

This morning I'd like to begin a series of two talks on a very important subject. The one this morning will deal with something I think is very important for us all to have in mind. The second one will deal with an aspect of the subject which is much more important for our immediate activities than the first of the two talks.

As we start I'm going to rapidly read a number of verses. I'd not going to take time for you to look them up, because what I'm interested in now is the general impression rather than our looking in detail at each one of them. First I'll read 1 Pet. 5:8-9 . . . 1 John 3:8-10 . . . 2 Tim. 2:26 is the end of a sentence . . . Heb. 2:14 . . . Rom. 16:20 . . . Jude 9 . . . James 4:7 . . . Rev. 2:10 . . .

As we read the NT I don't think we realize how much there is in the NT about the devil or Satan. I'm not sure the word Satan occurs in any one of these verses that I now read. They all refer to the devil. Satan and the devil are identical terms. Actually there are over 70 vv. in the NT that speak of the devil or that call him by his name of Satan. If there is one teaching in Scripture that is ridiculed or forgotten and denied by more people today than perhaps any other it is the denial of the existence of a personal devil. People think of it as silly -- of there being a personal devil.

There are a few who go to the opposite extreme, and constantly talk about the devil which is certainly a mistake. It is not the preponderance of the teaching of the NT. 70 vv. is a small part of the NT, yet it is a very considerable part. It should not be neglected as it is by some people today and ridiculed by so many who consider themselves as wise and intelligent. The devil is no myth. The Bible teaches clearly that there is a great spiritual being. One whose power is so great that the arch-angel Michael did not dare to rebuke him, but said the Lord rebuke thee. He is a powerful force.

There are two matters about him I am going to notice in these two talks. He goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour -- the power of the devil. And we are to watch out for the wiles of the devil. His deceptions and schemes. His deceptions and schemes are much more immediate to us today, but his power is a fact of which we need to be aware. So today I'm speaking about his power.

First just a word about it. We speak of God as being omnipresent. He is everywhere. God as being omniscient -- he knows everything. God as being omnipotent -- he has all power. No one of these terms can be applied to Satan. Satan is subject to God. He can do nothing except as God permits. But though Satan is not omnipresent, he is able to exert force in many areas at once, Or else he is able to travel with lightning speed from one area of the earth to another so that the result is just the same as if he was in all those areas. He is not omnipresent, like God. He is limited, but his power can be exerted in many places either at the same time, or so quickly one after the other that it amounts to the same thing as far as we are concerned.