

off. There's lots of time to do them yet the last week or two at the end of the semester we can get that done. We put them off and postpone it. To procrastinate is one of the wiles of the devil. To get us to put things off and put things off and then we are full of tension and excitement as we push ourselves to try to get things rapidly in a few days before examinations. What we get that way instead of by solid work through the year is not apt to last.

God wants us to be aware of the wiles of the devil, of this scheme of his and to resist him. When you're tempted to put things off, when you are tempted to fail to carry on the preparation God wants you to make resist the devil. We are commanded to do this. It is important that we all follow God's command.

But we must beware of his wiles and recognize that on the one hand he will try to make us lazy; on the other hand he may lead us to try to hard to work add struggle so hard that we overwork and we put ourselves in a condition where we cannot accomplish. The devil will pull you and pull you to get you to go in this direction, and if he does not succeed he will try to push you to go in that direction! To push you away from the path God wants you ~~to follow~~ to follow.

Paul said Satan comes like an angel of light. How he does like to deceive us. I sometimes have thought of our lives in the way as if we were at one end of a tug of war, and we were pulling on a rope this way. The devil is pulling that way. We pull and we pull and pull, and if he can he'll pull us across the line and pull us into disaster. But if he can't succeed in that he just lets go of the rope and then we flop back and roll over. He accomplishes his purpose by switching from one side to the other.

God wants us to learn what His will is on all matters, and not to be led into one extreme or the other on so many many matters. God wants us to stand foursquare on the great truths of the Gospel. He wants us to stand foursquare on the great issues that are so vital to Scripture. He wants us to stand foursquare for the absolute inerrancy of the Word of God. For the fact that Jesus Christ is God. For all His great teachings. Satan will try so hard to get us to compromise on these matters. To get us to work with those who deny these matters. To get us to fail to take a firm stand on these matters.

And if does not succeed he lets go of the rope and we go to the opposite extreme and we begin fighting over minor points. And making divisions between true and earnest Christians over matters that are not clear in the Word or matters that are clearly secondary. Oh, the wiles of the devil but God wants us to resist the devil.

How anxious the devil is to sour us; to make us unloving in our attitude toward other Christians. He will lead other Christians to misunderstandings, to do things toward us that are mean, things that injure us and upset us terribly. If those things can make us take a bitter attitude, can make us show an unloving spirit, can make us fail to develop those qualities God wants us to have, of true Christian love for all who belong to Christ,