

**2Cor 2:11** Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

What are Satan's devices and how do they work? The first thing we have to know is: what does device mean?

1. That which is formed by design, or invented; scheme; artificial contrivance; stratagem; project; sometimes in a good sense; more generally in a bad sense, as artifices are usually employed for bad purposes.

Very simply, device means an invented scheme or strategy.

So Satan's devices are invented schemes or strategies. These schemes and strategies have one overarching purpose. It is Satan's desire to be like the Most High. He will eventually sit in the temple of God showing that he is God, but that is a paltry end to what his real desire is. That desire is to **ascend into heaven, exalt his throne above the stars of God** (the angelic host): to **sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.**

One of his devices to achieve that goal was executed during the earthly ministry of Christ:

**Matt 4:8-10** Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; **9** And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, **if thou wilt fall down and worship me.** **10** Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

If Jesus would have accepted that offer, Satan would have been empowered to ascend into heaven and sit with God on the sides of the north. But that didn't happen.

As that goal has been eternally crushed when Jesus arose from the dead, he is now very concerned to hold onto what he has: namely, the earth. So there are many devices that are designed for that purpose also.

Beginning with the verse that tells us that we are vulnerable to those devices, we'll now try to parse what his devices are, what they were, and what they will be in the future.

What is most interesting about this verse is that the context of the verse is the man that was delivered to Satan for the destruction of the flesh in I Corinthians 5.

**1Cor 5:1-5** ¶ 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 father's wife. **2** And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. **3** For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, *concerning* him that hath so done this deed, **4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ**, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, **with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ**, **5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh**, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Notice that the removal of this man who was committing fornication with his step-mother was to be done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and with the power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now look down at verse 7:

**1Cor 5:7-8** ¶ Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: **8** Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and **truth**.

Now if you have been in the assembly for any length of time, you have heard a lot about truth being one of the attributes of God. And the other attribute is?

Grace. And how many times have you heard that the two must go together for the proper functioning of the body of Christ and for the proper walk of believers? Without grace, truth simply becomes overbearing and overjudge-mental. Without truth, grace becomes so widely accepting as to corrupt the word of God.

This man in I Corinthians 5, by the time Paul wrote II Corinthians had repented. He had put away the evil that he was doing and was sorrowful in a godly manner.

**2Cor 2:5-11** ¶ But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all. **6** Sufficient to such a man *is* this punishment, which *was inflicted* of many. **7** So that contrariwise **ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.** **8** Wherefore I beseech you that **ye would confirm your love toward him.** **9** For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things. **10** To whom ye forgive any thing, I *forgive* also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave *it*, for your sakes *forgave I it* **in the person of Christ;** **11** Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

So here we find grace. After the truth was administered – judgment and chastisement – delivery unto Satan, now we see the administration of grace. This is one of the issues he was referring to when he wrote:

**2Cor 7:10** For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

The salvation here isn't soul salvation, but salvation from the destruction of the flesh and the salvation from Satan's devices.

The first device of Satan we see then, is to separate grace and truth.

The second device that is found in II Corinthians 2, when comparing it with I Corinthians 5, is the function of the Lord Jesus Christ. When judgment was delivered to the fornicator, it was done in the name and in the power of the Lord Jesus Christ (I Cor. 5:4). When forgiveness is given in II Cor. 2:10, it is done in the person of Christ.

This is important. When Paul was writing these letters, he was writing by the revelation of the inspiration of Christ. That is why the book we hold in our hands is called the word of God.

Who is the Word of God? Jesus Christ. The relevance to us, then, is that when we judge others, it should always be done according to the Word of God. When we forgive others, it should always be done in the person of Christ. How can we forgive others in the person of Christ? We are the body of Christ and members in particular.

Notice also in **1Cor 5:4** In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **when ye are gathered together**, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We don't exercise judgment against another saint as individuals. We only judge other saints as a body. We only judge other saints as a body through the Word of God, not through our own standards. God's Word, rightly divided, is the standard for judgment.

Paul elaborates on this theme later in:

**2Cor 10:12** ¶ For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

When we judge others, it is only as a body – never individually. It is also done by the standards of God's Word, rightly divided.

One thing I found interesting in looking for Satan's devices is that in II Corinthians, where Paul tells us that we aren't ignorant of Satan's devices, he seems to reveal a lot of them. Satan is mentioned personally 6 times, which I believe is the most of any of Paul's epistles.

If we keep reading in the chapter that we're in, we find another scheme of the devil in the last verse.

**2Cor 2:17** For we are not as many, **which corrupt the word of God**: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

We looked at that one in a round about way last week, but it is maybe the most important one in the age in which we live. God's Word has been thoroughly corrupted in the last 150 years. When I said that judgment should only be done according to the Word of God, rightly divided – the rightly divided part is just as important as the Word of God part. But how can we do that when this is what most Bibles present today concerning right division:

KJV

**Study** to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

ESV

**Do your best** to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the word of truth.**

NIV

**Do your best** to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and **who correctly handles the word of truth.**

**2Cor 2:17** For we are not as many, **which corrupt the word of God:** but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

So just looking at this verse in the different versions, are they even close to saying the same thing?

**STUDY**, *verb transitive*

1. **To apply the mind to**; to read and examine for the purpose of learning and understanding; as, to *study* law or theology; to *study* languages.
2. To consider attentively; to examine closely. *study* the works of nature.

**DO**, *verb transitive or auxiliary*

1. **To perform; to execute; to carry into effect; to exert labor or power for brining any thing to the state desired, or to completion**; or to bring any thing to pass. We say, this man does his work well; he does more in one day than some men will *do* in two days.

Is there a difference between applying your mind to something and examining it to try to understand it and performing and laboring for something?

“Do your best” is absolutely a standard of performance. “Study” isn’t doing your best. Study acknowledges that you are ignorant and in need of learning. It is a humble application of the mind to understand the Word of God.

“Do your best” is a platitude without meaning. What does it mean to do your best to present yourself to God? That is a one-way ticket to hell. You can only present yourself to God IN JESUS CHRIST!

If you want to do your best to present yourself to God, this is how you will be presented to him:

**Rev 20:12-15** And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. **13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. **14** And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

That’s what doing your best will get you.

Do you best and correctly handle the word of truth.

I think if that is what your Bible says, you should absolutely do it: do your best by going out and buying a Bible that is the word of truth so that when you handle it you will find the whole truth in it and not the subtle lies of Satan.

**DIVIDE**, *verb transitive*

1. To part or separate an entire thing; to part a thing into two or more pieces.

**HAND'LE**, *verb transitive*

4. To treat; to discourse on; to discuss; to use or manage in writing or speaking. The author handled the subject with address. The speaker handled the arguments to the best advantage.

5. To use; to deal with; to practice.

It is plain that this verse in the NIV and the ESV aren't even close to saying what is said in the KJV. That is just one verse. We could spend weeks and weeks going over all of the corruptions that are commonly found in the Bibles of most churches today, but that will suffice for our purposes today.

Continuing in II Corinthians, we find another device of Satan, again dealing with “correctly handling” the Word of truth.

**2Cor 3:6** ¶ Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; **not of the letter, but of the spirit**: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

What is Satan's device here? Blinding people to not see the second half of this verse. Paul was saying that they were ministers of the spirit of the new testament, not the letter. That means that he was ministering the spirit of grace and salvation, not the prophecies and administration of the new testament.

First of all, most Christians have no idea what the New Testament is. If you read these verses:

**Heb 9:16-17** For where a testament *is*, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. **17** For a testament *is* of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

It is plain that the New Testament could not have started until the death of Christ. Then you read 2Cor. 3:6 and you see that Paul was not ministering the letter of the New Testament, the only place the New Testament can be found outside of the Old Testament prophecies would be the beginning of Acts and Hebrews to Revelation.

Satan's device here is found throughout the scriptures and also more so in the corrupt Bibles: It is the blinding of the minds to rightly dividing the word of truth, and teaching that we are ministers of the letter of the New Testament.

Moving on to II Corinthians 4, we find two more devices of Satan. One is closely tied to the ones we've already seen. The other is also sometimes related.

**2Cor 4:1-4** ¶ Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; **2** But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor

**handling the word of God deceitfully**; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. **3** But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: **4** In whom **the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

The first device here is handling the word of God deceitfully. How is that different than corrupting the Word of God? There were men who came into Corinth who were Jews. These men were claiming to be apostles, and they were boasting of their credentials. They were puffing themselves up for financial gain, and were teaching a works-based salvation. We referenced them last week.

That is the subject of 2 Corinthians 11, a chapter that Satan is referenced twice in.

**2Cor 11:12-13** But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we. **13** For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

These would have been the Joel Osteens, Jim Bakkers, and dare I say, even the Andy Stanleys of that day. They are all about themselves and their own glory and financial gain. They often deceive themselves into believing their own spiel and thus make themselves more believable than simple con men.

Because even if they are using a corrupted Bible, there is still enough truth contained in a corrupt Bible that it has to be handled deceitfully. One of the many false boasts made about most of the corrupt Bibles is this:

No major bible doctrines are affected. This is a tragic lie, because we just saw one major Bible doctrine that is affected: Right division. But can a person be saved by using an NIV, ESV, NASB, LSB, etc. etc.? Yes.

So enter the deceitful workers – those who handle God's Word deceitfully. They will muddy up the waters to a point that they are the authority, and the Bible is used out of context to prove their points.

Just one quick example. This sermon was about the feeding of the 5000. The disciples had witnessed the feeding of the 5000, and then Jesus had sent them to Bethsaida across the lake. On the sea of Galilee they encountered a storm, Jesus was walking on the water and he stilled the waves. They then ended up in Gennesaret. This preacher tells the story, he doesn't read it from the Bible, and here is the way he handles the Word of God deceitfully.

First he holds up the Bible before he begins, but that's the only time he touches it.

Next week we'll see how the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not.