THREE THINGS THE DEVIL WANTS TO DO

I Pet. 5:8

Introduction:

1. This is a warning we all need to heed -- that we be not devoured by the Devil -- Job 1:7; Eph. 2:2; II Cor. 4:4; Col. 1:13; Eph. 6:12; Acts 26: 18; Eph. 6:12

2. Paul said that the devil has devices -- II Cor. 2:11

3. Let us study this lesson that we be not ignorant of his devices.

I. THE DEVIL WANTS TO KEEP YOU OUT OF THE CHURCH; THERE ARE MANY REASONS FOR THIS:

1. The saved are in the church -- Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23
   (1) While you are out of the church-- you are unsaved, and LOST -- II Thess. 1: 8 - 9; Mark 16: 15 - 16
   (2) If you are saved -- you are added to the church -- Acts 2:47

2. The blood of Christ is in the church.
   (1) The church purchased with His blood -- Acts 20:28; I Cor. 6: 19 - 20; I Pet. 1: 18 - 19; Eph. 5:25
   (2) The church equals the blood; one must be in the church to benefit from the blood.
   (3) Illustration: Buy a coat --to get the benefits of the money paid for the coat one must wear the coat.
   (4) We overcome Satan with the blood -- Rev. 12:11; Heb. 2:14

3. We give glory to God in the church -- Eph. 3:21; I Pet. 2:9
   (1) Cannot glorify God in any other organization.
   (2) The Devil doesn't care how many other organizations you may join -- there are many counterfeits -- about 250

4. By the church the gospel of Christ is preached -- I Tim. 3:15
   (1) If you were a part of the church you would help preach the gospel.
   (2) The Gospel is God’s power to save sinners -- Rom. 1:16; Mk. 16: 15 - 16
   (3) The Devil doesn’t care what is preached, just so it is not the gospel -- II Cor. 11: 13 - 15
      1. Satan has ministers -- Rev. 3:9

5. Christ is the head of the church -- Eph. 1: 22 - 23
   (1) He is not the head of human organizations.
   (2) The devil doesn’t care if you belong to them.
II. IF YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH, THE DEVIL WANTS TO GET YOU BACK INTO THE WORLD.

1. Many times the devil is successful at this.
   (1) He was successful with Demas -- II Tim. 4:10
   (2) He was successful with Simon -- Acts 8: 18 - 24
   (3) He was with Hymenaeus and Alexander -- I Tim. 1: 19 - 20

2. Warning to Christians FROM God:
   (1) I John 2: 15 - 17; James 4:4; Gal. 5: 19 - 21; I Tim. 2: 9

3. It is a fearful thing to go back into the world.
   (1) II Pet. 2: 20 - 22; Heb. 10: 26 - 30

4. Some of the ways the Devil gets one back into the world:
   (1) He does everything he can to weaken our faith -- Heb. 3:12
       1. He gets people not to attend all the services -- Heb. 10:25
       2. He gets people not to study -- Heb. 5:12; II Tim. 2:15
   (2) Evil companionship is one important way the devil has of getting people back into the world -- I Cor. 15:33
   (3) Making Money -- business -- Matt. 13:22; I Tim. 6: 9 - 10

III. RENDER YOU WORTHLESS TO THE CHURCH IF HE CAN NOT GET YOU TO GO BACK INTO THE WORLD -- Matt. 6:13

1. Ways the devil renders one worthless and useless to the church
   (1) He likes for members to be spiritually ignorant and satisfied -- Heb. 5: 12 - 14
   (2) He renders you worthless if he can get you to be stingy and covetous -- Lk. 12:15; 6: 38; II Cor. 9:6
   (3) He renders us worthless when he can get us to wear our feelings on our elbows.
   (4) He renders us worthless when he can get us to be chronic critics and grouch -- Phil. 2:14 - 15; I Cor. 10: 10
   (5) He renders us worthless when he can get us to be church babies -- I Cor. 16: 13
   (6) He renders us worthless by hypocrisy -- Matt. 23:27 - 28
      (1) Matt. 5:19; Acts 1:1; Matt. 23: 3; Luke 18: 9 - 14

CONCLUSION:
1. Have you let the devil use you? If so, won’t you turn from your sins now?

~Donald Townsley