a so-called psychic **instead of their local Pastor**. Our world is quick to honor the scientists who study the stars but we refuse to acknowledge the One Who made the stars in the first place!

People of God, when is the American Church going to wake up and see that the teachings of man are a one way ticket to **spiritual suicide!** Rather than giving people a better life on earth, they're actually leading them straight to hell. But don't take my word for it, let's listen to the final words of some of the world's **so-called** wisest men.

DAVID HUME: The atheist died in utter despair with an awful scene crying out, "I am in the flames!"

VOLTAIRE: "I am abandoned by God and man! I shall go to hell! O' Jesus Christ!"

KARL MARX: Was on his deathbed surrounded by candles burning to lucifer and screamed at his nurse who asked him if he had any last words, “Go on, get out! Last words are for fools who haven't said enough.”

NIETZSCHE: Died insane, completely out of his mind.

JEAN-PAUL SARTRE: “I have failed.”

SIR THOMAS SCOTT: “Until now I thought there was no God or hell. Now I know there is both, and I am doomed.”

J.H. HUXLEY: The famous agnostic, suddenly looked up and whispered, “So it is true.”

SIR FRANCIS NEWPORT: “Do not tell me there is no God for I know there is one, and that I am in his angry presence! You need not tell me there is no hell, for I already feel my soul slipping into its fires! I know that I am lost forever.”

Now I don't know about you guys, but I'd say those men found out too late that their so-called wisdom wasn't so wise after all, how about you? People of God, if the **American Church** is going to stay out of the dark and become strong in the light, then we've got to **keep our teachings on the things of God** not the things of this world. We've got to open our eyes to the tricks of the enemy, or we'll never become that mighty Army for God Almighty.

Therefore, if you're suffering from an **Attack of the Killer C's** and you've actually become a **Cultural Christian**, here's what you do. It's called repent, and ask for God's forgiveness. And people this is the great news. Once you do, because God loves you as His child, He's going to go

right to work and turn you from a Cultural Christian into a **Committed Christian**. And folks a committed Christian isn't that hard to spot. You see, they'll not only love hearing the truth more than their feelings, but they'll even forsake their very lives **for the truth** if necessary, like John Hooper did.

“The year was 1555 and his crime was that he refused to turn from the truth. He was not going to deny his Protestant beliefs and accept the Pope as the head of the Church of England. And so Mr. Hooper was burned at the stake.

After Hooper forgave the man who made the fire, it was lit, but the fire builder had used green wood, and even when it finally caught, the wind blew the flames away from Hooper.

A second fire was lit, but it only burned low, not flaring up as it should have. The fire was lit the third time but even that didn't do much good because of the wind.

Even when Hooper's mouth was black and his tongue swollen, his lips continued to move until they shrank to the gums. He knocked on his breast with his hands until one of his arms fell off.

Hooper was in the fire for over forty-five minutes, suffering patiently even when the lower part of his body burned off and his intestines spilled out. Now he reigns as a blessed martyr in the joys of heaven that are prepared for the faithful in Christ.”

People of God, search your heart and ask yourself, “Would you with all your heart **be willing to burn for the truth of God** or does your heart still burn for the things of this world?”

People of God, there's a war going on and its not just abroad but its right here in our own country. It's a cosmic battle for the souls of men and

women all around us. The stakes are high and millions of lives are at risk. And if we're ever going to win this war then the American Church needs to once again shine for Jesus Christ. People, this is no time to be a **Cultural Christian!** Why? Because the alarm has sounded. We're under attack, **The Attack of the Killer C's**. Don't let the enemy get you! Amen?

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To find the way to God, to understand the *truth* of God's Word, and to received the gift of eternal *life*, begin by repentance and faith through a prayer like this:

“Dear God, I understand that I have broken Your Law and sinned against You. Please forgive my sins. Thank You that Jesus suffered on the cross in my place. I now place my trust in Him as My Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.”

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