

# 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.