

THE SNARE OF THE DEVIL

2 TIMOTHY 2:14-26

Text: 2 Tim 2:26

2 Timothy 2:26

²⁶ And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Introduction:

It appears that the context here is dealing with the unsaved.

But notice in 1 Timothy 3:1-7

1 Timothy 3:1-7

¹ This *is* a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. ² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; ³ Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; ⁴ One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; ⁵ (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) ⁶ Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Here we are dealing with the qualification for a preacher or a saved person.

So it would stand to reason that the devil will use his snare on both the saved and the lost.

We have an adversary who wants to entrap you in his snare.

I want us to work our way through this passage and allow God to take us into His surgical room and take His scalpel and remove the things that need to be removed from our lives that Satan will use as a snare to entrap us.

Notice

1. OUR WORDS (VS.14-17)

2 Timothy 2:14-17

¹⁴ Of these things put *them* in remembrance, charging *them* before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, *but* to the subverting of the hearers. ¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. ¹⁶ But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. ¹⁷ And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

Notice the progression:

Words of no profit – just talk to be talking; useless talk; talking too much

Words that seem so harmless in the beginning lead to the subverting of the hearers

Words and the tongue are very powerful.

That word subverting means: an overturn (“catastrophe”), that is, demolition. To turn upside down, upset or overthrow.

That is the power of words. Words that seem so harmless in the beginning can in the end literally result in catastrophe.

Paul in this letter is reminding Timothy as he preaches to remind the hearers of the danger of idle, profitless, useless words.

(Read James 3)

He continues his admonition with Timothy in verse 15.

2 Timothy 2:15-16

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. ¹⁶ But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

By the way that takes a lifetime.

Notice we are not to study to prove what we know but rather to know our Lord in a greater way and be approved unto Him.

Remember:

The Word of God will put to silence so many Words that should never be spoken.

Words not only will subvert the hearer but will also increase unto more ungodliness.

Matthew 12:36-37

³⁶ But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Your adversary will use your tongue and word as a snare to entrap you.

Proverbs 6:2

² Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

The deliverance from this is found in 19.

2 Timothy 2:19

¹⁹ Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

The results are:

2 Timothy 2:20-21

²⁰ But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. ²¹ If a man therefore purge himself from

these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

One thing that will prevent this from happening, and the one thing is pride which often leads us to speak when we should be silent.

2. YOUTHFUL LUST (VS. 22)

2 Timothy 2:22

²²Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Such passions as youth are subject to.

Not only all irregular and sensual desires, but pride, ambition, and, above all, the lust of power, to which most men will sacrifice all other propensities, their ease, pleasure, health, etc.

We must flee from these things, and follow after, righteousness, faith, charity, peace, and with **them** “A Fellowship of Believers” that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

3. STRIVING (VS. 23-25)

2 Timothy 2:23-25

²³ But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. ²⁴ And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient, ²⁵ In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

Our ministry is not to put the fear of God into people, but rather in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves.

We are not to strive, but must be gentle unto all men, teacher of truth and patient.

Note:

It's not our role to deliver people. It's two-fold; Divine and personal.

2 Timothy 2:25-26

²⁵ In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; ²⁶ And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

The way to be used to help people out of the snare of the devil is to be Christ-like, not striving, but gentle.

Our convictions are not going to do one bit of good unless they are rooted in the compassion of Christ.

Close:

People are in the snare of the devil today. For many it started with useless talk.

For some it came about from youthful lust.

For others it came about from strife.

What are we to do? Talk about them or try to help them?

What would our Saviour do?

You decide.