

## Overcoming the Snares of Satan

[www.ncvchurch.com](http://www.ncvchurch.com)

**Introduction:** We must never take the care and protection of God for granted.

- A. We face an adversary that is cunning and powerful. We alone are no match. (1 Pt 5:8)
  - 1. The costs of being overcome are enormous and sobering.
  - 2. Satan's most powerful tool is his ability to take away our ability to reason.  
(2 Cor 4:3-4)
- B. Our God offers us a perfect protection from this adversary. (1 Jn 5:18)
  - 1. Satan cannot touch us!
  - 2. The ability to overcome is simply the ability to walk by faith. (1 Jn 2:13-14)
  - 3. What can defeat us is pride and arrogance. We need to see the dark end of those who step away from a humble, thankful service to God.

### I. The Power of a snare

- A. What is a snare?
  - 1. **παγίς** - (1) literally, anything that catches and holds fast *snare, trap, noose, net* (LU 21.35); (2) metaphorically; (a) used in RO 11.9 of a false sense of security that leads to a sudden and unexpected judgment *pitfall, concealed danger, source of error*; (b) as a stratagem of the devil for gaining control *deceitful trick, entanglement* (1T 3.7); (3) figuratively, as any allurement to wrongdoing *enticement, temptation, attraction* (1T 6.9) – **Freiberg's Lexicon**
- B. A snare is a result of cunning and deceit. (Prov 5:21-23)
  - 1. You are outwitted by the one who snares you. Often your overconfidence is an essential element in the snare.
  - 2. How many scoffers who despised wisdom are snared?
- C. A snare is costly to escape.
  - 1. What are the costs to the raccoon who escapes the leghold trap? What if he doesn't?
  - 2. Our God provides for us a way to escape all snares. We must humble ourselves and thirst after His wisdom. (Ps 124:6-8; 1 Cor 10:12-13)
  - 3. Let us look to some Bible examples about Satan's snares.

### II. The Snare of Balaam

- A. Balaam was a prophet who gave in to a love of money. (2 Pt 2:15-16)
  - 1. He was known as a man who knew God's ways. (Num 22:5-6)
  - 2. Satan attacked at his weakest point. Balaam knew better but somehow thought in his overconfidence that he could both serve God and money. Consider Judas!
- B. He could not turn away from temptation. He kept coming back to seek where His heart really wanted to go. (Num 22:18-19)
  - 1. Did he really need any more from the Lord?
  - 2. He truly became crazy and was not humbled when his donkey talked to him and revealed the consequences of his course of action! (Num 22:22-35)

3. He gave up serving God and *joined the enemies of God*. You could say he was a former “legalist” that was now free to pursue fellowship with the Moabites.
  4. He *cursed Israel in another way* and was killed in God’s judgment. **(Num 31:8)**
  5. He never escaped the snare. Hear of *his eternal place*. **(2 Pt 2:17)**
- C. This snare *still works today!* **(1 Tim 6:9-10)**
1. How many put work ahead of God?
  2. How you set priorities now will determine your practice in life.

### **III. The Snare of Jezebel**

- A. An individual was named for *a terrible influence upon Christians*. **(Rev 2:20-23)**
1. The lust of the flesh is a powerful snare. We must *never* be haughty about this.
  2. How many have thought they could secretly walk down this path *with no consequences?* **(Prov 7:22-27)**
  3. How many are snared *in pornography* or *a relationship* that drives them away from God?
- B. Consider the draw of *relationships and drinking*. **(1 Pt 4:3-4)**
1. We have had both “Christians” and visitors leave us *when warnings were given*.
  2. Some have mocked the warnings on social media.
  3. Addictions have overcome a vast number who *suffer “out of sight.”*
  4. It is *a very powerful snare* to overcome. **(Prov 7:24-27)**
  5. Members of a “non-traditional” church in Birmingham aggressively boast in social media of their freedom to drink. They also *introduce this to others*.

### **IV. The Snare of Esau**

- A. Esau would be the classic “good old boy” of today. He does not want to hurt anyone but is *not very motivated in spiritual things*. **(1 Jn 2:15-17)**
1. He let a temporary hunger be the reason *to sell out a valuable spiritual blessing*.
  2. Our priorities are shown in our decisions. **(Gen 25:29-34)**
  3. How did he *“despise” his birthright?*
- B. Becoming a “profane” person puts one *in a terrible snare*. **(Heb 12:15-16)**
1. A “profane” person *does not know God or his ways*.
  2. Imagine an untrained person from another culture trying to land a high level job. When we do not know God *we will be found fighting Him*.
  3. We must *forsake the path of compromise* to stand with the Lord. **(Rev 3:15-16)**
- C. Many are being pulled into churches that boast in “positive preaching.” **(Prov 29:25)**
1. Those who *think they are smarter than God* will end up fighting Him.
  2. In time the mind will be lost when we turn away from correction. *Correction keeps us from snares!* **(Ps 91:2-4)**
  3. Gideon failed to heed such a warning. There are some things we must not “pity and try to “understand.” **(Deut 7:16; Judges 8:27)**

**Conclusion:** Our God has graciously given us a path that is free from snares!  
**(2 Tim 2:24-26)**