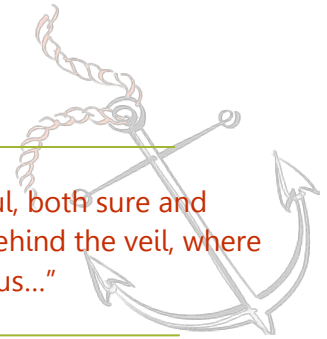




Hebrews 6:19, 20

"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus..."



Understanding Our Adversary

Intro:

1. Peter warned early Christians, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8).
2. Paul warned early Christians, "lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices" (2 Cor. 2:11).
3. We can learn a lot about our adversary from his first arrival in the Garden scene, Genesis 3:1-5.

Discussion:

I. HIS CHARACTER IS CUNNING (Gen. 3:1a)

- A. The serpent is Satan, Revelation 12:9, 20:2.
- B. To be cunning is to be crafty, shrewd, and sly.
- C. 2 Corinthians 11:3, "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."
- D. Transforms into an angel of light to work deceit, 2 Corinthians 11:14, 15.

II. HIS TACTICS (Gen. 3:1b-5)

- A. He **questions** God's word (Gen. 3:1).
- B. He **contradicts** God's word with his tale of lies (Gen. 3:4).
 1. Ephesians 5:31. "Marriage is **not** between a man and a woman."
 2. Titus 1:6. "Elders must **not** have faithful children."
 3. Hebrews 10:25. "You need **not** assemble every service."
 4. Ephesians 4:4, 1:22, 23. "There is **not** one church."
 5. Colossians 3:17. "You need **not** have authority for everything you say and do."
 6. 1 Peter 3:21. "Baptism does **not** save us today."
- C. He **redefines** God's character (Gen. 3:5).
 1. "God is too restrictive and is withholding good from you."
 2. "The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence."

Conclusion:

1. Do not get tied up in Satan's "nots."
2. Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding."

