

The Devil is in the Details

➤ = next PowerPoint

➤ Intro:

- **German proverb:** “The devil is in the details” (German Proverb)
- **secular meaning:** the devil’s in the details
“When people say that the devil in the detail, they mean that small things in plans and schemes that are often overlooked can cause serious problems later on” (UsingEnglish.com).
- **for Christians, this phrase has an even deep meaning**
 - lesson suggestion: Scott Love

➤ The devil wants us to think the details aren’t important

- **devil tries to hide the truth, coverup the truth, disguise the truth, tries to get it in the fine print so we don’t pay attention**
 - **if he gets one person to neglect the details** others will follow
 - **1 Cor. 5** a little leaven, leaven the whole lump
 - **1 Cor. 15:33** evil companions corrupt good morals
- **illus.: print advertisement, details in small print, can’t read** on tv or print ads, some try to hide the truth
 - **one day had to wear three pairs of glasses** the other day to read the fine print
 - don’t want us to think details are important, want to hide details
- **illus. radio car ad on radio, sounded like selling new car for around 5k**, details so fast couldn’t understand, finally heard it enough to catch the details, lease with all the money paid up front
 - don’t want us to think details are important, want to hide details
- **2 Cor. 4:4 Satan trying to blind people with sin**, so they don’t see light of the gospel – **Satan, details not important, hiding**
 - **many people today are lost because they don’t think the details matter**
 - **illus.:** morality – white lie, cheating on taxes, stealing from employer
 - **illus.:** worship – music, Lord’s Supper
 - **illus.:** salvation – baptism
- - **2 Pet. 1:8-9 Christians: if we stop growing spiritually, we’ll become blind**, forgetting our purification
 - **if we slip back into a life of sin, become blind** because of darkness (sin)
 - **Satan, details not important, hiding**

➤ **The details are important to God and His people**

- **1 Ch. 28:19** God made David understand all the details of the pattern, so that he could pass them down to Solomon who could then build the temple (vs. 11-18 the details)

- **1 Ch. 28:20** Solomon, strong and courageous, and carry out every detail

➤ - **Matt. 5:18** every detail was important to Jesus – fulfilled of the law

- **Matt. 5:19** Jews could lose their souls by annulling one of the least commandments

➤ - **Lev. 10:1-3** must observe details to honor God (obey), if not we're punished

- Nadab and Abihu, Aaron's sons, took fire from the wrong place to burn incense, fire came from heaven and devoured

- **vs. 3** if not give heed to details, not treat God as holy, not honor Him

- **if we learn anything from the Bible, the details are important to salvation**

- the devil is in the details, because if he can convince us to neglect one little thing, he's convinced us to give up salvation

- **details are important because they show whether we truly reverence and love God**

- sinful men are not concerned about the details

- holy and righteous men are concerned about every detail

➤ **The details are in "whatever"**

- **Col. 3:17** "whatever", name of Jesus

- "whatever" – everything – every detail – everything matters with God

- we must consider God's will in every detail of life

- every detail of Christ's law must be observed

➤ - **illus.: Matt. 10:42** cup of cold water, not lose reward – details important to salvation

- **song #620: "Room In The Kingdom"** taken from **Matt. 10:42**

- **vs. 1** small things that you can do, just a small kindly deed

- **vs. 2** cup of cold water given

➤ - **we sin when we let the details slip through the cracks** – don't pay attention to the "whatever"

- **illus.: Peter was prejudice toward Gentiles** when Jews from James came to Antioch, condemned, Paul opposed Him and rebuked him for sin (**Gal. 2**)

- **illus.: Ananias and Sapphira told a white lie**, punished with death, assume lost for eternity (**Acts 5**)

- **the devil is in the details**

- you'll lose your soul if you don't pay attention to the details – prejudice, white lies

➤ - **warning: if someone tries to hide the details, or make them unimportant, it's a red flag** – someone's trying to hide the truth to deceive us

- **We'll be judged regarding the details** – not just the big things
 - **judged regarding the details**
 - **2 Cor. 5:10** judged, recompensed for every deed, whether god or bad
 - **Matt. 12:36** give account for every idle word – everything, even the things we didn't mean to say
 - **illus.: Matt. 25:34-40** judged for little things – heaven or hell
- - **the devil is in the details – but so is salvation**
- - **many think this saying** (the devil is in the details) **originated from** another saying, **“God is in the details”**
 - **both are true:**
 - **we'll be saved if** we are careful to observe the details and obey God
 - **we'll be lost if** we carelessly disregard the details
- **Test yourself: “Are you attentive to the details?”**
 - **Heb. 13:15-16** admonished not to neglect personal work (sacrifice), things we do outside of the church building
 - **this is the detail some brethren neglect**, putting themselves in danger of condemnation
 - **this is the acid test** (Michael Matthews) (Ja. 1:19-27)
 - I've never seen a weak Christian do personal work, or a strong Christian neglect it
 - **illus.: story, young couple** who slaves away working, often getting up early and working late, not wealthy but not poor
 - **the man participates as a leader** in the church, and the **lady teaches Bible class**
 - **the lady spends endless hours with especially one widow** who needs her, doing chores and visiting
 - **they work every week to keep their home ready** to receive Christian visitors who frequently visit
 - **as a couple they spend hundred of dollars each month to spend time with the young** of the congregation, feeding them and transporting them, sometimes feeding 20 or 30 without any help
 - **spend time and encourage them**
 - **so young have a safe place to go** and enjoy Christian fellowship
 - **I recently talked to the young people** of our congregation
 - **pointed out all this couple was doing** for them
 - **pointed out the staggering financial investment** they were making in the young of the congregation, rather than making it in their financial future
 - **chose to give up:** a new car, buying a house, greater financial security, saving more for retirement
 - **this young couple has been the greatest inspiration to me over the last few months**
 - **dedication, commitment, sacrifice** to do good (Heb. 12:16)
 - **I owe them a personal debt of gratitude** I can never repay, because of everything they've done for my family
 - **Ben and Ashley Johnson**
 - **Ben and Ashley's example makes me want to dedicate myself more** to the Lord, work harder, put first things first, sacrifice so I can share more with others
- - **the devil's in the details**
- **more importantly: God is in the details**

Summary / Inv.

- **summary:**

- the devil wants us to think the details aren't important
- but the details are important to God and us, as His people
- test yourself: Are you attentive to the details?
- devil is in the details – so is God

- **Do the details of your life reflect that you're a disciple of Christ or the devil?**

- **inv.:** if the details are important to you, and you're not a Christian, you are compelled to obey. . . .