

Letting Satan Take Advantage of Us

2 Cor. 2:5-11

Introduction:

- A. Satan will use anything to take advantage of us - even God's commands.
 - 1. Corinthians warned not to let discipline produce unforgiving spirit.
 - 2. Paul shows commands often used as occasion for sin. (cf. Rom. 7:8,11).
 - 3. Satan tried it with the Lord (Matt. 4:6,7).
- B. Satan will pervert the Bible's teaching to his advantage – notice some examples:

Discussion:

- I. Its Teaching on Church Purity. (Eph. 5:27; 1 Cor. 5:6-7).**
 - A. Used to promote an unforgiving heart. (2 Cor. 2:5-11).
 - B. Used to promote self-righteous pride. (cf. Pharisees; Gal. 6:1,2).
 - C. Used to promote an impatient spirit. (Eph. 4:2; Rom. 2:4).
 - D. Used to promote unnecessary division. (cf. Rev. 3:4).
- II. Its Teaching on Defending the Faith. (Jude 3; Phil. 1:17).**
 - A. Used to promote unkindness to others. (1 Cor.13:4).
 - B. Used to promote bitterness toward opposition. (2 Tim.2:24-26).
 - C. Used to promote unprofitable disputes. (2 Tim. 2:14, 23).
- III. Its Teaching on Unity. (Eph. 4:3)**
 - A. Done at expense of principle—compromise. (Gal. 2:5; 2 Jn. 9).
 - B. Done at expense of purity. (Jas. 3:17).
- IV. Its Teaching on Speaking Truth in Love. (Eph. 4:15).**
 - A. Convinces folks that cannot love and rebuke sharply. (2 Tim. 4:1-4; Tit. 1:3).
 - B. Convinces folks that cannot love and expose sinners by name. (cf. Matt. 23; 3 John 9; Luke 13:32).
 - C. Convinces folks that cannot love and preach plainly and pointedly.
- V. Its Teaching on Church Growth. (cf. Acts 2:41:41,47; 6:7).**
 - A. Satan says must grow—so constantly emphasize numbers and money.
 - B. Satan says must grow—so lower standards to attract more. (Lk. 9:57,58; 14:25-33).
 - C. Satan says must grow—so “tip toe” around truth lest run some off. (John 6:60-66).
 - D. Satan says must grow—so use carnal appeals if they work. (cf. Jno. 6:44,45; 1 Cor.2).

Conclusion:

- A. Obey God in everything—keep eye on Satan—he is no fool.
- B. Do not be ignorant of his devices.