

Overcoming the Snares of Satan

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Introduction: We must never take the care and protection of God for granted.

- A. We face an adversary that is cunning and powerful. We alone are no match. **(1 Pt 5:8)**
 - 1. The costs of being overcome are enormous and sobering.
 - 2. Satan's most powerful tool is his ability to take away our ability to reason.
(2 Cor 4:3-4)
- B. Our God offers us a perfect protection from this adversary. **(1 Jn 5:18)**
 - 1. Satan cannot touch us!
 - 2. The ability to overcome is simply the ability to walk by faith. **(1 Jn 2:13-14)**
 - 3. What can defeat us is pride and arrogance. We need to see the dark end of those who step away from a humble, thankful service to God.

I. The Power of a snare

- A. What is a snare?
 - 1. **παγίς** - (1) literally, anything that catches and holds fast *snare, trap, noose, net* (LU 21.35); (2) metaphorically; (a) used in RO 11.9 of a false sense of security that leads to a sudden and unexpected judgment *pitfall, concealed danger, source of error*; (b) as a stratagem of the devil for gaining control *deceitful trick, entanglement* (1T 3.7); (3) figuratively, as any allurement to wrongdoing *enticement, temptation, attraction* (1T 6.9) – **Freiberg's Lexicon**
- B. A snare is a result of cunning and deceit.
 - 1. You are outwitted by the one who snares you. Often your overconfidence is an essential element in the snare.
 - 2. How many scoffers who despised wisdom are snared? **(Prov 18:6-7)**
- C. A snare is costly to escape.
 - 1. What are the costs to the raccoon who escapes the leghold trap? What if he doesn't?
 - 2. Our God provides for us a way *to escape all snares*. We must humble ourselves and thirst after His wisdom. **(Ps 124:6-8; 1 Cor 10:12-13)**
 - 3. Let us look to some Bible examples about Satan's snares.

II. The Snare of Balaam

- A. Balaam was a prophet who gave in to a love of money. **(2 Pt 2:15-16)**
 - 1. He was known as a man who knew God's ways. **(Num 22:5-6)**
 - 2. Satan attacked at his weakest point. Balaam knew better but somehow thought in his overconfidence that he could both serve God and money.
- B. He could not turn away from temptation. He kept coming back to seek where His heart really wanted to go. **(Num 22:18-19)**
 - 1. Did he really need any *more* from the Lord?
 - 2. He truly became crazy and was not humbled when his *donkey talked to him* and revealed the consequences of his course of action! **(Num 22:22-35)**

3. He gave up serving God and joined the enemies of God. You could say he was a former “legalist” that was now free to pursue fellowship with the Moabites.
 4. He cursed Israel in another way and was killed in God’s judgment. **(Num 31:8)**
 5. He never escaped the snare. Hear of his eternal place. **(2 Pt 2:17)**
- C. This snare still works today! **(1 Tim 6:9-10)**
1. How many put work ahead of God?
 2. How you set priorities now will determine your practice in life.

III. The Snare of Jezebel

- A. An individual was named for a terrible influence upon Christians. **(Rev 2:20-23)**
1. The lust of the flesh is a powerful snare. We must *never* be haughty about this.
 2. How many have thought they could secretly walk down this path with no consequences? **(Prov 7:22-27)**
 3. How many are snared in pornography or a relationship that drives them away from God?
- B. Consider the draw of relationships and drinking. **(1 Pt 4:3-4)**
1. We have had both “Christians” and visitors leave us when warnings were given.
 2. Some have mocked the warnings on social media.
 3. Addictions have overcome a vast number who suffer “out of sight.”
 4. It is a very powerful snare to overcome. **(Prov 7:24-27)**
 5. Members of a new “non-traditional” church in Birmingham aggressively boast in social media of their freedom to drink. They also introduce this to others.

IV. The Snare of Esau

- A. Esau would be the classic “good old boy” of today. He does not want to hurt anyone but is not very motivated in spiritual things. **(1 Jn 2:15-17)**
1. He let a temporary hunger be the reason to sell out a valuable spiritual blessing.
 2. Our priorities are shown in our decisions. **(Gen 25:29-34)**
 3. How did he “despise” his birthright?
- B. Becoming a “profane” person puts one in a terrible snare. **(Heb 12:15-16)**
1. A “profane” person does not know God or his ways.
 2. Imagine an untrained person from another culture trying to land a high level job. When we do not know God we will be found fighting Him.
 3. We must forsake the path of compromise to stand with the Lord. **(Rev 3:15-16)**
- C. Many are being pulled into churches that boast in “positive preaching.” **(Prov 29:25)**
1. Those who think they are smarter than God will end up fighting Him.
 2. In time the mind will be lost when we turn away from correction. Correction keeps us from snares! **(Ps 91:2-4)**
 3. Gideon failed to heed such a warning. There are some things we must not “pity and try to “understand.” **(Deut 7:16; Judges 8:27)**

Conclusion: Our God has graciously given us a path that is free from snares!
(2 Tim 2:24-26)