DON'T GIVE SATAN THE ADVANTAGE

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INTRODUCTION

- A. No one like for someone to take advantage of them.
 - 1. Yet this is just exactly what Satan is trying to do.
 - 2. Paul warned us about it in Eph. 4:27. "Neither give place to devil..."
- B. THIS GRAVE WARNING suggests that Satan can have a place in our lives. And that he is going all out to get it.
 - 1. Also Satan <u>can't</u> have it unless we give it.
 - 2. But he will unless we are mindful of him.
- C. SATAN IS OUT TO GET US.....leave no stone unturned.
 - 1. It is up to us....
 - 2. <u>Proverbs 1:10</u> "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not"
 - 3. We have the last word. (Mark 3:27).
- D. THE DEVIL WON'T LEAVE US ALONE.
 - 1. <u>Romans 7:21</u> "I find then a law that, when I would do good, evil is present..."
 - 2. Not an occasional thing ...but every day.
 - 3. A constant struggle from Paul's time until now.
 - 4. Paul was reaching for a goal.
- E. HOW CAN WE BE ON GUARD AGAINST HIM?
 - James 4:7 "Submit yourselves to God) Resist the devil and he will flee from you...." (Read <u>I Peter 5:8,9).</u>
 - 2. When the devil tempted Christ..."He departed from him for a season...
 - 3. He will also from us....but only for a season.

<u>Through Our Ignorance</u>

- A. After certain instruction Paul gave the Corinthians this warning; "lest Satan should get advantage of us...for we are not ignorant of his devices. (2:11).
 - 1. This is the primary reason of Satan getting the advantage.
 - 2. Ignorance is the arch enemy of Christianity.
 - 3. If Satan can keep us in ignorance he can keep us from God. (John 6:45)
- B. ONLY THROUGH STUDY of God's Word can we show ourselves approved." (II Timothy 2:15)
 - 1. God no longer excuses ignorance (Acts 17:30).
 - 2. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. (Hosea 4:6)
 - 3. Led to Babylonian captivity. (Isaiah 5:13)
 - 4. II Corinthians 11:3....READ.

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Through Our Ignorance, cont.

- C. FOR SIN....DECEIVED ME." (Romans 7:11).
 - 1. Thus we are to "exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through deceitfulness of sin" (<u>Hebrews 3:13</u>).
- D. HAVE YOU, THROUGH IGNORANCE given Satan an advantage?
 - 1. How well acquainted are you with the teachings of the Lord?
 - 2. H.B.R.C.B. Take heed that no man deceive you.
 - 3. Before one can surrender himself completely....Old man must be put off, with all his works.

Indifference and Negligence

- A. READ <u>Hebrews 2:1-3..</u> "Lest they slip.
 - 1. The Lord will NOT tolerate Luke-Warmness. (Revelations 3:15,16)
 - 2. I Corinthians 15:58; "Therefore, my beloved....."
- B. **I Corinthians 10:12:** "Let him that thinketh he stands....."
 - 1. A child of God can fall. (John 15:6) as a branch.
 - 2. <u>Romans 12:2</u> "Be not conformed be ye transformed..."
 - 3. Must ever put the Lord and His Kingdom first. (Matthew 6:33).
 - 4. Col. 3:1,2, READ

THROUGH GIVING UP

- A. Through / By Discouragement we give Satan encouragement.
 - 1. <u>Matthew 24:13</u>, Endure to the end....shall be saved.
 - 2. "Not weary in well doing...<u>Gal. 6:9</u> NOTICE, we shall reap...if we faith not.
- B. IT ISN'T SO MUCH THE START THAT COUNTS..IT IS THE FINISH!
 - 1. <u>Galatians 5:7</u> "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?"
 - 2. "For whatsoever is born of God over cometh the world: and this is the victory that over cometh the world, even our Faith." (<u>I John 5:4</u>).
 - 3. "I can do all things through Christ which strengthenth me. (Phil. 4:13).
- C. THE LORD WILL HELP YOU IF YOU WILL STAY CLOSE TO HIM" "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

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Through Making Excuses

- A. NOTHING PLEASES THE DEVIL more than for us to make excuses. Instead of doing what the Lord wants us to do.
- B. WHAT EXCUSE DOES A MAN HAVE FOR NOT OBEYING GOD?
 - 1. Some say...."the ox is in the ditch."
 - 2. If the ox gets in the ditch too often...WE HAD BETTER KILL THE OX....OR FILL THE DITCH!
- C. WHERE GOD GUIDES....HE ALWAYS PROVIDES.
 - 1. He will furnish the help one needs.
 - 2. Don't give Satan the advantage through your **<u>Rationalization.</u>**

CONCLUSION

- A. SATAN CAN GET THE ADVANTAGE OF YOU...BUT NOT UNLESS YOU GIVE IT TO HIM.....!
- B. "Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7).
- C. If you give yourselves completely to the Lord, you will never give Satan one single advantage!..