

arrows of ~~the~~ evil one, but he began by saying that we must take our stand against the devil's schemes. How clever his schemes are. How ready he is to lead us astray.

How important it is that we do not give in on the fact ~~h~~ that every part of God's Word is inspired, is free from error, is interpreted carefully in the original languages. That there is nothing in God's Word that will lead us astray if we take it as it is written and examine it carefully. That is very unpopular in the world today. People will sneer at you if you believe that God's Word is entirely true. But one of Satan's cleverest devices is to lead us to find a little error, to lead us to take something in the Scripture and without interpreting it carefully, examining it in the original, simply take the words and taking them out of context.

If Satan cannot mislead us in one way he will try to in another. I think sometimes that Satan's attitude toward us could be well illustrated by the old game of tug of war. I haven't heard of it in recent years, but when I was a boy I used to hear of a group of men on this side and another group on this side pulling, pulling and trying to pull the others across the line. Sometimes when you have pulled and pulled and pulled and unable to get the others across the line, sometimes at a signal they would just let go of the rope and the others who were pulling so hard ~~would~~ would fall down. Then they were easy to capture.

It is Satan's device to try to lead us away from the truth. But if he can't succeed he is apt to try to pull us in the other direction into making an extreme stand on some point of Scripture which is meant to be interpreted in relation to other points of Scripture.

It is interesting, for instance, we have Jesus in one of the Gospels quoted as saying that he that is not with us is against us; he that gathers not with us scatters. That is entirely true. It is very important that we do not cooperate with those who are working for Satan instead of working for God. But Oh how easy it is for us in tugging, tugging and pulling this way to them be put into the opposite extreme and take an extreme stand on minor points which cuts down our ~~usefulness~~ usefulness and makes it impossible for us to cooperate as we should with people perhaps who do not have a clear understanding yet but who nevertheless are truly saved, standing for the truth and desiring to be God's instruments in standing for His Word.

The devices of Satan. His clever schemes. Everywhere we must face them time and again. You will face them here as students; you will face them as you serve the Lord in later years. It is important that we beware of the devices of Satan and that we do not fall prey to them.

Satan is a very real fact in life. It is easy for us to make a mistake and when we make an error to say, Satan made me do it. It was the devil's fault. You can't blame me; it was the devil!