

Satan seeks to devour

Introduction

Christians need to understand how their enemy works if they are to have any chance of defeating him.

What is shocking is that many believers tend to be ignorant about Satan's devices (as the Puritans termed his actions)¹ and thus fall foul of his plans and become useless in their testimony.

I am appalled and shocked how this has become very evident during the Covid crisis. Christians and churches everywhere completely fell for the Devil's strategies and had no clue whatsoever that they were being manipulated. As a result they danced to the devil's tune rather than standing up for the truth against the tide.

In this paper I want to highlight certain aspects of the Devil's strategies so that you can become better prepared.

Devouring

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Pt 5:8

'Devour' means 'to swallow up and destroy'.

Satan swallows up his victims. Understand that. He devours those he catches. What does this mean?

When you ask Christians about Satan's opposing actions they talk about temptation to sin primarily. Is this what Satan is most concerned about? Does this constitute a devouring? No it does not.

Temptation to sin is about a temporary inclination of the will and the emotions. It gets a person to do something they know is wrong as a result of desire or lust. Certainly this is a minor victory for the enemy, but not much of one. In God's grace we have an antidote for sins committed. It is repentance, confession and asking God for cleansing by the blood of Jesus. Upon conviction of sin, a believer can immediately undo the gain Satan had for a moment. This is no way for him to win a war.

Temptations to sin are always used as part of a bigger plan to destroy the believer's testimony. They are not the prime focus. Satan wants to devour.

Devouring has to do with capturing the mind, the intellect. If Satan can change a believer's mind and get him to believe lies then he has gained a long-term victim. Devouring is about mind control.²

¹ 'Device' also means: a plan, scheme, or trick with a particular aim, as well as a design or an appliance for a purpose. E.g. 'Precious remedies against Satan's devices', Thomas Brooks.

The entrance into the Christian life is repentance. God commands that every person repent (Acts 17:30). Repentance means to change one's mind. If you change a mind you also change their course of action. Those who repent cease to follow the Devil and the world and follow Jesus Christ. It starts with changing the mind.

Thus the Devil's great challenge is to change the mind away from the truth as it is in Jesus and to follow some deception. When a believer falls for this lie, he is led astray and no longer follows Christ. This is being devoured.

[Note: those who believe that repentance is a once for all time event are totally wrong. Repentance is a lifelong attitude of constantly following Christ, despite temptations to selfishness and sin (which change the mind and the course of action). Such folk do not understand the battle between the two natures of the believer.]

Ensnare

Lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. 1 Tim 3:7

That they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will. 2 Tim 2:26

'Snare' means 'a trap, or snare', especially of the sort of net that catches birds.

Note that the purpose of the snare is to get a believer from doing God's will to doing the Devil's will. This is far more dangerous than merely committing some sin.

Now when you set a trap for birds you spread long nets across shrubs and trees. Migrating birds following set patterns of flight fly into the nets and are completely immobilised and unable to free themselves. They are then devoured.

This is also about capturing the mind but using a different figure of speech. It is the metaphor of entrapment. The Devil seeks to capture the mind by setting traps of deception so that the mind follows Satan instead of God. Someone who is ensnared by the Devil cannot get free like the birds in the net. It usually requires fellowship and counsel to get someone free from being mentally ensnared.

Filling the heart

Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart'. Acts 6:3

Yes it is possible for Satan to fill the heart. This is not demonic possession, it is absorbing satanic lies to such an extent that the person is convinced in error. The issue here is primarily the mind and the conscience (the prime constituents of the heart). The mind is convinced of a lie and the conscience is seared (1 Tim 4:2), damaged and improperly functions.

The heart is the gateway for all life's decisions: 'Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life' (Prov 4:23). The mind informs the conscience (which is why it must be continually renewed) and the conscience permits or forbids actions. If the Devil can

² This is one reason why the government's use of behavioural psychology (mind control) to create fear in the population to enable compliance to diktats is satanic.

deceive the mind, and therefore change the conscience, he has captured the heart. The ensnared person then does Satan's will instead of God's.

What Satan is doing

The devouring, the snaring, the filling of the heart is about capturing the mind of the believer. Overcoming the emotions and the will to make a person sin is a temporary victory, but to fill the mind with error and capture the conscience is a major triumph. The result is that the believer then does Satan's will. This is a conquest with long-term repercussions.

Sadly, this is now what we are seeing on a daily basis. Churches all over the world have been captured by Satan and are doing his will. The testimony of Jesus has been shattered. Shame on these people. Wake up!

Who are these people? Everyone that has fallen for the deception in the current global strategy manipulated through the Covid crisis, which is part of a bigger satanic plan.

That is:

- Everyone that wore a mask to protect them from a virus that passes straight through but the mask then makes them sick.
- Everyone that obeyed social distancing when viruses can travel miles and infect people and the population became scared of close contact with others.
- Everyone that submitted to a Covid vaccine that was unnecessary for a disease with a 0.15% fatality rate. It is more dangerous to cross the road. The vaccine then causes harm.
- Everyone that submitted to PCR tests that are utterly useless and discover nothing enabling medical diagnosis but do pass on contaminants.
- Everyone that refused to see loved ones that needed reassurance and contact.
- Everyone that believed the utter lies constantly spouted by the government and its advisors. Lies that were designed to cause fear. Submitting to fear takes a person out of submission to God and faith in his providence.
- Everyone that allowed themselves to be ruled by the fear spread by government psychological manipulation.
- Most importantly, everyone that stopped going to their normal church meetings for over a year due to an illegal government diktat. Church leaders are particularly guilty here and will face God's discipline.

Deception is the key

How many times do I have to emphasise that Satan is a liar and that he primarily works by deception. It is by deceiving people that Satan captures and devours them. It is by deceit that Satan fills the heart. It is by leading people astray that he ensnares believers.

For a full analysis of Satan's works in this regard see my book *Deception: the deadly virus* written nearly 30 years ago.

How badly are Christians being deceived?

I know of a Reformed church of normally about 200 people. It is currently meeting with about 25 people who are all masked and are social distancing. In the last 18 months no one has been visiting needy people at their homes and the church meeting was closed. Now this is even when the mask mandate has stopped as well as social distancing rules. The

congregation is so scared that they are continuing those stupid practices. Most members are staying at home out of fear and hearing the sermon by zoom, as if that was fellowship. What a shambles!

For this to occur, those people have been thoroughly deceived. As a result, they are now very vulnerable to new deceptions that the Devil can easily throw at them. Without repentance, such a church is finished. It is doing Satan's will not God's.

The antidote and prophylactic

Truth

The only way to preserve yourself against the Devil's wiles is to protect your mind. This is done by always and in all things focusing on the truth. The mind has to be renewed; it must constantly be focused upon Christ and absorbing the truth of God.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Rm 12:2

The truth is closely tied to the will of God. By knowing the truth, we learn what God's will is. This is not just doctrinal issues (though this is most important) but it affects all matters.

In any situation one must learn the truth of it. Only then can we begin to understand what God's will is. You can't make a wise decision about any matter if you do not have the true facts. If you have a distorted or erroneous perception of the matter then you will make wrong decisions. You must have the truth.

The Devil's strategy is to use lies and to deceive, therefore you have to make a special effort to get past this and to see the hard truth.

In the Covid crisis the satanic strategy was to flood populations with lies. Day after day people were filled (and still are) with untruths. These lies came from trusted authority sources: the government, cabinet advisors, corrupt doctors and scientists, the media and so on. The amount of lying propaganda was unprecedented in history. For example:

- There is no treatment for Covid so we need a vaccine. Lie. There are many safe treatments, especially in the early stages. These include Hydroxychloroquine, Ivermectin and budesonide, but there are others. There is no need for any vaccine.
- Be scared about Covid. Lie. Many diseases are far more dangerous but we have lived with them all our lives. Covid only kills less than 1% of people, mostly those over 80 with co-morbidities who are not treated correctly by the NHS (they don't have to die).
- The vaccines are fully safe. Lie. They are incredibly dangerous. They make the body create the very toxin that kills people by Covid; but they also enable multiple pathological events. Thus huge numbers are dying from the vaccine. In many countries hospitals are filling up (in the summer no less) with vaccinated people. Covid fatalities are mostly vaccinated people; 73% in August according to Public Health England.³
- Facemasks protect you. Social distancing protects you. Lockdowns are effective. All lies.

We could go on and on (see my Covid papers). The point is that the Devil has promoted the Covid lie in order to bring about a bigger strategy of world change in his image. If you don't understand by now that national governments are controlled by a satanic overlord system,

³ For details on all this, see my forthcoming (DV) paper, 'It is not about a virus'.

then there is no point trying to convince you. You will end up as cannon fodder. You will willingly walk over the cliff of deception.

What counts is the truth. To understand what is happening in society today you must get to the truth of every aspect. This demonstrates the satanic plan and enables you to avoid it. Sadly, most Christians failed this test.

You cannot hope to survive the coming onslaught if you don't set your mind to understand the truth. The spiritual battle is now very real in our day to day lives; it is not academic. Last year church leaders preached on spiritual warfare in an academic manner, while openly submitting to satanic lies and following the Devil's programme.

You cannot trust church leaders with your life and never should have. God holds you responsible for your own life and for those in your family. You must do your own resisting.

Resist

Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Jm 4:7

Once you have the truth you will know what to do. This will always involve active resistance; standing against the enemy: 'Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore' (Eph 6:13-14).

Truth gives you the power to be able to stand and to withstand.

In the current crisis, understanding the truth that the vaccine is satanic and very dangerous will lead you to refuse vaccination. You then stand against any mandates for it and face the consequences. This is the warfare.

Understanding the truth that facemasks are useless and cause sickness and are a satanic ploy will make you refuse to wear one under any circumstances.

Truth has to be applied, then it becomes wisdom. The application is resistance to lies and deception. If you are not resisting, then you are complying.

The resistance involves faith because sometimes the repercussions are hard. In France you cannot buy food or participate in any social function without vaccination. Ostensibly a person refusing vaccination could starve. In other places medical treatment is being denied to the unvaccinated. I myself was refused vital medical treatment because I refused to submit to a PCR test. This requires faith to survive. In the worst case, it means being willing to die for the truth and to not compromise your faith.

We are in an age when being a Christian is going to cost. For most of church history that has been true but in the last 100 years Christians in the west have become soft due to social acceptance. This has now changed. You will need faith to survive the coming satanic world system. But God provides for the faithful. He opens doors that you could never have expected. A starving Elijah was fed by ravens (1 Kg 17:4-6). The Israelites in the wilderness got water from a split rock. I'm sure that God will provide for his unvaccinated people today.

Conclusion

These matters are very clear in the Bible; they are not hard to find out. For people to submit to illegal, satanic demands without even a whimper, shows that believers are not reading their Bibles or understanding very basic doctrines.

The church today is in a very parlous state.

If most church people have their minds filled with Satan and are following demonic objectives, where do we go from here? The situation is very serious.

Genuine Christians who want to be faithful need to separate from these churches and start fellowshipping together informally in homes and start to rebuild local churches according to Biblical principles. These capitulated modern churches have proved that they are faithless without even the threat of death. In the past, godly children were more faithful under the threat of death.

To those who think I harp on too much about home churches (you cannot say too much about a Biblical doctrine), note this:

- When did the church expand most and bring millions to Christ in a short period? When the church met in homes.
- When did churches start to go wrong? When they gathered in larger numbers in bigger buildings under the authority of monarchical bishops in the sub-apostolic period. Then you gradually had legalism in doctrine, heresies, hierarchical authority structures, a clergy / laity split, introduction of musical instruments, involvement with the world and so on.
- What is the Biblical precedent for meeting? It is only in a house and nowhere else.⁴
- What is the best place for one-anothering? A home.
- What is the best place for mutual edification? A home.
- Why is there only one spiritual office in the local church?⁵ Because no other leadership office is necessary where the church is a small family in a home.
- Where is the best place to avoid a clergy / laity split? A home.
- Where is the best place to avoid persecution? A house.
- Neither Jesus nor the apostles established dedicated buildings for fellowship meetings (they were available).
- Neither Jesus nor the apostles used sermons as the primary means of teaching the local church.⁶ [The word is not in the NT.]⁷ Sermons are necessary in large meetings to address big numbers. In a house, teaching is by mutual edification, discussion, dialogue, as Scripture demands.

Furthermore, what grounds have anyone to disagree with God and establish a new pattern for churches based on pragmatics and not truth? Meeting in places other than homes is itself a satanic deception. Biblicity demands that the church meet in homes; that is

⁴ The early temple meetings were not fellowship gatherings in the name of Christ, which would not have been allowed. It took a while for Jews to understand the New Covenant. The Hall of Tyrannus was for public debate and evangelism, not a fellowship meeting, which would also not be allowed in a city devoted to Artemis.

⁵ Deacons are not spiritual offices but administrators to get money to the needy.

⁶ When the disciples were gathered with Jesus and being taught, they formed a local church. Note: Matt 18:17. The church of the elect existed before the cross (Acts 7:38; 'congregation' in NKJV is *ekklesia*).

⁷ The word 'preaching' is used to address outsiders with the Gospel. It is not used for teaching God's flock. 'Preaching' in the KJV of Acts 20:7 is a mistranslation. The word means discussion.

unequivocal. It is impossible to defend large, dedicated, church buildings from apostolic teaching.

Understanding that the Devil works by deception, confusion, error and lies and seeks to capture the mind, is a basic weapon in a Christians' fight. If you fail to appreciate this, you will be captured and devoured.

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