

with what Satan suggests to us. When we do we soon get into great difficulty as she did.

You notice that Satan misquoted God. He said, You shall not eat from any tree in the garden. How ready we are to misquote what God says, and to not get exactly what His word is and will is for us. There was only one tree they were forbidden to eat from. But he said, Is it true God said you must not eat from any tree in the garden? He got her off from the basic question: "Will you obey God in this regard? Was God so mean as to put all these beautiful trees here, all this lovely fruit and then He won't let you eat any of it? The woman answered: We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden but God said you must not eat fruit from the tree that's in the middle of the garden, you must not touch it lest you die." You see she did not get it exact either!

He said, You must not eat of it and must not touch it. How easy it is ~~from~~ for us to not get exactly what God's command is. How easy it is for us to add to what His commands are and to go from one extreme to another.

I sometimes think that Satan in dealing with people is often like one who is on one end of a rope contest with each pulling each way. They pull and they pull and they pull and then they pull you across the line. But then if you stand still and firm and he does not succeed in pulling you across, then suddenly he lets go and you fall back in the other direction. He defeats you either way! God does not want us to carry commands to an extreme that may be unhealthy, that may be undesirable. He wants us to see exactly what he wants and to follow it. We are so apt to be either not following his commands or to invent things that are not clearly taught in His word. We go to extreme in one direction where the right amount would be good but the one extreme may be sometimes even worse than the other extreme.

We should not even listen to Satan. I've known of many students who have said, I want to hear what the other side says. I will go to a modernist seminary and see what they present. My faith is strong enough to stand it. I've known a few who have done that and have been so disgusted after a year or two that they have quit. I've known a great many who have stayed. Some have thought they were going to convert the professor. In most cases when you put a person with a little knowledge to have faith in someone who has a great deal of knowledge (even if a great part of that knowledge is completely wrong) you find that they do not stand up. The majority go over. We should not even listen to Satan at all. If we know that an institution rests on a false foundation, if we know that what is taught there reaches results that are contrary to God's Word, the thing to do is not to expose ourselves to it.

God does not promise to protect us if we enter into dangers unnecessarily. We read the Apostles were told they should take up snakes and not be injured. This was wonderfully fulfilled when Paul was on the isle of Malta and picking up some wood there was a deadly snake there and the people thought he would die. But he did not. God protected him. He took up the snake and was not injured.