

KEEP THEM FROM EVIL

JOHN 17

Text: John 17:15, 1 Corinthians 2:11

John 17:15

¹⁵ I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

2 Corinthians 2:11

¹¹ Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Introduction:

Satan is the great enemy of the Saint. In fact "Satan" means "adversary." The Bible refers to the devil by a number of names and descriptions.

Ezekiel 28:14

Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Luke 11:15

But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils.

John 16:11

Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

2 Cor. 4:4

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Ephes. 2:2

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

He is identified as a great dragon, a roaring lion, the vile one, the tempter, and the accuser.

Paul writing to the Corinthian church realized that Satan was working overtime in the church and emphasizes that we are to be vigilant and alert to his subtlety. Satan's advantage is based upon one being ignorant of his devices or his methods. What are some of the devil's devices by which he seeks to deceive God's children, defeat God's church, destroy God's work, and denigrate God's Word?

1. DISTRACTION

A. Cause

1 John 2:15-16

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16] For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

2 Tim. 2:4

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

B. Cure

Col. 3:2

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Hebrews 12:2

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2. DISCOURAGEMENT

A. Sometimes its people discourage us

Deut. 1:28

Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there.

B. Sometimes circumstances discourage us.

Numbers 21:4-5

And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. [5] And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

We must remember

Galatians 6:9

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

3. DISCONTENTMENT

Numbers 21:5-6

And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. [6] And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.

Remember:

1 Cor. 10:10

Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

Philip. 2:14

Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

4. DISCORD

1 Cor. 1:10-11

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. [11] For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.

There are four ways that Satan brings division in the church.

- Selfishness
- Favoritism
- Narrow-mindedness
- Lack of Fellowship

Close:

This morning has Satan been working overtime in your life? Has he been able to distract you? Has he gotten you majoring on minors with priorities out of alignment with God's? Has he gotten you discouraged, feeling as if you are in the battle alone?

Have you allowed a spirit of discontentment to slip into your life? Do you find yourself grumbling and complaining? Has Satan brought discord into your life with its "us" and "them" attitude?

Ephes. 4:27

Neither give place to the devil.