part 2

If I Were Satan's Minister. . .

13 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.
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" (2 Cor. 11:13-15, NKJV*)

** All following verses are NKJV unless otherwise noted*

Lesson 1

- if I were Satan's minister:
  - I would convince you that a person like me cannot exist
  - I would convince you that it is wrong to test your preacher
    - after all sincerity alone is all that matters
  - I would preach "salvation by grace through faith alone"

If I were SATAN'S Minister. . .

1. I would teach that it is impossible for us to understand the Bible alike
   - since we have so much in common, doctrinal differences do not matter

?

Do you understand this statement?

If so, then isn't the argument self-defeating?

Q/A

- must we understand the death of Christ alike?
- must we understand the deity of Christ alike?
  - if "yes," then why not understand the church, plan of salvation, etc. alike?

Bible Teaches

- know truth and be made free (Jn. 8:32)
- God desires all men are to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4)
- can read and understand (Eph. 3:4)
- commanded to understand the will of the Lord (Eph. 5:17)

2 Peter 3:15, 16

"15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, **in which are some things hard to understand**, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND

The Author of Confusion

- not God (1 Cor. 14:33)
- Satan (2 Cor. 4:1-4)
  - natural man (1 Cor. 2:14)

The Lack of Understanding

17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,
18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;
19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.
(Eph. 4:17-19)

Baptism

- all can understand the *element* of baptism
  - "When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water. . ." (Matt. 3:16)
  - "Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?'" (Acts 8:36)

Baptism

- all can understand the *mode* of baptism – burial
  - "buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead" (Col. 2:12)

Baptism

- Everyone can understand the purpose of baptism – 1 Peter 3:21
  - "Baptism, which is like that water, now saves you. Baptism doesn't save by removing dirt from the body. Rather, baptism is a request to God for a clear conscience. It saves you through Jesus Christ, who came back from death to life" (GWV)
  - "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us. . ." (KJV)

Singularity of the Church

- all can understand the singularity of the Lord's church
  - "For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body" (Eph. 5:23)
  - "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling" (Eph. 4:4)

The Bible is Easy To Understand

(Apart From the Doctrines of Men)

If I were SATAN'S Minister. . .

2. I would teach that a loving God is **too good** to send anyone to hell

A Loving God

- where did you learn God was a loving God?
  - ANSWER: the bible

The Same Bible Also Shows

- that He was not too good to
  - destroy the world with water (2 Pet. 3:5-7)
  - incinerate Nadab and Abihu for offering false worship (Lev. 10:1-3)
  - destroy Herod with worms for taking praise that belongs only to God (Acts 12:23)

The Same Bible Also Shows

- that He is not too good to
  - destroy both body and soul in hell (Matt. 10:28)

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

2 PLACES

7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,

8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power

noun

The Cross

- Jesus' death shows the magnitude of sin and love
  - Mary at the cross
  - knew she became pregnant as a virgin
  - knew He was the Son of God
  - knew her son was being crucified for something He didn't do
  - the death of Christ showed God's compassion to save men and His willingness to pay for it
    - the cost incurred by sin is not small

If I were SATAN'S Minister. . .

3. I would teach that you have plenty of time to "get religious"
   - decide later. . .you have plenty of time

God's Ministers Press Urgency

- "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16)
- God will never promote influence the attitude of delay!
  - "Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self–control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, 'Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you'" (Acts 24:25)