

Satan's Schemes

II Cor. 2:5-11

II Cor. 2:6-11

- 6 Sufficient to such a man *is* this punishment, which *was inflicted* of many.
- 7 So that contrariwise ye *ought* rather to forgive *him*, and comfort *him*, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.
- 8 Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm *your* love toward him.
- 9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.
- 10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I *forgive* also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave *it*, for your sakes *forgave I it* in the person of Christ;
- 11 ***Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.***

Key Words In The Text: II Cor. 2:11

- Satan (adversary) - a personal, evil being, intent on our spiritual destruction (I Pet. 5:8; Rev. 12:9-7).
- Advantage - to cheat, defraud; to exploit with any possible means, in every circumstance or situation - to take us spiritually captive. (II Tim. 2:26; II Cor. 10:4-5)
- Ignorant - unaware, not familiar, oblivious
- Devices - schemes, wiles, plots, purposes, designs. (Eph. 6:10, 16; II Cor. 10:5; 11:3)

Destroys Relationships (II Cor. 2:6-11)

- I Cor. 5:1-1 It is reported commonly *that there is* fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. 2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.
- II Cor. 2:6-7 Sufficient to such a man *is* this punishment, which *was inflicted* of many. 7 So that contrariwise *ye ought* rather to forgive *him*, and comfort *him*, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.
 - Satan is at work in both of these situations...
 - Satan is the Destroyer of relationships: In marriages, in churches, among friends - between the Creator and those created in His image. (Isa. 59:1-2)
 - Resist the devil, and he will flee from you... (Js. 4:7-10)

Corrupts The Word of God (II Cor. 2:17)

- II Cor. 2:17 → 17 For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.
 - **Corrupt** - “hucksters who peddle the word of God for profit” (NET); peddlers were in the habit of adulterating their commodities for gain.
 - II Cor. 11:13-15 → 13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Corrupts The Word of God (II Cor. 2:17)

- Satan's ministers twist the scriptures and proclaim what will accomplish their personal objectives: money, large following, etc. Peddle the word to make it more palatable to the impenitent.
 - The health and wealth gospel. (II Cor. 12:7; II Tim. 4:20; I Tim. 6:6-12; Matt. 19:21-23)
 - Ignore subjects like marriage/divorce; homosexuality; abortion, etc. (Rom. 1:26-32; I Cor. 6:9-11)
 - “Easy Believism” (Jn. 12:42-43; Js. 2:24-26; Gal. 5:6)
 - The impossibility of apostasy. (I Cor. 10:12; Heb. 3:12; Gal. 5:4)

Blinds Minds (II Cor. 4:3-6)

- 3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:
4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.
 - Satan does not blind our minds without our cooperation. (Jn. 3:19-21; Rom. 1:28; Matt. 13:15)
 - Satan blinds minds by:
 - Human tradition. (Matt. 15:3)
 - Family religion. (Matt. 10:34-39; Gal. 1:14)
 - Materialism. (Lk. 12:15ff)
 - Deceitfulness of sin. (Lk. 8:12-13)
 - Human wisdom. (I Cor. 1:18ff; Rom. 1:22)
 - Only the glorious gospel of Christ can overpower sin and Satan; and that only in an honest and good heart. (Lk. 8:15)

Cunningly Corrupts Minds From the Simplicity That Is In Christ (II Cor. 11:3-4)

- 3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*.

– *Beguiled* → *deceived*

– *Subtilty* → *cunning, craftiness, treachery*

– *Corrupted* → *seduced, led astray*

– *Simplicity* → *sincere and pure devotion to Christ*

Cunningly Corrupts Minds From the Simplicity That Is In Christ (II Cor. 11:3-4)

- Gen. 3:1-5 → 1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
- 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
- 3 But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.
- 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:
- 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Torments With Thorns In The Flesh (II Cor. 12:7)

- II Cor. 12:7 → And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.
 - Satan seeks to use the hardships, pains, disappointments, the troubles and trials of life to turn us from God.
 - Job 1:11 → “...touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.”
 - Paul’s response: Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. (II Cor. 12:10; cf. Rom. 5:3-5; II Cor. 4:16-18)