

## WICKED WEAPONS

### 2 CORINTHIANS 2:11

*“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices”*

A concise description of the Christian’s greatest foe is offered by Paul in this second epistle to the church at Corinth. This one verse offers three important pieces of information vital to every Christian. We see our great adversary named, we see his purpose and we see our defense against him. Certainly the more we know about the spiritual dangers we face, the better prepared we can be to combat them.

**Our greatest enemy is Satan.** Mankind fears many things today; disease, death, war and famine to name just a few. Some become paralyzed by their fears to the point that they can no longer function normally in society. These phobia’s are often based upon unfounded or unnecessary fear. But in the case of Satan, we ought fear his terrible power to influence and ensnare even the most righteous among us. In Matthew 10:28 Jesus said *“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”* While it is God who actually metes punishment to the unrighteous, it is Satan and his temptations that guide one in the broad way of damnation (Matthew 7:13, 14).

The enemy that now seeks your soul is the same who waged war against Jehovah and his angels in heaven (Revelation 12:7) and who sought to defeat Christ in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13). Make no mistake, Satan is a very real and ever present, personal enemy.

**Satan’s purpose is to take advantage of every opportunity to cause us to sin.** The eternal end of Satan is settled (Revelation 20:10). However, he is not content to go quietly. He began his earthly mission in Eden and has continued ever since to plague mankind with every ill imaginable. Peter describes him as a *“roaring lion...seeking whom he may devour”* (1 Peter 5:8). While discussing the evil that false teachers can do, Jesus describes these minions of Satan as those which *“come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves”* (Matthew 7:15). Satan seeks those who will follow him into hell, therefore, be warned, Satan seeks to take advantage of you.

**Satan can be defeated by knowledgeable, prepared Christians.** In the post September 11, 2001 world, we have been advised by our government to prepare for future attacks. The Christian can sustain himself through the power of Christ if we prepare for Satan’s attacks. In our text, Paul declares that we are not ignorant of Satan’s devices or methods. That is, we know what to expect from him. We know Satan tempts (1 Corinthians 7:5) and we know that he schemes against us.(Job 1:6-12). We know that Satan is a liar (John 8:44) but that he may also appear righteous or as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14). Satan’s work is to send *“fiery darts”* (flaming missiles) our way seeking to pierce our Christian armor and dam us to hell.

Because we can claim victory in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57) and because we are not ignorant of Satan’s devices (1 Corinthians 2:11), we ought not make excuses when

Satan successfully tempts us. Let us rise up and stand strong against Satan in every aspect of our lives.

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