

“The Snare Of The Devil”
1 Timothy 3:6-7

Introduction:

1. Let's Open Our Bibles Tonight:
 - First - To 1 Timothy 3:
 - As We Continue To Learn More:
 - About Our Ancient Foe:
 - The Devil!
2. Because - We Must Not Remain:
 - Ignorant - About:
 - Him - Or - His Wiles & Methods:
 - To Deceive Us!
 - To Tempt Us!
 - And - To Render Us:
 - Powerless & Useless:
 - In Our Walk With & Service For:
 - The Lord!
3. And - So Far:
 - We Have Looked At:
 - The Devices:
 - That The Devil Uses:
 - To Get Us To Question:
 - The Lord! As Well As:
 - The Design:
 - That The Devil Has On Us:
 - As The Ultimate:
 - Accuser & Adversary:
 - Of God & His People!
 - And - No Matter:
 - What Form He Takes:
 - His Function Is Always:
 - The Same!
 - Last Sunday - We Looked At:
 - The Dominion:
 - That The Devil Has:
 - Over This World & Our Flesh!
 - And - Since Christians:
 - Are No Longer:
 - His Children Or His Captives!
 - We Must No Longer:
 - “Give Place To The Devil!”
 - In Any Area Of Our Lives!
4. Well - Tonight:
 - We Are Going To Look At:
 - The Downfall Of The Devil!
 - That Is - How The Devil Himself:
 - Fell - To Become The Devil!
 - As Well As The Snare & Traps:
 - The Devil Will Use:
 - To Try To Get Us To Fall As Well!
5. Because - In 1 Timothy 3:
 - The Apostle Paul:
 - Was Writing To Timothy:
 - About The Qualifications Of A “Bishop” In The Church:
 - Which Is Just Another Way To Describe:
 - A Pastor & Elder - As:
 - An “Overseer” In The Church!

- And - In 3:6-7 - We Find:
 - Two Qualifications:
 - That Are Meant To Help Guard:
 - Those Who Would Lead The Church:
 - From The Devil!
 - But - What Is True For:
 - Every Leader In The Church!
 - Is Also True For:
 - Any Member Of The Church!
 - Which Is Why Paul Writes:
 - 3:6-7 - That A Bishop Be - “Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. / Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil!”
- The “Condemnation Of The Devil” In 3:6:
 - Does Not Refer To:
 - God’s “Judgment” Of The Devil - But Rather:
 - The Devil’s “Judgment”:
 - Of Us!
 - Because - When Anyone:
 - In The Church - Leader Or Member:
 - Is “Lifted Up With Pride!”
 - That Gives The Devil:
 - The Opportunity & The Ammunition He Needs:
 - To Bring Shame & Reproach On You, On The Church:
 - And Even On The Name Of Christ Himself!
- And - The “Snare Of The Devil” In 3:7:
 - Is Whatever Trap He Can Set & Use:
 - To Get Us To:
 - Fall Into Sin & Into:
 - His Condemnation & Judgment & His Shame & Reproach!

6. Now - The Snares Of The Devil:

- Are As Diverse As:
 - The Devices Of The Devil!
- And - He Can Adapt His Traps:
 - To Each One Of Our:
 - Deepest Struggles!
 - **IE:** Just Like Having Traps Of Different Sizes!
- But - The Basic Mechanism:
 - Of Each Trap & Snare:
 - Is The Same!
 - And That Is “Pride!”
 - It Is Pride That:
 - The Devil Will Always Use & Exploit:
 - To Get Any Leader Or Member Of The Body Of Christ:
 - To Fall Into His Condemnation & Reproach & Snare!
- I Like How Charles Spurgeon Once Put It:
 - “Satan Is Able To Adapt His Bait Accordingly! Oh, How Often It Happens, Beloved, That You And I Condemn A Thing In Another Person Which We Allow In Ourselves, Perhaps Without Knowing It! We Say Of One: ‘How Proud He Is!’ Well, Our Pride Is Not Exactly Of That Shape; We Have Got Another Shaped Pride, But The Same Article; Labeled Differently, But The Same Thing! Satan Adapts The Pride To Each Particular Case!”

7. And - The Devil Knows:

- All About Pride!
 - Because - As We Find Elsewhere In Scripture:
 - Pride Was:
 - The Devil’s Own Downfall!
- In The Old Testament:
 - There Are Two Kings Who Are Addressed:

- That Possessed The Very:
 - Nature & Character:
 - Of The Devil!
- The First King Was:
 - The King Of Tyre:
 - Who Is Addressed In Ezekiel 28:11-19!
 - And - Though This Man Was:
 - A Real King:
 - The Words Seem To Cross Over:
 - From A Human Being To Some Spiritual Being!
 - And - In Ezekiel 28:17:
 - He Was Told That:
 - “Thy Heart Was Lifted Up Because Of Thy Beauty, Thou Hast Corrupted Thy Wisdom By Reason Of Thy Brightness!”
 - Pride Was The Snare:
 - That The Devil Used:
 - To Trap The King Of Tyre:
 - As His Captive!
 - And - What The Devil Used:
 - For The King’s Downfall:
 - Was, No Doubt, His Own Downfall As Well!
 - And - We Can Also Get A Sense:
 - Of The Devil’s Pride:
 - When We Look At:
- The Second King - Who Was:
 - The King Of Babylon:
 - Who Is Addressed In Isaiah 14:4:
 - Who Is Also Called:
 - “Lucifer” - The - “Son Of The Morning!”
 - And - Even Though This Man Was Also:
 - A Real King:
 - The Words Said About Him Also:
 - Seem To Cross Over From A Human Being:
 - To Some Spiritual Being!
 - This Understanding Of Isaiah 14:
 - Was Noted By Church Leaders:
 - Very Early In Church History!
 - Like Tertullian & Augustine & Others!
 - So That - What We Find Is:
 - As Matthew Henry Once Put It:
 - “The Language Of His Vainglory, Borrowed Perhaps From That Of The Angels Who Fell, Who Not Content With Their First Estate, The Post Assigned Them, Would Vie With God, And Became Not Only Independent Of Him, But Equal With Him!”
- 8. So - Let’s Now Turn To Isaiah 14:11-15:
 - Where We Read These Words:
 - Addressed To The King Of Babylon!
 - “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! / For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: / I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. / Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit!”
 - So - Pride Was The Downfall Of:
 - The King Of Tyre!
 - The King Of Babylon!
 - And - The Prince Of These Kings:
 - The Devil Himself!
 - And - With Each Of The Five “I’s” That:
 - We Find In 14:13-14:
 - There Is An Aspiration To Climb:

- Higher & Higher:
 - Even As The Builders Of The Tower Of Babel In Genesis 11!
 - Even To Heaven!
- And - From The Pride Described Here:
 - We Can Understand More About:
 - The Snare Of Pride:
 - That The Devil Will Try To Use:
 - For Us As Well!
- Because - Pride Will Come:
 - When You Are Not Content:
 - With What God - Your Creator:
 - Has For You!
 - Pride Will Come:
 - When You Are Not Content:

1. *With Your Own Purpose:*

- From God! Even As:
 - This King Of Babylon!
 - 14:13 - “For Thou Hast Said In Thine Heart, I Will Ascend Into Heaven!”
- Both The King Of Babylon & The Devil:
 - Were The Servants Of God!
 - And - Though The Devil At One Time:
 - Had Already Been In Heaven:
 - He Was There In A Different Capacity!
 - Even As A “Ministering Spirit!”
 - As All Angels Are!
 - And So - As God’s Servant:
 - He Would Go Wherever:
 - God Wanted Him To Go!
 - And He Would Do Whatever:
 - God Wanted Him To Do:
 - Even If It Was On The Earth!
 - But - He Was Not Content:
 - With His Purpose As:
 - God’s Servant!
 - He Wanted More!
 - He Wanted To “Ascend To Heaven!”
 - And Stay There!
 - Not As Servant To God:
 - But As A Sovereign:
 - Like God!
 - And - This Pride Of Purpose:
 - Would Be His Downfall!
 - But - We Must Not Let:
 - His Downfall Become:
 - Our Downfall!
 - Instead - We Need To Remember That:
 - Pride Will Defile Us:
 - Because Pride Is Sin!
 - Even As We Find:
 - In Proverbs 21:4 - “An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin!”
 - God Has A Purpose:
 - For Each One Of His Children!
 - But - That Purpose Is:
 - To Be A Servant:
 - With Your Life!
 - Not To Be Sovereign:

- Over Your Life!

- Beware Of This Snare:
 - Of The Devil!
 - And Be Content With:
 - God's Purpose For Your Life!

- However - Pride Can Also Come:
 - When You Are Not Content:

2. ***With Your Own Position:***

- From God! Even As:
 - This Lucifer!
 - In 14:13 - He Also Said - "I Will Exalt My Throne Above The Stars Of God!"
 - So - Both This Lucifer & The Devil:
 - Had Been Given Some Authority:
 - And Throne By God!
 - But - They Wanted More!
 - They Wanted More Glory Than:
 - All "The Stars Of God" Combined!
 - Which May Refer To All Of The Other Angels In Heaven!
- So - They Were Not Content:
 - With The Position God Gave Them!
 - And This Pride Would Be:
 - Their Downfall!
 - But - We Must Not Let:
 - His Downfall Become:
 - Our Downfall!
 - Instead - We Need To Remember That:
 - Not Only Will Pride:
 - Defile Us!
 - Pride Will Also Deceive Us!
 - Even As Obadiah Wrote About The Proud Nation & People Of Edom!
 - God Told Them In Obadiah 1:3 That:
 - "The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?"
 - What Position Or Role:
 - Have You Been Given By The Lord?
 - Whether That Role Is:
 - In Your Family Or Even In The Church!
 - Learn To Use Your Role:
 - To The Glory Of God - And:
 - Do Your Best & Be Faithful:
 - And Content!
 - Beware Of The Snare:
 - Of Pride - Thinking That:
 - You Know Better Than God:
 - As To What Your Role & Gifts:
 - Should Be!
- But - Pride Can Also Come:
 - When You Are Not Content:

3. ***With Your Own Place:***

- From God! Even Like:
 - This "Son Of Morning!"
 - In Isaiah 14:13 - Because There He Adds:
 - "I Will Sit Also Upon The Mount Of The Congregation, In The Sides Of The North!"
 - Though Mount Zion In Jerusalem:
 - Is Described As Being In:
 - "The Sides Of The North" In Psalm 48:2!

- This “Mount Of The Congregation” Seems To Be:
 - Something Heavenly - Instead Of:
 - Something Here On The Earth!
- Because - The Desire Of:
 - This Man & His Angelic Counterpart:
 - Was To Keep Moving Upward!
- And So - Instead Of Being:
 - The Appointed Place:
 - Where God Meets With Men:
 - On Earth!
 - More Than Likely - This Refers To:
 - The Place Where God Meets With:
 - The Host Of His Angels:
 - In Heaven!
 - Even Among The Ancients:
 - There Was A Belief In:
 - A Mountain In The Farthest Regions Of The North:
 - Where The Gods Held Their Court!
- And So - This Would Describe The Devil:
 - Wanting To Receive:
 - All The Glory & Worship:
 - That God Alone Deserved!
- So - He Was Not Content:
 - With The Place God Put Him!
 - And This Pride Would Be:
 - His Downfall!
 - But - We Must Not Let:
 - His Downfall Become:
 - Our Downfall!
 - Instead - We Need To Remember That:
 - Not Only Will Pride:
 - Defile & Deceive Us!
 - Pride Will Also Disgrace Us!
 - As We Learn From:
 - Proverbs 11:2 - “When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom!”
 - Sometimes We May Wish:
 - That We Were In A Different Place:
 - In Our Lives:
 - Wherever & Whatever:
 - That Entails!
 - But - Like Paul:
 - “In Whatsoever State I Am!”
 - We Need To Learn:
 - “To Be Content!”
 - And - Beware Of The Snare:
 - Of Pride!
- Because - Pride Can Also Come:
 - When You Are Not Content:

4. ***With Your Own Perspective:***

- Of God! Which Is What We Find Next:
 - In 11:14 - “I Will Ascend Above The Heights Of The Clouds!”
 - In Isaiah 19 - It Is The Lord Who:
 - Rides Upon A Swift Cloud!
 - And - The Devil Was Not Content:
 - To See God From:
 - *Below* His Clouds Of Glory!

- He Wanted To See God From:
 - *Above* The Clouds!
- But - Even With This:
 - He Would Not Be Content!
 - But - You Must Not Let:
 - His Downfall Become:
 - Your Downfall!
 - Instead - We Need To Remember That:
 - Not Only Will Pride:
 - Defile & Deceive & Disgrace Us!
 - Pride Will Even Divide Us!
 - From Others & From God!
 - In Proverbs 13:10 - We Are Told:
 - “Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom!”
 - As We Saw This Morning:
 - We Do Need The Desire:
 - To Know God!
 - But - Always Remembering:
 - That His Ways Will Always Be Higher Than Our Ways!
 - And His Thoughts Than Our Thoughts! (Isaiah 55:9)
 - We Must Ever:
 - Beware Of This Snare:
 - Of Pride!
- Because - Pride Can Also Come:
 - When You Are Not Content:

5. ***With Your Own Person!***

- As His Last Desire:
 - He Says In 14:14:
 - “I Will Be Like The Most High!”
 - And Yet - To Be “Like The Most High” Would Mean That:
 - The Most High Is No Longer:
 - The Most High!
 - And - To Be Able To:
 - Make Yourself “Like The Most High” Would Mean That You Become:
 - “The Most High” Yourself!
 - This Is What:
 - All Of These Kings Wanted!
 - And - They Reveal To Us:
 - The Heart Of The Devil Himself!
 - And We Must Not Let:
 - Their Downfall:
 - Become Our Downfall!
 - Because - Not Only Will Pride:
 - Defile Us & Deceive Us!
 - Disgrace Us & Divide Us!
 - Pride Will Ultimately:
 - Destroy Us!
 - As We Are Told In:
 - Proverbs 16:18 - “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall!”

Conclusion:

1. Pride Would Be:
 - The Devil’s Downfall!
 - Which Is Why In 14:15 - His End Is Foretold:
 - “Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit!”
2. And Since:
 - The Devil Is Such A Master:

- At Pride - He Will Use It:
 - To Trap & To Ensnare Us!
- So That:
 - Pride Will Be Our Downfall:
 - As Well!

3. Of Course - Even:

- The Great King Nebuchadnezzar:
 - Learned This Lesson!
 - But - The Hard Way!
- He Learned That:
 - Instead Of Falling Into:
 - The Snare Of The Devil!
 - We Must:
 - “Praise And Extol And Honor The King Of Heaven! All Whose Works Are Truth, And His Ways Judgment: And Those That Walk In Pride He Is Able To Abase!” (Daniel 4:37)

* “It is a gracious ambition to covet to be like the Most Holy, for he has said, Be you holy, for I am holy; but it is a sinful ambition to aim to be like the Most High, for he has said, He that exalteth himself shall be abased, and the devil drew our first parents in to eat forbidden fruit by promising them that they should be as gods.” (Matthew Henry)

* “The serpent who was the instrument of evil in the garden, was once an angel of God. Lucifer, the light-bearer, son of the morning, once stood high in the hierarchy of spirits; but sin entered into his heart, and the sublime angel became a loathsome fiend. Lucifer became Satan, as prompt for evil as once he had been swift for good.” (Spurgeon)

***Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***