

Nevertheless I think Satan is achieving a great victory here in that he is getting people not to recognize his existence. That makes it all the easier for him to sneak up on them and to accomplish his terrible purposes when we do not recognize his existence. We should not have an inordinate fear of him, but we should recognize his existence and we should recognize that we are commanded in the Scripture to resist him.

So in the second place I think we should recognize his great power. Now he is not omnipresent. He is not everywhere, but he can manifest himself just about anywhere that he chooses, on this earth. He is not like God--omnipotent. He can do nothing except as God permits, but God does permit him to do a great deal.

We read that he goes about as a roaring lion yet how often we fail to recognize this fact. Just like a few years ago--I guess it was 40 or 50 years ago--Hitler declared to the world what he was going to do. He began gathering his forces, making his preparations. People laughed at him. They paid little attention to him. In England he was completely disregarded for many many years while he was building up his strength. Then Hitler sent his forces into the Rhineland where according to treaty they were not permitted to go. He sent them in there. There orders were given that on the least sign of opposition they were immediately to withdraw. But the other nations considered him worthy of not paying much attention to. Nothing was done. They took over the Rhineland. They took over one thing after another, and eventually the whole world had to reckon with his power. The power of a roaring lion.

It was very recently that Idi Amin in Africa terrorized the country where he was in control. He murdered hundreds of Christians. Not only murdered them but tortured them most severely. The rest of us looked on and nothing was done about it. Until finally the people there themselves drove him out.

The devil has taken over great sections of the world in which the people see his activity as a roaring lion and are subject to torture, misery and suffering because of his activity. In this country he is trying hard. Prayer has been forbidden in the public schools in our nation although in past years all honored God. God was at the very center of the American school and of the whole governmental structure of America until within recent years. More and more the devil is moving forward and people are ignoring him.

It is important to be ready constantly to resist his efforts. But he will do his utmost to destroy us. He comes as a roaring lion. Many a Christian has been led not only into small errors and mistakes but into gross sins that he never would have dreamed of because the devil has caught him unawares. The devil goes about as a roaring lion and we are commanded to resist him.

Even more important perhaps for us is the third point that I would like to mention: we should recognize his schemes. The KJV speaks of it as his wiles. His ways of deceiving people and misleading them. Every one of you will have the temptation to neglect your lessons. To put them off. Papers to do. Well we can put them