

“Taken Captive by Satan”
2 Timothy 2:24-26
(Preached at Trinity – July 24, 2022)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. In these final verses of Chapter 2 Paul is telling Timothy that the servant used of the Master must continually be in teaching mode patiently teaching those who are in opposition to the truth. While this passage applies primarily to Pastors, in a more general sense it applies to all Christians. All Christians are teachers – all proclaim the truth to those who oppose it. We must do so with meekness and gentleness – and always with the desire that they might be saved.
But many do not receive the Gospel of Christ.
2. In these verses Paul gives two reasons why a man will not and cannot come to Christ.
 - A. The lost man will not come to Christ because of his opposition to the truth
 - B. The lost man will not come to Christ because he is caught in the snare of the devil where he is held captive to do the devil's will.
3. Last time we examined the first reason. The lost man does not repent and receive the Lord Jesus Christ because of his opposition to the truth.
ἀντιδιατίθημι – to place one's self in opposition. Lacking spiritual understanding he continues to view God and His Word from a carnal perspective. And because of his sinful rebellion against God, God has given him over to a reprobate mind that is filled with all manner of confusion and corruption.
4. This morning I want us to begin to examine the second characteristic Paul uses to describe lost humanity. The lost man is caught in the snare of the devil. He is held captive.
5. This world is ruled by Satan. We must be clear. This statement in no way denies or reduces the absolute sovereign rule of God over all things. Every creature is under God's dominion. Every action is determined by God. In the mystery of God's Divine Providence this fallen world is Satan's domain.
Job 1:7 NAU - "The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?"
Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."
6. Satan is described as the god of this world –
2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NAU - "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."
 - A. Again, this does not mean that Satan is outside God's absolute sovereignty
 - B. Satan has never done a single act apart from God's decree
Daniel 4:35 NAU - "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

- C. Satan rules by permission only, yet this world is his kingdom.
It is a kingdom of darkness
Ephesians 6:12 NAU - "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*."
- D. Satan demonstrated his possession of it in the wilderness temptation
Matthew 4:8-10 NAU - "Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; ⁹ and he said to Him, "All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'
Luke 4:6-7 NAU - "And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷ "Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours."
- E. This is why Satan's realm must be destroyed and every enemy of Christ conquered on the last day.
7. Paul says that the lost are held captive by Satan – How does Satan do this?
- I. The lost man is held captive through ignorance – Satan deceives lost men with his deceptions.
- A. The lost man is hopelessly lost in his ignorance. He is blinded to spiritual truth.
Romans 1:21-24 NAU - "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them."
1 John 2:11 NAU - "But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes."
1. Salvation is the work of opening blind eyes.
Acts 26:18 NAU - "to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me."
 2. Satan continues to keep them blinded through his lies and deceptions.
2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NAU - "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

3. Satan is allowed to lie and deceive and man in the darkness of his mind has no ability to see the lie. Satan meets little resistance.
- B. Satan is unmatched upon the earth in his cunning deception.
Genesis 3:1 NAU - "Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made."
1. No man has ever been able to successfully stand against him.
 2. He is vicious and filled with hate. Peter described him as a wild beast—a roaring lion. He is stronger than, more powerful than human beings.
1 Peter 5:8 NAU - "Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."
 3. He is cunning and deceitful. Jesus called him the "father of lies."
John 8:44 NAU - "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies."
- C. How are lost men deceived? What is the nature of their ignorance?
1. They are deceived by the false treasures of Satan's kingdom.
 - a. The lost man is deceived into loving this world of darkness – he loves his sin. He loves his lusts. The pleasures of this world are captivating.
John 3:19 NAU - "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil."
 - b. In the Parable of the Sower Jesus spoke of the deceitfulness of riches.
Matthew 13:22 NAU - "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."
 - c. The Bible is clear that those who love this world of darkness have no part in God.
1 John 2:15-16 NAU - "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world."
 2. They are deceived by the false religions of this world
 - a. Satan has been most masterful in religion
2 Corinthians 11:13-14 NAU - "For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."
 - b. Satan sows in just enough error to make it look like the truth while it condemns men in their sin.
 - c. Satan also deceives men into seeking to earn their own way to heaven. Billions are being deceived all the way to hell.

3. They are deceived into a slumber over the condition of their own soul
 - a. "I'm no worse than anyone else"
 - b. Satan will always put something forth to distract them
Religious convictions become short lived
James 1:23-24 NAU - "For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was."
4. They are deceived into believing there is always more time – there's no rush – there will always be tomorrow.
This was the problem with Governor Felix
Acts 24:25 NAU - "But as (Paul) was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you." – *he never found time.*
5. Satan's lie is "There is plenty of time. No hurry."
It's been said the entrance of hell has a sign posted, "Too late."

- II. Satan also works through the use of other men. Satan is not omnipresent. He can't personally deceive and tempt every person. He works through the demonic world. He also works through the means of people.
- A. Paul makes clear the ultimate enemy is not men – but it often takes the form of men.
Ephesians 6:12 NAU - "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*."
1. Men are used of Satan and are usually ignorant they are being used. They are deceived into unknowingly serving the devil – you yourself have probably been used.
 2. **Verse 26** literally says
2 Timothy 2:26 NAU - "*and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will."
 3. Satan uses one man to encourage another to sin.
Romans 1:32 NAU - "and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."
 - a. Adam wasn't tempted by the serpent. It was Eve.
 - b. Sin easily spreads from man to man.
1 Corinthians 5:6 NAU - "Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of *dough*?"
 - c. This is why Paul tells Timothy the importance of purging out the vessels of dishonor – **V.22**

- C. Satan has destroyed many a church by simply using the foolishness of men against men – it is usually over non-essential issues. But Satan convinces us that our view is most important.
1. He usually attacks when things are at their best – this is when we are unguarded.
 2. He uses men to sow discord.
Proverbs 6:16-19 NAU - "There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, ¹⁹ A false witness *who* utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers."
 3. He uses unqualified ministers to discredit the work and witness of the church.
1 Timothy 3:7 NAU - "And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

III. Finally, Satan lays snares through temptation – lies sown in the mind

- A. Satan is cunning
Genesis 3:1 NAU - "Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden '?"
2 Corinthians 2:11 NAU - "so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes."
Ephesians 6:11 NAU - "Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." - μεθοδεία
- B. He stirs us with lusts and desires that are unrelenting
1. He deceives us into believing that sin will bring happiness.
 2. He provides us with whatever justification to make it seem right.

Conclusion:

1. This paints a dreadful picture of fallen humanity.
The lost man is bound fast in his opposition to the truth and hopelessly enslaved by Satan who deceives him concerning his own soul.
2. Without the power to deliver himself he will continue to oppose the Gospel and ultimately perish in his sin.
3. But the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation.
2 Timothy 2:25 NAU - "if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,"
4. Salvation is a wonderful gift of God. δίδωμι – God gives us repentance and enables us to know and understand the truth and powerfully delivers us from the captivity of Satan.
Ephesians 4:7-8 NAS - "But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it says, "When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, And He gave gifts to men."
5. Jesus as our mighty King has plundered Satan's house.
Matthew 12:29 NAS - "Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong *man*? And then he will plunder his house."