

SATAN'S BATTLE PLAN (I THESSALONIANS 2:17-18)

In today's modern world people have many concerns that occupy their mind and their time. We are concerned about the economy, our political leaders, our health, our children, our jobs and many other things. The one thing that does not occupy our mind and time is the invisible spiritual battle that is raging all around us. In our text verse Paul was concerned about this church and wanted to be with them but he recognized that the problems that prohibited him from being there came from enemy #1.

THE ENEMY IS REAL

I Peter 5:8 We have been warned many times in the bible about our adversary the Devil. When our time and energies go into the thoughts and things of the world we are disobeying this warning.

Ephesians 6:10-12 Paul has revealed to us the importance of recognizing the enemy we face and the magnitude of the battle we are in. He warns we must be spiritually strong and use the right weapons.

Daniel 10:12-14 This revelation by Daniel shows us the enormity of the war that God's people face. In this one experience and event in the O.T. We have Daniel, Gabriel, Michael and Satan doing battle.

SATAN USES FALSE DOCTRINE

Genesis 3:1, 4-5 Just as he did in the beginning, Satan today twists and corrupts the scriptures (**I Cor. 2:17; I Cor. 4:2**) in order to distort the truth of God and render believers useless for the work of God.

II Corinthians 11:13-15 In today's pulpits all across the globe Satan has his ministers and teachers that look good, talk good and are deceivers and liars that fool many and knock them out of the race.

I John 4:1-3 Satan has his own 'spirit' throughout the world. Religions are teaching the message of anti-Christ telling and convincing millions that Christ has not really come or Jesus was not the Christ.

SATAN USES FAILING HEALTH

II Corinthians 12:7 Paul was not only a great teacher and soul winner for Christ but was a great example to believers that have health issues. We can be sure that Satan would routinely remind Paul of his failing health in order to discourage Paul from his work for God.

Exodus 4:10 At the age of eighty years old Moses had physical and emotional problems before becoming the greatest and most spiritual leader Israel ever had.

Philippians 2:25-30 Epaphroditus never stopped serving and praying even though it cost him dearly.

Judges 16:28-30 After repenting and calling on God Sampson was used by God to do a great work.

SATAN USES FINANCES

I Timothy 6:9 How many believers have stopped growing and serving God because of their jobs, their material desires, a mortgage too large, a family too greedy for material wants.

Matthew 6:19-21, 24-34 Jesus warns us and at the same time promises to meet our needs IF we put Him first. It is irrefutable that no one can serve God and money at the same time, it doesn't work!

SATAN USES FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Matthew 16:21-24 Peter is an example of how we think about ourselves before we think about God.

Job 2:9 Our own family can be the greatest discouragement in our service to God. God's word tells us that serving Him would not be pie in the sky, a rose garden or a picnic. We serve because we love!

