



# Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices

## Satan's Devices to Draw the Soul to Sin, Pt. 4

### Introduction

Imagine you're seven again, and you have a friend who is nine. This friend is sort of a bully, and he wants to get you in trouble or to get you hurt. As you're walking, you see a coral snake in the grass. You've never seen such a beautiful snake before you – "Look at the pretty colors!" he says. "That's a beautiful snake, and coral snakes are so pretty that they really want you to play with them. They want you to behold their beauty. It won't mind you pick it up." \*What would happen? Why?

All of cringe at the thought of this happening. This bully/friend is lying to you with a half-truth. The snake is very pretty! However, by not telling the whole truth, you find yourself in mortal danger. Likewise, in this way, Satan will try to draw your soul to sin.

### The Device: "To present God to the soul as one made up all of mercy."

*Definition:* "Oh!" says Satan, "You need not make such a matter of sin, you need not be so fearful of sin, not so unwilling to sin. For God is a God of mercy, a God full of mercy, a God that delights in mercy, a God that is ready to show mercy, a God that is never weary of showing mercy, a God more prone to pardon his people than to punish his people; and therefore, he will not take advantage against the soul. Why, then, should you make such a matter of sin?"

\*What are some ways you have used God's mercy as an excuse to sin or remain in sin?

*Ex. 34:6:* The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children to the third and fourth generation."

\*How does this passage show that this device of Satan twists and hides the truth?

### The Remedies

1. **Seriously consider that it is the greatest judgement in the world to be left to sin, upon any pretense whatsoever.**

*Hos. 4:17:* Ephraim is joined to idols: leave him alone.

"When God leaves you to yourself and does not resist you in your sins, what an unhappy man you will be! Woe, woe to him at whose sins God does not wink. When God lets the way to hell be a smooth and pleasant way, that is hell on this side of hell, and it's a dreadful sign of God's indignation against a man; it's a token of his rejection, that God does not intend good unto him."

*Ps. 81:12: So I gave them up to the lusts of their own hearts, and they walked in their own counsels.*

**\*What makes this – seemingly small, and even desirable, thing! – the greatest judgement in the world?**

“A soul given up to sin is a soul ripe for hell, a soul hastening to destruction!”

“Ah, Lord! I humbly beg for this mercy, that whatever you give me up to, you would not give me up to the ways of my own heart; if you will give me up to be afflicted, or tempted, or reproached, I will patiently sit down and say, ‘It is the Lord, let him do with me what seems good to his own eyes.’ Do anything with me, lay what burden you will upon me, so that you do not give me up to the ways of my own heart.”<sup>1</sup>

**\*What do you normally pray for? How can this shape your prayer life?**

## **2. Solemnly consider that God is as JUST as he is merciful.**

“As the scriptures speak of Him being a very merciful God, they also speak of Him as a very just God.”

*Rom. 2:4-11: Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgement will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.*

Witness his casting out the angels of heaven and His binding them in chains of darkness until the judgement day. Witness his turning Adam out of paradise, the drowning of the old world, the raining of hell upon Sodom and Gomorrah. Witness his treasuring up of wrath against the day of wrath. But above all, witness the pouring forth all of his wrath upon his eternally begotten Son, when Jesus bore the sins of His people, and cried out, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”

“God has hung them up as gibbets, as it were, that others might hear and fear, and commit no more wickedness.”

**\*This is a profound problem today. How can we lovingly talk to people and challenge them in this?**

## **3. Seriously consider that sins against God’s mercy will bring the greatest and sorest judgements on men’s heads and hearts.**

“Mercy is God’s Alpha, justice is His Omega. David, speaking of these attributes places mercy in the forefront, and justice in the rearward, saying, ‘I will sing of your Love and justice.’ When God’s mercy is despised, then His justice takes the throne!”

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<sup>1</sup> Augustine says, “It is a human thing to fall into sin, a devilish thing to persevere in it, and a divine thing to rise from it. Deliver me, O Lord, from that evil man – myself!”

“God is like a prince, who doesn’t send his army against rebels before he has sent his pardon, and proclaimed it by a herald of arms: he first hangs out the white flag of mercy; if this wins men in, they are happy forever; but if they remain rebellious, then God will put up the red flag of his justice and judgement. If His mercy is despised, His justice will be felt!”

“You who are so apt to abuse God’s mercy, consider this, that in the gospel days, the plagues that God inflicts upon the despisers and abusers of mercy are usually spiritual plagues; as blindness of mind, hardness of heart, numbness of conscience, which are ten-thousand times worse than the worst of the outward plagues that can come upon you. Though you may escape temporal judgements,, you shall not escape spiritual judgements.”

**\*We primarily fear physical plagues. Why are spiritual plagues worse?**

**\*How have you seen this play out in your life or in the lives of those you know and love?**

“Therefore, when Satan presents God to your soul as one made up all of mercy that you should pursue wickedness, say to him, ‘Sins against God’s mercy will bring upon the soul the greatest misery; and therefore, whatever becomes of me, I will not sin against His mercy.’”

**4. Solemnly remember that those who were once glorious on earth, and are now triumphing in heaven, looked on God’s mercy as the most powerful argument to preserve them from sin and to resist it – not as an encouragement to sin.**

*Ps. 26:3-5: For I am constantly aware of your unfailing love, and I have lived according to your truth. I do not spend time with liars or go along with hypocrites. I hate the gatherings of those who do evil, and I refuse to join in with the wicked.*

**\*How does David use God’s mercy as a powerful argument to resist sin?**

“The stone called Pontaurus, as it is told, will preserve him who carries it from being hurt by any poison. The mercy of God in Christ to our souls is the most precious stone or pearl in the world for preventing us from being poisoned with sin.”

*1 John 1:5-7, 2:1: This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.... I’m writing these things to you so that you may not sin.*

**\*What can we learn from John on talking to friends about sin and mercy?**

## **Conclusion**

May we desire God’s intervention, remember his justice and mercy, recall the great spiritual judgements that come from sinning against mercy, and those glorious saints who have gone before us.

**\*Prayer Requests for the Deceased and Remedies in your lives, as well as in those you know & love.**