

SATAN ALWAYS USES A LURE-DON'T TAKE THE BAIT!

By Keith Greer

"Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices." {2 Corinthians 2:11} Our adversary, the devil, is cunning and crafty. He is a master at setting traps to lure us into sin. We must remain on guard and not fall into the trap – by taking the bait! "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." {1 Peter 5:8} How can we protect ourselves from his onslaught? Following are some suggestions...

Walk circumspectly. "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." {Ephesians 5:15,16} The word, circumspect, is defined as "heedful of circumstances and potential consequences; prudent." God's children must carefully and soberly choose which paths to take in life. Note what is around you and make good choices. Work diligently to avoid placing yourself in a position where you can easily be led away from God.

Learn to hate sin. "Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way." {Psalm 119:104} Because of sin, our Lord had to die a horrible death on the cross. The Scriptures tell us that the "wages of sin is death," {Romans 6:23}. Unfortunately, we often fail to grasp the terribleness of sin, and we easily fall into its path. Sin is the enemy of our souls – it separates us from God {Isaiah 59:1,2}. The devil disguises sin by wrapping it in a big, shiny, seemingly harmless package; this makes it very alluring. Left hidden is the price one pays to participate in such behavior. Please don't be deceived; the devil cannot deliver on any of his promises!

Look for a way to escape. "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." {1 Corinthians 10:13} God gave us the means to defeat our adversary – but dear friend, don't underestimate him! Satan too is "fishing for the souls of men." One does not have to take his "bait."***