

UNFORGIVENESS, ONE OF SATAN'S DEVICES  
II COR. 2:5-11

Introduction:

- A. We know that Paul believed in the existence of Satan.
  - 1. v11.
  - 2. Paul's estimate of the Devil.
    - a. "prince of the power of the air." Eph. 2:2-
    - b. "opposes God's work." I Thess. 2:18.
    - c. "believers should resist." Rom. 16:20.
    - d. "Satan is powerful." Eph. 2:2.
  
- B. Paul believed that Satan had devices.
  - 1. "we are not ignorant of his devices."
  - 2. ignorant = agnoeo - not to comprehend.
  - 3. devices = noema = that which is thought out, thought, purpose, project.
  
- C. Paul believed that Satan used devices to gain an advantage at God's people.
  - 1. "lest Satan should get an advantage of us."
  - 2. advantage = pleonekteo - to make a prey of, to defraud, to get the better, as an enemy by force of fraud.

I. THE WORKING OF SATAN, HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

- A. There had been temptation and sin.
  - 1. I Cor. 5:1- "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the gentiles, that one should have his fathers wife."
  - 2. Sexual sins are often used by satan.
    - a. David and Bathsheba.
  
- B. This sin had caused grief to the entire body.
  - 1. v5.

2. grief = lupeo - to afflict with sorrow.
  3. overcharge = epibareo - to weigh down, press heavily upon, be burdensome upon.
- C. The church had punished the fornicator. v6
1. I Cor. 5:3-5, Paul's orders.
  2. punishment = enitimia - spoken of the estimate fixed by a judge on the infringement of civil rights and citizenship, penalty, judicial infliction.
  3. They had taken away his church rights in a public meeting.
- D. It was time to forgive and restore.
1. v7, swallow up = katapino - to drink down.
- E. It would confirm their love. v8
1. confirm - kurosoi = to ratify with authority by some public or formal act.
- F. It would be proof of their obedience to God's word. v9  
"to pass a test."
1. Too eager to punish, not eager to restore.
- G. Paul would do his Christian duty. v10
1. Perhaps Paul had been maligned by this occurrence more than anyone.
  2. II Sam. 1:11-12.
- H. To refuse to forgive would give satan an added advantage
1. v11.

## II. THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT COULD DEVELOP FROM SATAN'S DEVICES. II COR. 12:20.

- A. If they had not followed Paul's instruction in this matter, both in exclusion and restoration, the church would have suffered immeasurably.

1. This is one of the great problems in our work.
2. It has ever been a problem.

B. What would these things have been?

1. debates = eris = quarrels, wordy-wranglings.
2. envyings = zeloo - heartburning jealousy.
3. wraths = thumos = the working and fermenting of the mind, the demonstration of strong passion which may issue in revenge.
4. strifes = eritheia = labour for wages; hence, canvassing, intriguing; party spirit, faction.
5. backbitings = katalalia - a speaking against, open evil speaking as opposed to whisperings.
6. whisperings = psithuristes - to whisper what one does not speak out, a secret slandering.
7. swellings = phusiosis - a puffing up.
8. tumults = akatasasia - instability; hence, disorder, sedition.
9. v21, bewail = go into mourning.

III. FORGIVENESS IS A DIVINE ATTRIBUTE.

A. The words of Jesus.

1. Mark 11:24-26.

B. It is necessary to church unity.

1. We can forgive from afar.