

DEVICES OF SATAN AGAINST THE CHURCH

2Cor 5:6-11 – Exegesis

Vs.6 – sufficient is the punishment – **epitimia** – denied normal rights of use; denied civil rights; denied access to participate – as a judgment for crimes.

- 1Cor 5:1-13 – sexually immoral man fornicating with his father's wife
- Vs 2 expel him, Vs 5 deliver to Satan Vs 7 Purge out Vs 13 expel him from church
- Man was expelled from the church and the majority refused to associate with him.

Vs.7 – forgive him **charizomai** – show him grace & comfort him **parakaleo** encourage him
Vs.7 – swallowed up by extreme sorrow – overwhelmed by grief

Vs.11 – lest – **hina me** – so that not; taken advantage – **pleonekteo** – greedy to take what belongs to others; not ignorant of his schemes – **noema** – plan, strategy, device

- Satan looks for an opportunity to exploit our weaknesses – area of forgiveness
- He has pre-designed strategies that he uses when he sees an opening

1. DIVISIONS

(ROMANS 16:17-18) "I URGE YOU, BROTHERS, TO WATCH OUT FOR THOSE WHO CAUSE DIVISIONS AND PUT OBSTACLES IN YOUR WAY THAT ARE CONTRARY TO THE TEACHING YOU HAVE LEARNED. KEEP AWAY FROM THEM. FOR SUCH PEOPLE ARE NOT SERVING OUR LORD CHRIST, BUT THEIR OWN APPETITES. BY SMOOTH TALK AND FLATTERY THEY DECEIVE THE MINDS OF NAIVE PEOPLE".

1Cor 1-3	Encourages showing preference to different teachers – Paul Apollos, Peter.
2Cor 5	Encourages judging and unforgiveness – man punished for immorality
Heb 10:25	Hinders encouragement to obey among bel's in the local church
Jam 4:1-3	Fights and quarrels caused by frustrated desire

2. PERSECUTION – JOB 1:12; 2:6; MT 5:10-12; 10:23; 13:21; 23:34; LK 21:12; JN 5:16; 15:20; ACTS 8:1; 9:4-5; 11:19; 22:4-8; 26:11; ROM 12:14; 1COR 15:9; 2COR 4:9; 1THESS 2:15; 2TIM 3:12.

(JOHN 15:20) "REMEMBER THE WORD THAT I SAID TO YOU, 'SERVANTS ARE NOT GREATER THAN THEIR MASTER.' IF THEY PERSECUTED ME, THEY WILL PERSECUTE YOU; IF THEY KEPT MY WORD, THEY WILL KEEP YOURS ALSO. PERSECUTE – DIOKO – ATTACK, PURSUE TO DESTROY".

- Direct attack upon the believer/church for the purpose of destroying or discrediting.
- Satan uses the circumstances of life to persecute believers – Job 1:15-17 – job, finances, and relationships – seeks to discourage and promote self pity rather than faith.
- He uses health problems to persecute believers – Job 2:4-7; 2Cor 12:7.
- He uses religion to attack grace – Acts 13:45-52; 14:2; 17:5-15.
- Seeks to discredit and bring contempt – Mt 5:11.
- Promotes violence and imprisonment for the messengers – Lk 21:12;
- Seeks to cause the death of bel's with impact – Lk 11:49; Jn 5:16
- Persecutes all who live godly in Christ – 2Tim 3:12
- God uses persecution to spread the word – Acts 11:19
- God rewards 100X for enduring persecution as a believer – Mk 10:30.

3. **DISTRACTION FROM HEARING THE WORD** – MT 4:8-9; 13:21-22; JN 21:1-3; 2COR 11:3, 13-15; 1TIM 1:3-7; 4:1-2; HEB 10:25

(HEB10:25) "NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING TOGETHER, AS THE MANNER OF SOME; BUT EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER: AND SO MUCH THE MORE, AS YOU SEE THE DAY APPROACHING".

- a. The word is necessary to be able to orient to the plan and will of God.
- b. Satan distracts the believer through **legitimate living**
 - Mt 13:22 – worry of the world & the deceitfulness of riches choke the spiritual life.
 - Jms 4:13-15 – career opportunities take the believer out of his geographic.
 - Jn 21:1-3 – false priorities – work is more important than spiritual life.
- c. Mt 4:8-9 Satan offers prosperity to distract spiritual life -- Jesus the kingdoms / world.
- d. 2Cor 11:13-15 Satan distorts teaching in church –; 1Tim 4:1-2 – false apostles teaching doctrines of demons.

4. **HINDER FROM OBEYING THE WORD** – DEUT 11:27-28; 1SAM 12:14-15; 1SAM 15:1-24; JN 14:15,23; 15:10; ACTS 5:29; ROM 6:12; 2COR 10:4-5; GAL 3:1; 5:7; HEB 13:17; 1PT 3:1.

(GALATIANS 5:7) "YOU WERE RUNNING WELL; WHO PREVENTED YOU FROM OBEYING THE TRUTH?"

- a. Obey – **hupakouo** – hear and obey; submit to the word – allow the words of another to influence to the point of obedience.
- b. Concept à obedience= blessing; disobedience=cursing Deu11:27-28; 1Sam12:14-15.
- c. The devil wants to hinder obedience - it opens the door for blessings in life of believer.
 - Ex 19:5** – opens up relationship with God;
 - Jn 14:15, 23; 15:10** – fulfillment of our love relationship with God;
 - Ex 23:21** – God fights the wars of those who obey Him.
- d. Satan uses **kosmos** to appeal to lusts of sin nature - divert focus from Christ to self.
 - Jms 1:13-15** – temptation leading to a life of sin à **1Cor 3:1-3** – worldliness;
 - 1Pt 1:13-14** lust control hinders obedience –
 - 1Jn 2:16; Lk 8:7, 14** – cares and worries of life distract us from spiritual life;
 - Acts 5:1-10** – lust for approval – lie to God
- e. Satan uses the **kosmos** to promote independence - human philosophy & reasoning.
 - 2Cor 10:4-5** – strongholds – defensive structure; fort – human defense systems built to avoid the truth; imaginations – human reasoning systems & philosophies; high things – those thought systems that elevate themselves rather than God.
- f. Satan uses religion to distort the truth and deceive the believer about truth.
 - Distort – **Gen. 3; 2Cor 11:3; 1Tim 2:14** – twisted the word of God to deceive Eve;
 - 1Tim 4:1** – creates doctrines distorted by demonic teachers;
 - Gal 3:1; 5:7** – uses legalism to distort the grace of God.
- g. Satan promotes partial obedience – **1Sam 15:1-24** – Saul's lust for approval from men motivated him to disobey God.
- h. Satan tempts us to manipulate others to bring about obedience
 - 1Pet 3:1-6** – wives win their husbands without words, not nagging.
 - Parents win their children by their examples more than their words;
 - Church wins by love and truth not the sword.

5. DISTRACTS THE BELIEVER FROM HIS PRAYER LIFE – 1PT 3:7.

(1 PETER 3:7) “LIKEWISE, HUSBANDS, DWELL WITH THEM ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE, GIVING HONOR UNTO THE WIFE, AS UNTO THE WEAKER VESSEL, AND AS BEING HEIRS TOGETHER OF THE GRACE OF LIFE; THAT YOUR PRAYERS BE NOT HINDERED”.

- Pressure on marriage/family 1Cor 7:5 lack of intimacy in marriage opens the door to temptation – separation by agreement & for purposes of prayer & intimacy with God.
- Marital disharmony – 1Pt 3:7 – marriage trouble distracts from prayer – mental sins render us unable to pray.

6. DISTRACTS THE BELIEVERS FOCUS FROM CHRIST – 1KINGS 19:10; 2COR 11:3; GAL 2:11-12; COL 3:1-2.

(2 COR 11:3) “BUT I AM AFRAID THAT AS THE SERPENT DECEIVED EVE BY ITS CUNNING, YOUR THOUGHTS WILL BE LED ASTRAY FROM A SINCERE AND PURE DEVOTION TO CHRIST”.

- a) Focus on self – 1Kings 19:10 – Elijah’s self pity.
 - Pride, self righteousness, self pity, guilt complex, lust.
- b) Focus on people – Gal 2:11-12 – Peter loses his focus on Christ and responds to the pressure of people.
 - § Lust for approval; fear of rejection; bitterness in relationships; dependence on people;
- c) Focus on things and circumstances – Col 3:1-2 – things of the earth
 - § 1Jn 2:15 – committed to the things of the world
 - § Jms 4:4 – friendship with the world.

7. FRIGHTENS THE BELIEVER ABOUT DEATH – HEB 2:14-15

(HEB 2:15) “AND FREE THOSE WHO ALL THEIR LIVES WERE HELD IN SLAVERY BY THE FEAR OF DEATH”.

- § Held in slavery by fear of death – afraid of what will happen after death.

8. DEMON INFLUENCE – 1TIM 4:1-2; 2COR 11:3; 1TIM 1:6

(1 TIM 4:1) “NOW THE SPIRIT SAYS SPECIFICALLY, THAT IN THE LATTER TIMES SOME SHALL DEPART FROM THE FAITH, GIVING HEED TO SEDUCING SPIRITS, AND DOCTRINES OF DEMONS”.

- § Latter times – after the incarnation of Christ – Heb 1:2
- § Depart – **aphistemi** – FMI – to leave, separate, abandon – some believers will abandon their faith in the truth.
- § Give heed – **prosecho** – PAPTIC - pay attention; to accept and follow – some believers will open their hearts to demonic influence.
- § Rejecting the truth opens us to the influence of demonic concepts.
- § 1Tim 1:3-7 – false teachers turn aside from the truth and focus on false applications of the law.