

# Precious Remedies against Satan's Devices

## I. INTRODUCTION

### II. SATAN'S DEVICES TO DRAW THE SOUL TO SIN

#### **DEVICE 1: BY PRESENTING THE BAIT AND HIDING THE HOOK**

**Remedy 1:** Keep at the greatest distance from sin, and keep from playing with the golden bait that Satan holds forth to catch you.

**Remedy 2:** Consider that sin is but a bitter sweet.

**Remedy 3:** Consider that sin will usher in the greatest and the saddest losses that can be upon our souls.

**Remedy 4:** Consider that sin is of a very deceitful and bewitching nature.

#### **DEVICE 2: BY PAINTING SIN WITH VIRTUE'S COLORS**

**Remedy 1:** Consider that sin is never a whit the less filthy, vile, and abominable, by its being colored and painted with virtue's colors.

**Remedy 2:** Consider that the more sin is painted forth under the color of virtue, the more dangerous it is to the souls of men.

**Remedy 3:** Look on sin with that eye with which within a few hours we shall see it.

**Remedy 4:** Consider that even those very sins that Satan paints, and puts new names and colors upon, cost the best blood, the noblest blood, the life-blood, the heart-blood of the Lord Jesus.

#### **DEVICE 3: BY THE EXTENUATING AND LESSENING OF SIN**

**Remedy 1:** Consider that those sins which we are apt to account small, have brought upon men the greatest wrath of God.

**Remedy 2:** Consider that the giving way to a less sin makes way for the committing of a greater.

**Remedy 3:** Consider that it is sad to stand with God for a trifle.

**Remedy 4:** Consider that there is great danger, yea, many times most danger, in the smallest sin.

**Remedy 5:** Consider that other saints have chosen to suffer the worst of torments, rather than they would commit the least sin.

**Remedy 6:** Consider that the soul is never able to stand under the guilt and weight of the least sin when God shall set it home upon the soul.

**Remedy 7:** Consider that there is more evil in the least sin than in the greatest affliction.

**DEVICE 4: BY SHOWING TO THE SOUL THE BEST MEN'S SINS AND BY HIDING FROM THE SOUL THEIR VIRTUES, THEIR SORROWS, AND THEIR REPENTANCE**

**Remedy 1:** Consider that the Spirit of the Lord has been as careful to note the saints' rising by repentance out of sin, as he has to note their falling into sins.

**Remedy 2:** Consider that these saints did not make a trade of sin.

**Remedy 3:** Consider that though God does not, nor never will, disinherit His people for their sins, yet He has severely punished His people for their sins.

**Remedy 4:** Consider that there are but two main ends of God's recording of the falls of His saints:

1. To keep those from despair who fall through weakness and infirmity.
2. To warn others that stand, to take heed lest they fall.

**DEVICE 5: BY PRESENTING GOD TO THE SOUL AS ONE MADE UP ALL OF MERCY**

**Remedy 1:** Consider that it is the sorest judgment in the world to be left to sin upon any pretence whatsoever.

**Remedy 2:** Consider that God is as just as He is merciful.

**Remedy 3:** Consider that sins against mercy will bring the greatest and sorest judgments upon men's heads and hearts.

**Remedy 4:** Consider that though God's general mercy be over all His works, yet His special mercy is confined to those that are divinely qualified.

**Remedy 5:** Consider that those that were once glorious on earth, and are now triumphing in heaven, did look upon the mercy of God as the most powerful argument to preserve them from sin, and to fence their souls against sin, and not as an encouragement to sin.

**DEVICE 6: BY PERSUADING THE SOUL THAT REPENTANCE IS EASY AND THAT THEREFORE THE SOUL NEED NOT SCRUPLE ABOUT SINNING**

**Remedy 1:** Consider that repentance is a mighty work, a difficult work, a work that is above our power.

**Remedy 2:** Consider of the nature of true repentance.

**Remedy 3:** Consider that repentance is a continued act.

**Remedy 4:** Consider that if the work of repentance were such an easy work as Satan would make it to be, then certainly so many would not lie roaring and crying out of wrath and eternal ruin under the horrors and terrors of conscience, for not repenting; yea, doubtless, so many millions would not go to hell for not repenting, if it were such an easy thing to repent.

**Remedy 5:** Consider that to repent of sin is as great a work of grace as not to sin.

**Remedy 6:** Consider that he that now tempts you to sin upon this account, that repentance is easy, will ere long, to work thee to despair, and for ever to break the neck of thy soul, present repentance as the most difficult and hardest work in the world.