

The Devices of Satan, No. 2

Introduction:

1. Refer to recent lesson on “The Devices of Satan,” a lesson based upon 2 Cor. 2:6-11, wherein Paul admonished the church at Corinth with regards to what should be their action toward a brother from whom they had withdrawn themselves, but who had repented. Two reasons why one should forgive this brother:
 - a. Lest he be “*swallowed up with overmuch sorrow*,” v. 7.
 - b. “*Lest Satan should get an advantage of us*,” v. 11.
2. Then he stated with regards to Satan that “*we are not ignorant of his devices*,” v. 11.
 - a. “*Devices*” from *noema*, referring to plans that are well thought out, “especially for evil plans and purposes,” A. T. Robertson, **Word Pictures in the New Testament**.
 - b. As it relates to his “*devices*,” we state that Satan is very skilled in his ability “to present the bait and hide the hook.”
 - (1) Note the “bait” in Gen. 3:4-5.
 - (2) Note the “hook,” Gen. 3:8,16,17-19,23; Romans 5:12.

Discussion:

I. Brief Review of that lesson.

- A. Regarding Satan, we noted that He is
 1. Our “*adversary*,” I Peter. 5:8.
 2. Called “*the god of this world*,” 2 Cor. 4:4.
 3. Called “*the prince of the power of the air*,” Eph. 2:2.
 4. Called “*the accuser of our brethren*,” Rev. 12:10.
 5. Called “*the enemy*,” Matt. 13:39.
 6. Called “*a murderer*,” John 8:44.
 7. A “*Liar*,” and the “*father of*” lies, John 8:44.
- B. We then cited seven “*devices*” of Satan, namely:
 1. Deception, Gen. 3:1-6; I Tim. 2:13-14.
 2. Distraction or diversion.
 3. Division.
 4. Doubt.
 5. Discouragement.
 6. Disappointment.
 7. Delay.

II. Other “*Devices*” of Satan.

- A. He works on us through false teachers, 2 Peter 2:1; I John 4:1.
 1. They may be teachers of religion, rising up among God’s people, Acts 20:28-30; Rev. 2:2,14,20.
 - a. Founding of the American Christian Missionary Society in 1849, supposedly for the furtherance of the work of the church universal.
 - b. Introduction of mechanical instruments of music in worship, Midway, Ky. In 1860.
 - c. Introduction of human societies to do the work of the church, Tennessee Orphan Home, 1908.
 - d. Sponsoring church arrangements, premillennialism, modernism, marriage, divorce, and remarriage, etc., etc., etc.
 2. They may be teachers of Irreligion.
 - a. Charles Darwin: “he made hell a laughingstock and heaven a dream.” He advanced the idea of evolution, that all life started with a single cell and evolved upward to man. Of course, the single cell was not really the beginning – other changes had to occur before anything so complex as a cell could be formed. Atoms had to combine to form molecules and molecules had to combine to form a cell – and that cell had no blood, no nerves, no sex, no had, and no brain. Cf. Rom 1:20-23.
 3. They may be teachers of Immorality.
 - a. Hugh Hefner. “If Jesus Christ were on earth today, and had to choose between being on the staff of Playboy Magazine or being on the staff of one of the joy-killing, pleasure-denying churches, he would, of course, immediately choose us.
 - b. Joseph Fletcher (Situation Ethics). “It is sometimes right to do wrong.” “Reliance upon law is essentially a neurotic maneuver.”

- c. The New Morality. "Do your own thing."
- B. He works on us through our families. Matt. 10:34-37.
 - 1. Matt. 19:9. One lady said that verse "ought to be annulled." Her son was in a questionable marriage.
 - 2. 2 Thess. 3:6. Many members refuse to obey that verse because some in their own families are walking disorderly.
 - 3. Rom. 16:17. Yet many are reluctant to heed this verse because they have family members who are preaching and practicing error.
- C. He works on us through our marriages.
 - 1. Note God's instructions to Israel in Deut. 7:3-4,
 - 2. 2 Cor. 6:14.
 - a. Contextually, this verse is not dealing specifically with the marriage relationship; the instruction in this verse could pertain to any yoking together we might become involved in which is "unequal," and which might put the Christian at a disadvantage. It could include a business partnership.
 - b. However, no relationship on earth is more intimate than the marriage relationship. Fortunately, many non-Christians have been won to the Lord, but more Christians in such relationships have apostatized than have been converted.
- D. He works on us through our friends. 1 Cor. 15:33; Exodus 23:2.
 - 1. Amnon "*had a friend whose name was Jonadab,*" who was "*a very subtil man,*" 2 Sam. 13:3.
 - a. Note his advice to Amnon, 2 Sam. 13:5.
 - 2. "Friends" influence us in various ways. Cf. "chicken!" "Come on, everyone else is doing it," "Just one drink won't hurt you." "This joint will make you feel good," etc., etc.
 - 3. Satan encourages you first to **sit** with the drunkard, then to **drink** with the drunkard, and then to be **drunk** with the drunkard. Sin can be very deceitful! Heb. 3:13; Isaiah 5:20. Sin is never at a standstill! Psalm 1:1.
- E. He works on us in open opposition, and even persecution.
 - 1. Through seeing to it that we are evil spoken of, 1 Peter 4:14.
 - 2. Through the powers that be, Acts 5:28-29.
 - a. Fortunately, in our society, we have enjoyed "freedom of speech," but we are entering into a period of "Political Correctness," and where more and more speech is labeled "hate speech." In a few more years, if things continue going in the current direction, practicing true Christianity could very well land us in prison. We must prepare ourselves to "suffer as a Christian," 1 Peter 4:16.

III. We must resolve, come what may, to serve the Lord! Joshua 24:15.

Note: We have, by no means, listed all the "*devices*" of Satan, but we have listed enough of them for us to be on guard! 1 Peter 5:8-9; Eph. 6:10-11. Many times a good offense is the best defense. So let us make our offense, one whereby we will resolve to serve the Lord:

- A. Gladly, 1 John 5:3, Acts 2:46.
- B. Loyally, Rom. 14:17.
 - 1. Note the "*fruit of the Spirit*" in Gal. 5:22-23. In this list is "*faith*," from a word meaning "faithfully."
- C. Scripturally, Col. 3:17; 1 Thess. 5:21.
- D. Prayerfully, Dan. 6:10; 1 Thess. 5:17.
- E. Personally, Joshua 24:15; 2 Cor. 5:10.
- F. Persistently, 1 Cor. 15:58.
- G. Lovingly, 1 Cor. 13:13; 1 Cor. 16:14.
- H. Sincerely, Matt. 6:1.
- I. Gratefully, Matt. 5:11-12.
- J. Humbly, James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6-7.

Conclusion:

- 1. We have an "*enemy!*" Matt. 13:39. He works in order to gain our condemnation.
- 2. We have a friend! John 15:13. He sacrificed Himself in order to make possible our salvation, Heb. 2:9.
 - a. He invites us to come to Him! Matt. 11:28-30