

Not Ignorant of his Devices

2 Corinthians 2:11

To the Corinthian brethren, in regard to the discipline enacted toward the offender among them, the apostle Paul said, “Sufficient to such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the many; so that contrariwise ye should rather forgive him and comfort him, lest by any means such a one should be swallowed up with his overmuch sorrow. Wherefore I beseech you to confirm your love toward him. For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye are obedient in all things. But to whom ye forgive anything, I forgive also: for what I also have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, for your sakes have I forgiven it in the presence of Christ; that no advantage may be gained over us by Satan: for we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Corinthians 2:6-11).

If we were to learn nothing else from these passages, let us remember this: Satan has “devices.” Defined: “a perception, that is, purpose, or (by implication) the intellect, disposition, itself” (Strong’s).

Thayer defines it as “that which thinks, the mind, thoughts or purposes.” Gill put it this way, “We know his plans, his thoughts, his cunning, his skill. We are not ignorant of the great number of stratagems which he is constantly using to injure us, and to destroy the souls of people.” “Stratagems,” are defined as “a plan or scheme, especially one used to outwit an opponent or achieve an end.”

Everyday people are concerned about their daily obligations, the needs of their families, the activities of their children and the normal everyday responsibilities incumbent to life, and unaware of the wiles of the devil, which are described by the apostle Paul, saying, “that we may be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error” (Ephesians 4:14). The terms describing the wiles of the devil are interesting. 1) The “sleight of men” comes from “κῦβος kubos (a cube, that is, die for playing); gambling, that is, (figuratively) artifice or fraud (Strong’s). Thayer says, “metaphorically the deception of men, because dice players sometimes cheated and defrauded their fellow players.” 2) “cunning craftiness” (kjv) being, “From G3835; adroitness, that is, (in a bad sense) trickery or sophistry,” or “the wiles of the devil” (asv). So, while the unsuspecting are sleeping, the devil, and, as the apostle Paul, in describing these deceivers, says, “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, fashioning themselves into apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for even Satan fashioneth himself into an angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:13-14), is actively working toward the destruction of men.

as the apostle Peter says, “for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he also brought into bondage” (2 Peter 2:19)?

The following are nine stratagems used in our society to usher in error:

1. Urge the godly to adopt a “live and let live” mentality, i.e., “we’re not hurting anyone, leave us alone.
2. Encourage the godly to “sympathize with the plight” of the ungodly, i.e., “feel our pain.”
3. Give the sin a positive view, i.e., “free-love,” instead of fornication.
4. Make it a matter of “rights,” i.e., we have a right to the pursuit of happiness like everyone else.
5. Indoctrinate children. The liberal media, and many schools promote, and encourage ungodliness, i.e., schools that allow students to form clubs to address their perversity.
6. Legalize it. Many take the position that if it’s legal it is thereby moral, and therefore demands acceptance.
7. Control the media, i.e., numerous TV shows, and Movies glorify perversity, and are doing so more everyday.
8. Censorship, i.e., in today’s “politically correct” society those who oppose perversity are classified as “bigots,” and “haters,” and inso-doing, tie the tongue of opposition.
9. Secure hate-crime legislation to protect, and/or suppress against opposition.

Result: Effectively searing the conscience’ of society, “through the hypocrisy of men that speak lies” (1 Timothy 4:2).