The Bruising of Satan
Rom. 16:17-20

Introduction:
A. Roman Christians promised a victory over Satan shortly (v. 20).
   1. Satan deceives (2 Cor. 11:14).
   2. Satan destroys (1 Pet. 5:8).
B. Roman Christians are given some reasons to expect the bruising of Satan.

Discussion:
I. Satan Is Bruised When Christians Humble Themselves (‘obedience’ -v. 19).
   A. Humble enough to obey openly – “known to all.” (v. 19; cf. 1:8).
   B. Humble enough to obey sincerely – “from the heart” (6:17)
   C. Humble enough to obey fully.
      2. All things taught (cf. Matt. 28:20; Saul - 1 Sam 15:13-23)
      3. Always (Phil. 2:12) - Obedience is not complete in one act.
II. Satan Is Bruised When Christians Enlighten Themselves (v. 19b).
   A. By becoming “wise in what is good” – discerning, discriminating, selective.
      1. Involves knowing what Scriptures teach (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
      2. Involves knowing how to apply Bible answers to given situations.
      3. Involves knowing good from experience.
   B. By becoming “simple concerning evil” – not knowing evil by experience. (Cf. Eph. 5:3, 8-11).
III. Satan Is Bruised When Christians Discipline Themselves (vs. 17,18).
   A. Discipline has several forms.
      1. Starts with self-discipline (1 Cor. 9:27 NKJ)
      2. Extends to brethren
         a. Involves teaching/admonition. (Cf. 2 Tim. 4:2; Tit. 3:10).
         b. Involves proper warning (1 Thess. 5:14)
         c. Involves “marking” and “avoiding” as last resort. (Rom. 16:17 cf. 2 Thess. 3:6.14; Matt. 18:15-17).
      3. Can we “withdraw” from the “withdrawn”? - What about marking?
   B. Discipline has a duel purpose.
      1. To regain a brother. (Matt. 18:15; 2 Thess. 3:14,15).
      2. To protect the church. (Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 5:6).
   C. Discipline can be abused. (3 John 9-10).
      1. When it begets an unforgiving spirit - malice (2 Cor. 2:6-11)
      2. When used to “get rid” of those we do not like.
      3. When used to brow beat weak brethren – (cf. 1 Thess. 5:14)

Conclusion:
A. Satan must feel safe in many churches - we often ignore Paul’s teaching.
B. Satan can be overcome - if we obey the Lord.