

The Christian Armour # 2 – Who is our Adversary?

“If you don’t know your enemy, and if you don’t know yourself, you will succumb every time”
(ancient Chinese General)

Identity of our Adversary

- ❖ There is an enemy like a lion on the prowl, wanting to trip you up in sin, stir you up to sin, keep you from loving God and loving your neighbour and instead he wants to lead you to be angry, impatient, selfish, proud, jealous.
- ❖ Our enemy is not people. That does not mean that Satan does not use people to tempt us and lead us to sin. But I need to do battle with the invisible enemy: the devil
 - He is that great rebel against God, clever (Gen. 3), blinds people (2 Cor. 4:4), like a roaring lion (1 Pet 5:8), transforms himself into an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14), the murderer from the beginning, father of lies (Jn. 8:44), the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 10:10).
 - He has a network of terror (Eph. 6:12)
 - ✚ They are numerous
 - ✚ They are powerful
 - ✚ They are wicked and malicious

Strategy of our Adversary

There are the wiles of the devil. There are times when he has a frontal attack; other times, it is a subtle attack; sometimes it is ongoing, wearying, non-stopping assaults. He might attack after a time of spiritual blessing, or in a time of physical weakness, or in anxiety and mental depression. He might encourage careless living, or he might tempt to legalism and Pharisaeism. Danger surrounds us from the world and in the church (Acts 20:30).

1. Deceiving
2. Doubting
3. Discouraging
4. Distracting
5. Dividing
6. Destroying

Thomas Watson: “He knew what David’s weakness was, and so tempted him with Bathsheba. He knew that Hezekiah’s weakness was covetousness, and so he made him proud of his possessions.”

William Jenkyn: “He had an apple for Eve, a grape for Noah, a change of raiment for Gehazi, and a bag for Judas. He tempted Israel to complain through the wilderness. He tempted Asaph to envy. He tempted Job to curse God and die.”

Recommended Reading: Holy War (John Bunyan), Precious Remedies against Satan's Devices (Thomas Brooks)

Discussion Questions:

1. *In what ways might we underestimate or overestimate the devil's power?*
2. *Thomas Brooks said: "If God were not my friend Satan would not be so much my enemy". What did he mean?*
3. *What are some schemes that Satan uses in your life?*