

Fighting the Noble War

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Timothy 1:18-21.

B. Being delivered unto Satan is a terrible thought.

C. In order to be turned over to Satan, one would have to assume that he was not completely under Satan's control. (I John 5:19, Romans 1:18-32, Ephesians 2:2, I Corinthians 7)

D. The church is a haven of protection from Satan, even for unbelievers at times.

II. Sometimes God turns a believer over to Satan for a positive reason for His own sovereignty.

A. This was the case with Job. The reason for this was to demonstrate that true faith stands in God regardless of blessing.

B. This was also the case with Christ to demonstrate perfection. (Matthew 4)

C. Paul was turned over to Satan in order that he might be humbled. (II Corinthians 12)

D. Peter was turned over to Satan so that he would be able to strengthen others when he came back. (Luke 22:31)

E. Those during the tribulation will be turned over to Satan so that they might be cleansed when they come out. They will have a level of praise exceeding others. (Matthew 24:21-22, Revelation 6)

F. God desires to reward His children who have gone through persecution. (Revelation 2:9-10)

III. Believers are also delivered to Satan for a negative purpose.

A. Those in I Timothy 1 were turned over for judgment.

B. An evil spirit troubled Saul from God. (I Samuel 16; 18; 19:9)

C. Judas was turned over to Satan. (John 13:27, Luke 22:3)

D. Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit, and they were turned over to Satan. (Acts 5:1-5, Hebrews 2)

- E. A son who fornicated with his father's wife was to be turned over to Satan. (I Corinthians 5, I Timothy 1:20, Matthew 18, II Thessalonians 3:6, 3:14)
- F. When one is turned over to Satan, there is no limit to what might happen. (Revelation 2)
- G. When a person throws away a good conscience, he shipwrecks the faith. (II Timothy 2:19)
- H. One cannot blaspheme and get away from it.
- I. Learning carries the idea of physical punishment. (Luke 23:16-22, I Corinthians 11, II Corinthians 6:9, Hebrews 12:6-10)
- J. Anything we do against God is blasphemy and needs to be disciplined. (II Timothy 2, Colossians 3:8)
- K. We avoid chastening and judgment by receiving the truth of Christ.

Application questions:

1. What does it mean to be turned over to Satan? How can it be a positive thing?

2. How can a believer fall under temporal judgment when Jesus has paid for all of his sins? Explain.

3. How have you experienced God's discipline? What did you learn from the situation? Explain.
