

THE DEVIL'S TOOL BOX

II Corinthians 2:11

Paul was aware of the spiritual immaturity of the Corinthian church. Satan's advantage is based upon us being “ignorant of his devices.” Many church people have been ignorant and have paid the price.

BLINDING THE MINDS

II Corinthians 4:3-4 Many people that go to church or think they are okay because they are “good people” and are considered honest and sincere among relatives and friends have been blinded by Satan.

I Timothy 4:1-4 The Spirit of God warned that people would be blinded by “doctrines of demons”. There are those that call themselves Atheists thinking there is no God. The doctrine of evolution teaches that we are no more than hybrid animals. The doctrine of Humanism teaches everything is “right in our own eyes.” We have doctrines of false religion such as Mormonism, Catholicism, Satan worship, Jehovah Witness, and all kinds of work salvation religions on television and the internet.

Our best defense – II Corinthians 10:3-5 The best defense is a good offense that involves a war for the thoughts of mankind. We must capture and control all that we think about and keep things pure.

John 8:32; Acts 17:2-3 Our greatest weapon is the truth of God's word. Truth will defeat the false arguments and wickedness of the Devil and his demons. We must reason with others through His truth.

THINGS OF THIS WORLD

I John 2:15-17 Since the beginning of the human race Satan has used these desires to sway people away from all that is right and holy. Our selfishness will always lead us down this wide road of defeat.

Genesis 3:6 Eve was a representation of all human beings to follow when she fell for Satan's trappings when she saw that the fruit was good for food (lust of the flesh), it was pleasant to the eye (lust of the eye), and it was desirable to make her wise (pride of life).

I Corinthians 15:33 The wrong friends will put us in situations and places that are not good for us.

Our best defense – Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; James 4:7 Jesus gave us the example of how to combat the devil. He used the word of God in each attack by Satan. Loving and submitting to God defeats Satan.

I John 2:14-15 We can overcome the Devil by developing a strong love for God our Father and a love for the word of God. These will overcome the selfishness coming from Satan and our sin nature.

PERSECUTION OF BELIEVERS

I Peter 5:8 Satan has been persecuting believers since Cain and Abel. Satan knows he cannot get the soul of any believer so he tries to attack and destroy our testimony, our family and our lives.

I Thessalonians 3:1-5 Paul shows concern because of the persecution that was going on with this church. Satan uses peer pressure, ridicule, legal rules, financial pressure and physical means to attack.

Our best defense – I Peter 5:9-10; James 1:2-4 Sometimes God will allow persecution and suffering in believers in order to strengthen us and to establish us in the faith.

DISCOURAGEMENT

Numbers 21:4; I Peter 4:12; Deuteronomy 1:28 These verses show ways that Satan uses to discourage us; the hardness of the way in life, trials and tribulations, and fear of the unknown.

Our best defense - II Timothy 4:16-18; Job 13:15 When discouragement comes trust God alone.

III John 9-12 Imitate the good examples and don't be discouraged by bad examples in the church.