

It's been four weeks since I spoke here but I want to continue a bit on the subject we have been speaking of, one which is too much neglected in the Christian church. It is important we have clear understanding of it.

In 2 Cor. 2:11 we read, "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices." Paul could say he was not ignorant of it, of the devices of Satan, but I don't know how many others can say it. I've known great Bible teachers, great Christian evangelists and leaders for God who have fallen before some of the devices of Satan. Satan is not only very powerful, but very very clever. We are not able to defeat him in our own strength. But we are ordered in Scripture to strive against him; we are ordered to resist him with all our might.

We are ordered to realize we cannot expect victory by our resisting. It's only through God's grace we can have victory. God permits Satan to continue in this world. It is part of God's plan. It is his plan that we should learn to resist him; that we should learn to understand his devices. It is part of the training He wishes us to have, as He trains us for an eternity with Him.

So it is very important we be aware of the power of Satan, and be aware of how he overturns so many wonderful things and wonderful Christians and Christian movements in this world. God permits it and sometimes it's hard for us to understand why. He wants us to be aware of it and he wants it to drive us to our Lord for protection and for prayer.

I devoted most of one chapel talk and the first part of another to trying to stress the power of Satan, and the fact we don't know how much God may permit him to destroy of the works of God. How much He may permit him to bring into our lives so it seems we can hardly stand it, but it's all part of God's will to train us to look to Him, and learn to know Satan's devices and stand against them.

I mentioned to you last time that if Satan cannot get us to go in one direction, he's apt to turn and pull us in the other. Because in most matters there is an intermediate stage which is what God wants us to have. It is comparatively rare that God uses one who can be called an extremist in one direction or another. He wants us to put force into our efforts to do his purpose, but He wants us to realize that no matter what direction we go in there is a possibility of our overlooking something vital.

I want to remind you again of certain of the emphases I made last time. First, we must not deny Satan's existence; we must not forget Satan's existence. It would be very easy for us to be reacting from the lurid statements that are made about Satan nowadays and from the various publicity things that