

## "WHAT THE DEVIL WOULD DO"

To bring a nation to ruin

First, to give you a little background, I'm sure most of you are familiar with Mr. Paul Harvey, and his commentaries over the years, on various subjects. He was born in 1918, died in 2009

Please understand that, although Mr. Harvey is politically and culturally conservative, I do not endorse all of his doctrinal positions, nor do they necessarily relate to what we will discuss tonight.

I chose this brief article that he published in the Sword of The Lord periodical dated June 2001, because it was a stern warning to his readers of 18 years ago, and perhaps it would be good for us to hear what he had to say back then, and compare it to the situation as it exists in our nation today.

I believe what we will see here is the manifestation of ungodly living, and the bad fruit of the turning away from God, to the "...doctrines of devils...".  
(1 Timothy 4:1)

As we read this article, I would challenge each of you to think of Bible passages that would relate to each point that he makes. Our Wednesday meetings are for Bible study, and it would be good for us to consider what God has to say about these things, and be ready with good, Godly reasons why we oppose the bad things that we constantly see around us.  
(1 Peter 3:15 - "...be ready always to give an answer...with meekness and fear ")

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( following is Mr. Harvey's commentary : )

## "IF I WERE THE DEVIL"

a brief moral and political commentary Paul Harvey

**(1) - I would gain control of the most powerful nation in the world ;**  
*the reason - to promote sinful living -*  
( Prov. 14:34 - "...righteousness exalted a nation, but sin is a reproach..." )  
( the opposite of exalted/dignified, is to be debased/corrupted )  
Psalm 33:12

**(2) - I would delude their minds into thinking that they (i.e. their status) had come from man's effort, instead of God's blessings ;**  
*( Psalm 60:11 - "Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man. ..." )*  
*Psalm 14:1 Psalm 20:7 Psalm 118:8 John 15:5 Philippi.2:3-5*

**(3) - I would promote an attitude of loving things and using people, instead of the other way around ;**  
*( i.e. loving people and using things - are good thoughts, but our love for God )*  
*( must precede our love for others, and be the reason for that love - )*  
*( Matt.22:37-40 ) Deut.4:35 1 Kings chapter 21 Luke6:31*  
*Acts chapter 5:1-11 1 John 2:15 1 John 4:19*

**(4) - I would dupe entire states into relying on gambling for their state revenue ;**  
*( Prov. 10:2 - "Treasures of wickedness profit nothing..." - for all the billions of*  
*( dollars taken in by these schemes, which were supposed to be such a help and*  
*( reduce taxes, why are so many states in financial trouble ?*  
*( Prov.10:22 - "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich..." , Ill-gotten gain will*  
*( bring only bring sorrow,*  
*( Prov.12:11 "He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread..." -*  
*( God's plan is for us to work to supply our needs, and not covet the wealth of*  
*( others. ) Mark 8:36 2 Thes.3:10-12 1 Tim.6:5-6*

**(5) - I would convince people that character is not an issue when it comes to leadership ;**  
*( Exodus 20 - The Ten Commandments, Philippi.4:8 - Think on "whatsoever*  
*( things that are: true, honest, pure, lovely, of good report, any virtue..."*  
*( These are things which apply to EVERY person, but should apply*  
*( IN PARTICULAR to our leaders. Prov.29:2 tells us what happens when*  
*( either the righteous or wicked are in power. )*  
*Prov.31:1-9 1 Tim.3:1-13 Titus 1:5-9*

**(6) - I would make it legal to take the lives of unborn babies ;**  
*( Psalm 139:13, Isaiah 49:1, Romans 1:31 - without natural affection )*  
*Exodus21:22-25 Psalm 127:3*

**(7) - I would make it socially acceptable to take one's own life, and invent machines to make it convenient ;**

*( Exodus 20:13 "Thou shalt not kill" ) Genesis 1:27 1 Cor.6:19-20*

**(8) - I would cheapen human life as much as possible so that the lives of animals are valued more than human beings ;**

*( Genesis 1:26 - "...let them have dominion..." , Romans 1:25 "...worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator..." )*

**(9) - I would take God out of the schools, where even the mention of His name was grounds for a lawsuit ;** *( Matt.19:14 - "But Jesus said, suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me..." )*

**(10) - I would come up with drugs that sedate the mind and target the young, and I would get sports heroes to advertise them ;**

*1 Tim.6:20*

**(11) - I would get control of the media so that every night I could pollute the minds of every family member for my agenda ;**

*Matt.12:33-37 Eph.5:4 Titus 3:9*

**(12) - I would attack marriage, and the family, which is the backbone of any nation ;**

*1 Cor. 7:2 Eph.5:21-33*

**(13) - I would compel people to express their most depraved fantasies on canvas and movie screens, and I would call it art ;**

*Psalms 101:3 Romans 1:24-32*

**(14) - I would convince the world that people are born homosexuals and that their lifestyles should be accepted and admired ;** *( Gen.13:13 - "But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly." ) Gen.1:27 Romans 1:26-27 1 Tim.6:20*

**(15) - I would convince the people that right and wrong are determined by a few who call themselves authorities, and refer to their agenda as politically correct ;**

*( Isaiah 5:20-23 "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil..." ,  
( Romans 1:22 "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools." )  
Proverbs 21:30 1 Cor.2:1-7*

**(16) - I would persuade people that the church is irrelevant and out-of-date, and the Bible is for the naive ;**

*( Hebrews 4:12, 1 Thes.5:21-"...hold fast that which is good", it will NEVER go (out-of-date". The devil will ruin foundational things Psalm 11:3  
( Rev.1:3 "Blessed is he that readeth ..." )  
Hebrews 10:25, 13:8*

**(17) - I would dull the minds of Christians and make them believe that prayer is not important, and that faithfulness and obedience are optional.**

*( Luke 11:1 - the disciples asked Jesus "...teach us to pray..",  
( 1 Thes.5:17 - "Pray without ceasing."  
( James 1:8 "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." )  
Numbers 20:7-12 Deut.32:48-52 - Moses disobedience to God  
1 Samuel 15:22-23 John 14:15 Acts 5:29 Hebrews 10:25 James 5:16*

**(18) - But, I guess I would leave things pretty much the way they are.**

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*( end of Mr. Harvey's commentary : )*

*( verses in italics, following each item, are meant to be Biblical answers to )  
( each situation, refuting the vanity and sinful ways of lost mankind )*

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## Some closing thoughts from this Bible study.

As a summary statement, the 10 commandments would apply to most of the things in Paul Harvey's commentary, plus there are many other Bible verses, besides the ones noted above, that would elaborate on certain sins and situations. Proverbs chapter 1 outlines the correct attitudes we should have toward Godly wisdom and principles for righteous living. It has been (wrongly) said by some, that "life doesn't come with an instruction book". But, God DID give us an instruction book for life, and that is exactly what the Bible is. The trouble is, most people do not want to hear what God has to say about anything, (*John 8:44-45*), but would rather do that which *"..is right in his own eyes..."*, and unto their own destruction.

(*Deut.12:8 Judges 17:6, 21:25 Proverbs 12:15, 21:2*)

The Bible teaches us who is the enemy of God, and the one who brings temptations to everyone. *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* (*Eph.6:12*)

But, we are created with a free will, and we can choose for ourselves, which master we will serve.

(*Joshua 24:15 Matt.6:24 Luke 16:13*)

As a closing challenge, we should *"Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear."* (*1 Peter 3:15*)

Remember, of course, NOT to answer from the flesh, but from the Bible - the perfect word of God.

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