

## Devices Of Satan

No. 133

### Introduction

I. Paul penned these words in Ephesians the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**EPH 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might.**

**EPH 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.**

**EPH 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.**

**EPH 6:13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.**

**EPH 6:14 Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,**

**EPH 6:15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;**

**EPH 6:16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one.**

**EPH 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

II. The question has often been asked, "Is there really a devil?" Many people today answer "no" to this question and make light of Satan. They regard him as a fairy tale or myth. They picture him as a clown in a red suit whose most potent weapon is a pitch fork.

III. The writers of the Bible do not, however, regard Satan as a myth or fairy tale.

A. In our text Paul said we must put on "the whole armor of God" to be able "to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." He is a very real and fierce opponent.

B. The apostle Peter also presents Satan as real and very fierce. (1 Pet. 5:8).

C. Satan, as our adversary, has many ways or devices of devouring us. (Eph. 6:11). If one way does not work, he simply employs another.

D. Let's consider some of the devices of Satan that we be not overcome by him.

I. **The Lie** - One way Satan uses to devour us is the lie.

A. Satan is a great liar. (Jn. 8:44).

1. Satan used this method on **Adam and Eve**. (Gen. 2:16, 17; 3:1-4). Because they ate of the forbidden tree they died spiritually and began to die physically from that day.

2. Satan used this method on **Judas**. (Jn. 12:5, 6; Matt. 26:15, 16; 27:3-5).

B. **Satan lies to us today.**

1. He has deceived many into believing there is **no hell**. Once he convinces people that there is no hell, he then has little trouble persuading them to follow the philosophy, "Let us eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die."

2. Satan also lies **about sin**.

a. He says, “**Drinking won’t hurt you**. It is good for you. It leads to the gusto life.” He doesn’t tell us the terrible consequences of drinking. He doesn’t tell us how it destroys health, families, and leads to accidents and condemnation.”

b. Satan says **dancing is good** for us and emphasizes the fun people have at the dances. He doesn’t tell us that dancing is the doorway to evil thoughts, immorality and drinking. He doesn’t tell us that most of the prostitutes and fallen girls testify they had their beginning on the dance floor.

1) **Sometime ago a preacher wrote an article in the “20<sup>th</sup> Century Christian” magazine about a teenage girl** who came into his office full of tears and began to tell her story. One night she had gone with a bunch of kids to a dance and took some drinks because she did not want to be called “chicken”. She told the preacher how after the dance they had gone out and parked and then said, “Brother Mike, you know the rest.” She closed her marred story with tears in her eyes and with a voice that was breaking to pieces from remorse and shame.

2) Satan never mentions things like this when he says, “Dancing is fun!”

3. Satan lies about the **importance of being a genuine Christian**.

a. He tells us that it is alright to do evil as long as we are pious on Sunday. He tries to convince us that true religion has nothing to do with our daily lives.

b. **A man once heard a powerful sermon on Christian living**. When the service was over he rushed out, exclaiming, “That preacher is crazy. He thinks religion has something to do with our every day personal living.”

c. **Let me tell you it does**. It has everything to do with it. A religion which does not change our actions and our attitudes is not the true religion of the Lord Jesus Christ and will not save.

II. **Scripture** - A second device Satan uses to devour us is scripture.

A. Satan loves to pervert scripture. (Matt. 4:6, 7; Psa. 91:11, 12).

B. Many people today are led astray by a sermon filled with scriptures. They think that a lesson filled with scripture must be true. This is not so. Satan has ministers who appear righteous, but pervert the scriptures and lead precious souls to eternal damnation.

1. Remember **Jesus said**. (Matt. 7:15).

2. Listen to what **Paul** had to say. (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

**2CO 11:13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.**

**2CO 11:14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.**

**2CO 11:15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.**

III. **Promise Things In Return For Service To Him** - A third device Satan uses is to promise things in return for service to him.

A. Satan took Jesus to an exceedingly high mountain and said. (Matt. 4:8, 9).

**B. Satan uses this method on us.**

1. He says, "If you will lower your morals, your convictions I will make you popular." He does not tell us what this is going to cost us.
2. Some time ago **2 men were walking down the street together** and they passed a clothing store. Hanging just outside of the window was a fine looking suit and they wondered why it was set apart from the rest. They then saw the sign on it which read, "Slightly soiled - greatly reduced in price." The moral of this story is too obvious to demand comment.

**C. I say again that Satan never tells us of the high price of sin.** He never tells us what it cost in this life or the life to come. He never tells us that it will cost us our souls.

**IV. Chronic Fault-Finder** - A fourth device Satan uses to get a person into hell is to make him a chronic fault-finder.

- A. During the time I have been a Christian I have observed, as you probably have, that those who complain the most do the least in the kingdom. They are content to find fault with others. Satan is constantly at work trying to make us a fault-finding Christian rather than an enthusiastic, doing Christian.
- B. **One time a critic approached Charles Alexander** and said, "**I don't like they way you do personal work!**" Alexander replied, "Well, I'm not exactly satisfied with my methods. How do you do it?" T he man confessed that he didn't do any. That is the way with fault-finders. Most of those who constantly complain have nothing better to offer. They are like blisters, "They don't show up until the work is done."

**V. Miss A Worship Service** - A fifth device Satan uses to get us into hell is to tempt us to miss a worship service.

- A. He reasons like this to us. "You were at both services Sunday. It won't hurt you to miss a mid-week service. You are a strong Christian. In fact, it will be good for you to stay home and relax."
  1. He does not tell us that we are missing spiritual nourishment which is vital to our Christian development and perhaps to our next temptation.
  2. He does not tell us our absence will encourage others to miss.
  3. He does not tell us that it will be much easier for us to miss next Wednesday night and that before long we won't be coming at all on Wednesday night and will start missing on Sunday and maybe even altogether.
- B. **Several years ago I knew some strong and zealous Christians** who attended all the services of the church and who would not even think of missing worship. After a time, they started missing occasionally on Wednesday night because of the distance they lived from the church building. It was not long until they had stopped coming altogether on Wednesday night and started missing about half of the time on Sunday night . After nearly a year of this they even started missing about half of the time on Sunday morning and had little zeal or enthusiasm for the cause of Christ. Once Satan gets his foot into the door it is not until he is all the way in the house.

**VI. Keep Us Ignorant Of God's Word** - A sixth device Satan used to devour us is to keep us ignorant of God's word.

- A. Satan does not like to see people read the Bible. He knows a Bible reading person is hard to win over. He discourages Bible reading in every way he can.
- B. He also knows that the ignorant are easier led astray.

1. Paul warned the elders at Ephesus about this matter. (Acts 20:28-30).
2. Elders must make sure that the congregation is well fed in God's word, lest they fall into error.
3. We should have an eagerness to be fed. Elders should never have to force feed us God's word.

VII. **There Is No Need To Stand Up For The Truth** - Another device Satan uses to devour us is to convince us there is no need to stand up for the truth.

- A. He convinces members there is not any need to stand up for the truth because it will not do any good. He puts fear in the preachers, so that they will not stand up for the truth. He tells them that they will be fired. Consequently, there are many preachers that will not stand against sin. There are even so-called gospel preachers that will not preach against the sins of the flesh, and other such sins.
- B. God's word teaches that we are to stand for the truth, not be cowards. (1 Cor. 16:13; Jude 3).

VIII. **Plenty Of Time** - Still another device Satan uses to devour us is to tell us there is plenty of time to do the will of God.

- A. **Once upon a time Satan asked his helpers** to propose ways and means of breaking up a campaign for Christ on earth. One said: "I would tell the people that there is no God, no devil, no heaven, no hell and that they should eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die." Satan said, "You need not go. No one would believe you." Another helper said: "Let us go and tell them that the Bible is a good book, but that is only partially true. I would tell them there is a God and a heaven, but no hell and that no matter how they live they will be eternally happy." But Satan said, "Only a minority would believe that." Finally, his shrewdest helper said: "I would tell them the Bible is all true and that you must make a choice between God and Satan, but there is no hurry." "Go," said Satan, "You have the system."
- B. This alleged story is so true. Satan says, "You ought to become a Christian, but there is plenty of time." He does not tell us that there may not be a tomorrow for us or tomorrow we may be too hardened to obey.

## Conclusion

- I. Now that we have considered some of the devices of Satan to get us into hell, let's consider some of the ways God tries to keep us out of hell.
  - A. God has give His Son that we might not be lost. (Rom. 5:8).
  - B. God provides us help in overcoming temptation. (1 Cor. 10:13).
  - C. God promises to forgive our sins. (1 Jn. 1:9).
  - D. God has described the horrors of hell. (Matt. 25:30, 41).
  - E. God has given us a vivid description of heaven. (Rev. 21:4).
  - F. God also tries to keep us out of hell by inviting us to come to Him. (Matt. 11:28).
- II. Will you accept His gracious invitation? Come and confess Christ as the Son of God. Be baptized and live every day for God. Come as we stand and sing.

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