

The Bruising of Satan

Rom. 16:17-20

Introduction:

- A. Roman Christians promised a victory over Satan shortly (v. 20).
 - 1. Satan deceives (2 Cor. 11:14).
 - 2. Satan destroys (1 Pet. 5:8).
- B. Roman Christians are given some *reasons* to expect the bruising of Satan.

Discussion:

I. Satan Is Bruised When Christians *Humble Themselves* (“obedience” -v. 19).

- A. Humble enough to obey *openly* – “known to all.” (v. 19; cf. 1:8).
- B. Humble enough to obey *sincerely* – “from the heart” (6:17)
- C. Humble enough to obey *fully*.
 - 1. Anything “the faith” teaches. (1:5; 10:16, 17; 16:26),
 - 2. All things taught (cf. Matt. 28:20; Saul - 1 Sam 15:13-23)
 - 3. Always (Phil. 2:12) - Obedience is not complete in one act.

II. Satan Is Bruised When Christians *Enlighten Themselves* (v. 19b).

- A. By becoming “wise in what is good” – discerning, discriminating, selective.
 - 1. Involves knowing what Scriptures teach (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
 - 2. Involves knowing how to apply Bible answers to given situations.
 - 3. Involves knowing good from experience.
- B. By becoming “simple concerning evil” – not knowing evil by experience. (Cf. Eph. 5:3, 8-11).

III. Satan Is Bruised When Christians *Discipline Themselves* (vs. 17,18).

- A. Discipline has several forms.
 - 1. Starts with self-discipline (1 Cor. 9:27 NKJ)
 - 2. Extends to brethren
 - a. Involves teaching/admonition. (Cf. 2 Tim. 4:2; Tit. 3:10).
 - b. Involves proper warning (1 Thess. 5:14)
 - c. Involves “marking” and “avoiding” as last resort. (Rom. 16:17 cf. 2 Thess. 3:6,14; Matt. 18:15-17). - Can we “withdraw” from the “withdrawn”? - What about marking?
- B. Discipline has a dual purpose.
 - 1. To regain a brother. (Matt. 18:15; 2 Thess. 3:14,15).
 - 2. To protect the church. (Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 5:6).
- C. Discipline can be abused. (3 John 9-10).
 - 1. When it begets an unforgiving spirit - malice (2 Cor. 2:6-11)
 - 2. When used to “get rid” of those we do not like.
 - 3. When used to brow beat weak brethren – (cf. 1 Thess. 5:14)

Conclusion:

- A. Satan must feel safe in many churches - we often ignore Paul’s teaching.
- B. Satan can be overcome - if we obey the Lord.