

Satan's Schemes: Know Your Enemy

2 Corinthians 2:9-11

- 1 Pet. 5:8 – Peter described Satan as real, opportunistic, and malevolent.
- Eph. 6:11 – Satan, the “Adversary,” has many wiles (tricks, schemes, traps) & if one does not work, he uses another.
- It helps when we can say, like Paul, “We are not ignorant of his devices.”
- Thayer: 1) a mental perception, thought, 2) an evil purpose.

The Basis of the Satanic Method

- Jn. 8:44 – “there is no truth in him...for he is a liar and the father of it.”
- Gen. 2:16, 17; 3:1-4 – Satan used this effectively in Eden.
- Jn. 12:5-6; 13:2 – Judas bought into lies and sold out to Satan to betray the Lord.
- Col. 3:9 “Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds”
- 1 Jn. 2:21 “no lie is of the truth.”

The Bliss of Ignorance

- Eph. 5:17 – The wise understand, but Satan says “You cannot understand it, so why study it?”
- 1 Tim. 1:5-7 – Some teach without understanding.
- Rom. 1:13; 1 Cor. 12:1; 2 Cor. 1:8; 1 Thess. 4:13 – “I would not have you ignorant”
- 2 Tim. 2:15 – Must handle aright the word of truth!
- Psa. 1:1-2; Mat. 5:6; Rev. 1:3; 22:14 – The blessedness of knowledge!

There Is Plenty of Time

- Lk. 9:59-62; 12:19-20 – How much time do we have?
- Eph. 5:15-17 – Walk circumspectly...redeeming the time.
- Col. 4:5 “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.”
- Heb. 3:7, 15; 4:7 “to day, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts”

- 2 Cor. 6:2 ... behold, now is the day of salvation.

A Perverter of Scripture

- Mat. 4:6, 7; Psa. 91:11, 12.
- 2 Cor. 11:13-15 – Satan's ministers appear righteous, but pervert the scriptures.
- Mat. 7:15 – False teachers never appear as they truly are! (Compare Acts 20:28-30.)
- 2 Pet. 3:16b “...which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.”

The Pleasures of Sin

- One of the greatest lies is that sin is rewarding.
- Mat. 4:8-9 – Satan literally promised Jesus the world!
- Heb. 11:24-26 – Moses was well acquainted with all the pleasures of sin that the world had to offer, but made the better choice!
- Mat. 16:26 – What will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Hypocritical Injustice

- Lk. 6:37-42 – Operating on a speck while trying to peep around a beam is dangerous!
- Jas. 4:11 “Speak not evil one of another, brethren... (Also Tit. 3:1-2.)
- Eph. 4:29 – Edification ministers grace to its hearers.
- 2 Cor. 2:1-11 implies that unwillingness to forgive is a device of Satan.

Decision...

- Satan is real – he is a schemer and a liar who will do all he can to keep us out of heaven.
- We cannot afford to be ignorant of his devices!
- We cannot afford to be ignorant of God's word!
- We must surrender ourselves before we can help others.
- Rom. 5:8 – God has give His Son that we might be saved.
- Are we wasting our limited time, or using it wisely?

Once upon a time Satan asked his helpers to propose ways and means of breaking up a congregation on earth.

- One said: "I would tell the people that there is no God, no devil, no heaven, no hell and that they should eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die." Satan said, "You need not go. No Christian would believe you."
- Another helper said: "Let's go and tell them that the Bible is a good book, but that is only partially true. I would tell them there is a God and a heaven, but no hell and that no matter how they live they will be eternally happy." But Satan said, "Only a few might believe that."
- Finally, his most devious helper said: "I would tell them the Bible is all true and that you must make a choice between heaven and hell, but there is plenty of time to choose." "Go," said Satan, "You have the right idea!"

The Clock Of Life

The clock of life is wound but once,
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop
At late or early hour.

To lose one's wealth is sad indeed,
To lose one's health is more,
To lose one's soul is such a loss
That no man can restore.

The present only is our own,
So Live, Love, toil with a will --
Place no faith in 'Tomorrow' --
For the clock may then be still.

Robert H. Smith
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Only One Life

Two little lines I heard one day,
As I plodded on in my usual way;
And they rang in my ears, again and again,
Repeating in solemn sweet refrain:

"Only one life, twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last."

Only one life, the still small voice,
Gently allures to a better choice.
Bidding me never let selfish aims,
Overshadow my blessed Savior's claims.

Give me Savior, a purpose deep,
In joy or sorrow thy trust to keep;
And so through trouble, care and strife,
To glorify Thee in my daily life!

"Only one life, 'twill soon be past;
Only what's done for Christ will last.
Only one life, a few brief years,
Each with its burden of hopes and fears

Each with its record of good or ill,
As I please myself or obey His will.

Only one life, twill soon be past
Only what's done for Christ will last . . .
So give me Father a purpose true
That in my life, others may see you.

"Only one life, twill soon be past.
Only what's done for Christ will last."

C.L. Studd (?)