

SATAN'S WORK TO DECEIVE

2Cor 2:1-11

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Devices = "That which is devised, or formed by design as a scheme, often a scheme to deceive; a stratagem" Webster W. E. Vine "That which is thought out... hence a purpose, device."
- B. Our text refers to Satan's evil designs and wicked schemes to take advantage of God's people.
- C. His acts do not stem from casual ideas that just happen to occur to him.
- D. They are the results of deep thought and intense study, planning and plotting
- E. In Satan's work in Corinth he caused the church to overlook a fornicator and when they realized this he caused them to go to the other extreme of taking a harsh, unforgiving attitude that would discourage the penitent one
- F. This is just one of his devices, he has many more and so we want to notice a few

DISCUSSION:

I. HE IMPLIES THAT GOD IS UNFAIR AND OPPRESSIVE Gen 3:1

- A. Hath God said that you can't eat of every tree - is God that exacting in His commands
- B. Today he questions God's commands
 - 1. Do you mean I have to be baptized to be saved?
 - 2. Do you mean I have to be faithful in attendance?
 - 3. Must I make a full commitment - purity of life?
 - 4. Marriage, etc, too strict, too harsh, too narrow, too severe.

II. AN OUTRIGHT DENIAL OF GOD'S WORD Gen 3:4

- A. I know that's what God said, but here's what He meant
 - 1. When you eat this fruit you will become as gods knowing good and evil
 - 2. God simply does not want you to be like Him
- B. Satan still uses this same device
 - 1. "Baptism not FOR the remission of sins - faith only saves" Mk 16:15,16; Jas 2:24
 - 2. "Not just one body." "many churches" Eph 4:4,5; Col 1:18,24

III. AN APPEAL TO THE FLESH Gen 3:6

- A. Good to look at - lust of eyes
- B. Good for food - lust of flesh
- C. Desired to make one wise - pride of life
- D. Christ's temptation Matt 4:1-11
 - 1. Turn stones into bread - lust of flesh

- 2. Kingdoms of world lust of eyes
- 3. Cast self down - pride of life (make a big show)
- E. Note John's warning 1Jhn 2:15-17
- F. To know that Satan is still using this method today all we have to do is look around us and at ourselves

IV. HE SLANDERS THE PEOPLE OF GOD

- A. His name means adversary or accuser
 - 1. He circulates rumors, magnifies their faults
 - a. "Just a bunch of hypocrites"
 - b. "All preachers preach for money"
 - c. "They never do any work anyway"
 - 2. Tale bearing or gossip Prov 26:20,22; 11:13
 - 3. Satan's accusations:
 - a. Said Job would curse God Job 1:5; 2:5
 - b. Called Christ a glutton and winebibber Matt 11:19
 - c. His agents prated against John 3Jhn 9-11
- B. Through this means he has hurt many very deeply and discouraged some to the point that they are not longer faithful.
- C. This is just the way Satan planned it (his devices)

V. HE PREVENTS PREACHING OF PURE WORD OF GOD

- A. Realizing that he can't eradicate religion he promotes his own brand
 - 1. Men are inherently religious
 - 2. Have religious zeal without knowledge Rom 10:3
- B. Satan has flooded the world with false religions and teachers 2Pet 2:1,2; 2Cor 11:14,15; Gal 1:6-8
- C. Give them all the churches they want - false ones will be rooted up and keep millions from truth Matt 15:13
- D. because of his perversion of the plan of salvation millions think they are saved when they are not

CONCLUSION:

- A. These are just a few devices Satan uses in his work to deceive, there are many others
- B. However, after we know what kind of enemy we have we should gird up the loins of our minds and be sober 1Pet 1:13 and watchful 1Pet 5:8
- C. We need to examine ourselves to see if Satan has deceived us through one of his devices 2Cor 13:5
- D. The devil is a cunning and devising enemy - we must be on the alert every moment of our lives.