Letting Satan Take Advantage of Us
2 Cor. 2:5-11

Introduction:
A. Satan will use anything to take advantage of us - even God's commands.
   1. Corinthians warned not to let discipline produce unforgiving spirit.
   2. Paul shows commands often used as occasion for sin. (cf. Rom. 7:8,11).
   3. Satan tried it with the Lord (Matt. 4:6,7).
B. Satan will pervert the Bible’s teaching to his advantage – notice some examples:

Discussion:
I. Its Teaching on Church Purity. (Eph. 5:27; 1 Cor. 5:6-7).
   A. Used to promote an unforgiving heart. (2 Cor. 2:5-11).
   B. Used to promote self-righteous pride. (cf. Pharisees; Gal. 6:1,2).
   C. Used to promote an impatient spirit. (Eph. 4:2; Rom. 2:4).
   D. Used to promote unnecessary division. (cf. Rev. 3:4).
II. Its Teaching on Defending the Faith. (Jude 3; Phil. 1:17).
   A. Used to promote unkindness to others. (1 Cor.13:4).
   B. Used to promote bitterness toward opposition. (2 Tim.2:24-26).
   C. Used to promote unprofitable disputes. (2 Tim. 2:14, 23).
III. Its Teaching on Unity. (Eph. 4:3)
   A. Done at expense of principle—compromise. (Gal. 2:5; 2 Jn. 9).
   B. Done at expense of purity. (Jas. 3:17).
IV. Its Teaching on Speaking Truth in Love. (Eph. 4:15).
   A. Convinces folks that cannot love and rebuke sharply. (2 Tim. 4:1-4; Tit. 1:3).
   C. Convinces folks that cannot love and preach plainly and pointedly.
   A. Satan says must grow—so constantly emphasize numbers and money.
   B. Satan says must grow—so lower standards to attract more. (Lk. 9:57,58; 14:25-33).
   C. Satan says must grow—so “tip toe” around truth lest run some off. (John 6:60-66).
   D. Satan says must grow—so use carnal appeals if they work. (cf. Jno. 6:44,45; 1 Cor.2).

Conclusion:
A. Obey God in everything—keep eye on Satan—he is no fool.
B. Do not be ignorant of his devices.