**Not Deceived By Schemes Of The Devil**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday February 23rd, 2020

Text: II Corinthians 2:10-11

### Intro

1. One of the best ways to defeat an enemy is to know them.
2. But one must recognize he/she has an enemy before a strategy to beat them can be formed!
3. The Scriptures tell us we have an enemy (adversary) in Satan!
   1. I Pet. 5:8: Satan is our adversary – opponent, archenemy*.*
4. Many in the world look at their enemy as a myth, legend, a made-up entity.
   * 1. He is not a myth but a real threat whose end goal is the soul of man!
     2. “The biggest trick by Satan is convincing the world he doesn’t exist!”
     3. His intent is evil and he is the master-planner of such. *(Jn. 8:44)*
5. The armor of God is given to prepare the Christian for battle:
   1. Eph. 6:10-13: The saint is to stand against the schemes of the devil!
   2. II Tim. 2:24-26: The challenge or work of the Lord’s bond-servant is to recover/rescue those overtaken by the devil.
6. The Scriptures also tell us he has an agenda:
   1. II Cor. 11:3: To control the heart (minds) of man.
      1. The seat of control is man’s heart (mind)! *(Prov. 4:23; 23:7; II Cor. 10:3-5)*
   2. II Cor. 11:13-15: He works through agents.
   3. Eph. 4:14: His doctrines are to deceive men *(to hold to a form of godliness; II Tim. 3:1-5)*
7. The fact that Satan schemes is revealed in II Corinthians!
   1. II Cor. 2:10-11: Satan schemes and we aren’t to be ignorant of them! *Stand against them!*
   2. II Cor. 4:4: He is also identified as “the god of this world (age)” who blinds the minds of the unbelieving so they will not see the light of the gospel!
      1. We live (in a sense) behind enemy lines!
   3. His schemes are to destroy.
8. Knowing his schemes should help us not be ignorant of or deceived by them!

#### ***Subvert*** the ***Word of God***

* 1. *Gen. 3:1-19:* Adam and Eve fell from God’s grace because of deceit! *(II Cor. 11:3)*
     1. Eve heard, believed, and obeyed a lie! *(Gen. 3:6)*
     2. Adam listened to his wife and also sinned. *(Gen. 3:17)*
  2. II Cor. 11:14-15: Satan, through his servants, perverts God’s word.
     1. II Cor. 3:12-16; I Tim. 1:3-4: Mixing the gospel with the Law. *(Acts 15)*
     2. Gal. 1:6-9: Perverting the gospel.
  3. Many problems today result from same kind of perversion:
     1. Plan of Salvation: (Thief on the cross; Sinner’s Prayer)
     2. Acceptable worship: (Sabbath; Instrumental music; Communion on Friday, or other special events)
     3. Identifying God’s people: (Premillennialism – Jews still God’s people; *Mt. 21:43; Rom. 2:28-29; Gal. 3:27-29)*
     4. Giving to God: (Materialism – Bazaars to raise money, etc. – *Lk. 12:15-21:Beware of every form of greed; Life doesn’t consist of possessions)*
     5. One church *(Eph. 4:4-6: “One body”):* (“One church is as good as another”)
  4. By subverting the word and people believing the lie, Satan wins; all the while people think they are saved so why should they change? (Mt. 7:21-23)
  5. The Truth is in Christ & His word – we must not only know it but practice it! (Adam & Eve knew it, yet sinned!)

#### ***Set Mind*** on Things ***on Earth***

* 1. Col. 3:2: Saints are not to set their minds on the things of earth, but above to Heaven.
     1. II Cor. 4:3-4: Satan is called the “god of this world (age).”
     2. He tempts saints to focus (set our minds) on the things of the earth! (Mt. 13:22; Lk. 8:14: When one focuses on things below on earth they become unfruitful!)
  2. The “World” is the present age *(whatever time period one finds themselves in!)*
     1. Heb. 11:24-25: Immediate fulfillment: Pleasure of sin (emphasis on immediate “satisfaction;” (Instant Gratification – The “now generation”).
     2. *Lk. 12:15-21:* Material things seem to offer so much security.
        1. Vs. 15: Our lives are not our possessions!
     3. Eph. 2:1-3: “Lusts” = uncontrolled desire.
        1. Notice: Outside of Christ was death and sin according to lusts.
        2. *Eph. 4:4-13:* In Christ, alive and near to God (reconciled).
  3. God’s people live for present and future.
     1. II Peter 1:3; *Heb. 6:9-20:* Intend to obtain God’s promises.
     2. II Tim. 4:7-8; Js. 1:12: The “Crown of life” waits.
     3. Col. 3:1-3: Seek things above.
  4. Those seeking immediate gratification in life (their reward now) will have the reward they seek but miss out on the eternal reward!

#### ***Seduce*** the ***Saints***

* 1. Satan wants souls (YOU!) – *I Pet. 5:8: “Someone to devour”*
  2. I Cor. 5:1-2: ***A Christian*** at Corinth involved in adultery.
     1. *I Cor. 5:1-8: Church was commanded to act.*
     2. *I Cor. 6:15-20:* God wants his people to know about fornication.
     3. Satan uses the temptation of the flesh to take down the mighty:
        1. Samson, David, preachers caught in adultery and fornication
        2. When caught, gives enemies of God cause to blaspheme! *(II Sam. 12:14)*
  3. Lk. 22:3-6: ***An apostle*** of Christ (Judas) was seduced by his greed (material things).
  4. Acts 5:3: ***A Christian*** was seduced to lie for the praise of men.
  5. II Tim. 4:10: ***A Christian*** was seduced into forsaking Christ and Paul for the world.
  6. Rev. 2:20-23: ***A Church of Christ*** in Thyatira tolerated members who were seduced into various acts of immorality by one of its members! (Not all participated – Rev. 2:24-25)
  7. When you think it can’t happen to ***YOU***, beware! *(I Cor. 10:12: Take heed lest you fall!)*
  8. Many Christians today become unfaithful to Christ -- seduced by Satan!

## Conclusion

1. Js. 4:7; I Pet. 5:9: Power to resist comes from God’s word. *(Matthew. 4: “It is written”)*
   1. Stand firm! (Ephesians 6:11, 13)
2. Mt. 25:41: Satan’s doom – Hell.
   1. Servants of Satan shall be doomed to hell!
   2. If you serve him in this life, you will live with him eternally!
   3. If you serve God in this life, you will live with Him eternally! (Mt. 25:34)
3. Important to know one’s enemy: Satan is strong, even powerful, but only as powerful as you let him be in your life! *(I Cor. 10:13; Js. 1:14-16: Spiritual L.S.D.)*
   1. Christ already defeated him!
   2. Satan is strong, but not victorious! (Heb. 2:14-15)
4. Christ will aid you in your battle if you but ask (Heb. 2:17-18).
5. Don’t be deceived by Satan’s schemes but “Resist him, firm in your faith!” *(I Pet. 5:9)*
6. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Satan already has you. Repent and be baptized!
7. If a Christian in sin, don’t wait till it’s too late! Don’t give Satan opportunity. Repent!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!