

***Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*, by Thomas Brooks**
Westminster Book of the Month
December 4, 2024

“... so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.” – 2 Cor 2:11

“Cheer up, you precious sons of Zion, for the certainty and sweetness of the victory will abundantly recompense you for all the pains you have taken in making resistance against Satan's temptations. The broken horns of Satan shall be trumpets of our triumph and the cornets of our joy.” – Thomas Brooks

I. Introduction

- A. Dr. Ligon Duncan: “If you are looking for a book to be your companion in the lifelong fight for joy and against sin...then I don't have a better uninspired nomination for you than Precious Remedies.”
- B. Outline
 1. Who was Thomas Brooks (1608 – 1680)?
 2. *Precious Remedies* as a Work, and a “Few Devices” and “Remedies”
 3. Brooks' Ten “Helps” (to counter all of Satan's strategies!)

II. Who was Thomas Brooks (1608 – 1680)?

- A. Thomas Brooks was an English Puritan preacher and author. Chaplain to the fleet of Parliament in England (“[T]hrough grace I can say that I would not exchange my sea experiences for England's riches.”), and minister to multiple churches in London.
- B. Brooks married twice, to Martha Burgess (“She was always best when she was most with God in a corner”) and, later, to Patience Cartwright (“she spring-young, he winter-old”).
- C. Brooks had “a sweet nature, great gravity, large charity, wonderful patience, and strong faith.” (John Reeve)

III. *Precious Remedies* as a Work

- A. “Beloved in our dearest Lord, Christ, the Scripture, your own hearts, and Satan's devices, are the four prime things that should be first and most studied and searched. If any cast off the study of these, they cannot be safe here, nor happy hereafter. It is my work as a Christian, but much more as I am a Watchman, to do my best to discover the fulness of Christ, the emptiness of the creature, and the snares of the great deceiver.” (Epistle Dedicatory)
- B. Biblical Texts about Satan's strategies.
 1. **2 Cor 2:11** – “... so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.”
 2. **Eph 6:11** – “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”
 3. **2 Tim 2:25–26** – “God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.”
 4. **Rev 2:24** – “But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden.”

I. SATAN'S DEVICES TO DRAW THE SOUL TO SIN

1. By presenting the bait and hiding the hook
2. By painting sin with virtue's colors
3. By the extenuating and lessening of sin
4. By showing to the soul the best men's sins and by hiding from the soul their virtues, their sorrows, and their repentance
5. By presenting God to the soul as One made up all of mercy
6. By persuading the soul that repentance is easy and that therefore the soul need not scruple about sinning
7. By making the soul bold to venture upon the occasions of sin
8. By representing to the soul the outward mercies enjoyed by men walking in sin, and their freedom from outward miseries
9. By presenting to the soul the crosses, losses, sorrows and sufferings that daily attend those who walk in the ways of holiness
10. By causing saints to compare themselves and their ways with those reputed to be worse than themselves
11. By polluting the souls and judgments of men with dangerous errors that lead to looseness and wickedness
12. By leading men to choose wicked company

II. SATAN'S DEVICES TO KEEP SOULS FROM HOLY DUTIES, TO HINDER SOULS IN HOLY SERVICES, TO KEEP THEM OFF FROM RELIGIOUS PERFORMANCES

1. By presenting the world in such a garb as to ensnare the soul
2. By presenting to the soul the dangers, losses and sufferings that accompany the performance of certain religious duties
3. By presenting to the soul the difficulty of performing religious duties
4. By causing saints to draw false inferences from the blessed and glorious things that Christ has done
5. By presenting to view the fewness and poverty of those who hold to religious practices
6. By showing saints that the majority of men make light of God's ways and walk in the ways of their own hearts
7. By casting in vain thoughts while the soul is seeking God or waiting on God
8. By tempting Christians to rest in their performances

III. SATAN'S DEVICES TO KEEP SAINTS IN A SAD, DOUBTING, QUESTIONING AND UNCOMFORTABLE CONDITION

1. By causing saints to remember their sins more than their Savior, yes, even to forget and neglect their Savior
2. By causing saints to make false definitions of their graces
3. By causing saints to make false inferences from the cross actings of Providence
4. By suggesting to saints that their graces are not true, but counterfeit
5. By suggesting to saints that the conflict that is in them is found also in hypocrites and profane souls
6. By suggesting to the saint who has lost joy and comfort that his state is not good
7. By reminding the saint of his frequent relapses into sin formerly repented of and prayed against
8. By persuading saints that their state is not good nor their graces sound

IV. SATAN'S DEVICES TO DESTROY AND ENSNARE ALL SORTS AND RANKS OF MEN IN THE WORLD**A. DEVICES AGAINST THE GREAT AND HONORABLE OF THE EARTH**

1. By causing them to seek greatness, position, riches and security
2. By causing them to act against the people of the Most High

B. DEVICE AGAINST THE LEARNED AND THE WISE

1. By moving them to pride themselves on their parts and abilities, and to despise men of greater grace
 & but inferior abilities

C. DEVICE AGAINST THE SAINTS

1. By dividing them and causing them to "bite and devour one another."

D. DEVICE AGAINST POOR AND IGNORANT SOULS

1. By causing them to affect ignorance and to neglect and despise the means of knowledge

"My desires to you are--That you would make it your business to study Christ, his Word, your own hearts, Satan's plots, and eternity--more than ever. That you would endeavor more to be inwardly sincere than outwardly glorious; to live, than to have a mere name to live...For a close, remember this, that your life is short, your duties many, your assistance great, and your reward sure; therefore faint not, hold on and hold up, in ways of well-doing, and heaven shall make amends for all!" – Thomas Brooks