

Satan's Schemes (Job 1-2)

I. Introduction.

A. The Corinthian situation...

1. Paul's instructions regarding this... (1Cor 5)
2. Their apparent response... (cf. 2Cor 2.6)
3. Paul's further instructions... (2Cor 2.7-8)
4. Why? (2Cor 2.11 — *lest Satan take advantage*)

B. Such is our challenge, to be “not ignorant” of **Satan's schemes** (devices/designs) — i.e. to know how he operates that we might avoid falling victim.

C. We can learn some about his tactics in the story of Job... (Job 1-2; *read 1.1-19*)

II. Satan's Schemes:

A. **Our material possessions.** (Job 1.9-17)

1. Satan wrongly thought that Job was more attached to his wealth than to the Lord...
2. But this danger of wealth is very real...
 - a) For those that don't have it but want it... (1Tim 6.9-10)
 - b) And for those who already have it... (1Tim 6.17-19)
3. In either case, be warned “covetous = idolatry.” (Col 3.5; cf. Eph 5.5)
4. Jesus said... (Mt 6.19-21,24-25,33)
5. But despite the material devastation, I suspect that Job would say that this assault was the easiest to bear...
6. Especially compared to...

B. **Our personal tragedies.** (Job 1.18-19)

1. Things are not always what they “should” be...
2. And Solomon warned that no one is immune... (Eccl 9.11)
3. We will experience such, so we must decide how we will react... (James 1.12-13)

C. Notice Job's response, despite all that happened... (Job 1.20-22)

1. Notice also the Lord's commendation... (Job 2.1-3)
2. But Satan wasn't through with Job yet — he is a relentless enemy who will never cease his assaults. (*read 2.4-13*)

D. **Our intimate sufferings.** (Job 2.4-8)

1. Physical, mental, emotional, etc.
2. Again, none are immune. (Eccl 9.11; cf. Mt 5.45)
3. But perhaps among the most difficult of all...

E. **Our families.** (Job 2.9)

1. Dissuade, discourage, defeat.
2. When dispatching His disciples on the limited commission, Jesus warned... (Mt 10.34-37)
3. Even more bluntly, Jesus said... (Lk 14.26)

F. But again notice Job's remarkable poise... (Job 2.10)

G. **Our other associations.** (Job 2.11-13)

1. Among the most dangerous because it can be the most deceptive...
2. Those who came to Job with seemingly noble intentions became his opponents... (Job 4.7-9; etc.)
3. Do not be hasty to acquit the motives, character, or behavior of your companions... (1Cor 15.33)

III. **Conclusion.** (1Pet 5.8)

- A. We face a cunning, vicious, and opportunistic adversary...
- B. So we must be prepared... (Eph 6.10-18, esp. v 16)