

## Satan's Advantage

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When a sports team, a military army, or a political party has an "advantage", they often win their contest. When Satan has an "advantage" over Christians, he often wins his battle over them. Paul wrote to Christians in 2 Corinthians 2:11 and said, "that no advantage may be gained over us by Satan." What are some things in a Christian's life that can give Satan an "advantage" over the Christian?

First, and unforgiving and unloving spirit can give Satan an "advantage" (2 Corinthians 2:10-11). What else? When Christians do what they want instead of what God wants, they act like Satan (Matthew 16:23). When Christians have a hard heart and reject God's word, they do what Satan wants (Mark 4:15). When Christians allow a weakness to go unchanged, like Judas, they let Satan work in them (John 13:2, 27-29). When Christians are over-confident and fail to take heed, they can fall to Satan (Luke 22:31-34).

Christians can also give Satan an "advantage" in their lives by not controlling themselves (1 Corinthians 7:5), by believing lies (2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15), by uncontrolled anger (Ephesians 4:26-27), by pride (1 Timothy 3:6-7), and by misusing their idle time (1 Timothy 5:13-15).

Brethren, let's put on our armor (Ephesians 6:11) and let's put off our sin (Hebrews 12:1-2) and give Satan no advantage over our lives. - *Chris Reeves*

## Sentence Sermons

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- If some Christians grew physically at the rate they grew spiritually, they would spend their lives in a play-pen.
- We can all make the local church and the world a better place by improving ourselves.
- Make the word of God your daily bread; not just cake for special occasions.
- Beware of a half truth because you may have gotten hold of the wrong half.

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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# Does the Bible Contradict Itself?

Many people today reject the Bible as the word of God because they do not want to submit to its teaching. They want to do what the Bible forbids and they do not want to do what the Bible commands.

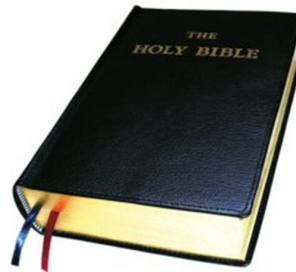
A frequent reason given for rejecting the Bible today is the presence of alleged mistakes and contradictions in the Bible. People say the Bible contradicts itself, so it must have been written by man, and since it has been written by man, they don't have to believe it or follow it.

One example of this charge is found in a book by Dennis McKinsey titled *The Encyclopedia of Biblical Errancy* published in 1995. ("Errancy" means error.) This book contains 550 pages of alleged Bible contradictions! McKinsey believes the Bible is full of error from Genesis to Revelation.

If the Bible is simply the word of man only, then it would certainly contain errors. After all, we all make mistakes from time-to-time. But, the Bible claims to be the very word of God and it lives up to that claim. Paul wrote that all scripture is "inspired of God" (2 Timothy 3:16). "Inspired" comes from the Greek word *theopnustos* and means "God breathed". Peter also wrote that men were "moved by the Holy Spirit" to speak their words (2 Peter 1:20-21). Both the written and spoken words in the Bible come from God.

Alleged Bible contradictions are in fact presumptions or misinterpretations on the part of the one making the claim. Let us now consider three principles for dealing with alleged Bible contradictions. (All three of these principles, by the way, are commonly used in our courtrooms across the land.)

**Principle #1: Innocent Until Proven Guilty.** We operate on a daily basis from the premise that a person or a thing is innocent until proven guilty. This principle operates with the standing sons, in-Bible au-speaking ing truth-we have dence to trary 7:24; I thians 13:7; I Timothy 6:4).



**Principle #2: Reason Explanations Will Suffice.** We operate on a daily basis from the premise that there is more than one legitimate, possible reason why something may be written and recorded. Something may appear to be a contradiction, but it doesn't have to be so. One, or two reasonable explanations for an alleged contradiction is all that is necessary. We will never be able to offer an explanation that will satisfy everyone, but that is not our obligation. Our obligation is to offer at least one, reasonable explanation for what appears to be contradictory. For example, did

one robber revile Jesus (Luke 23:39) or did two (Matthew 27:44; Mark 15:32)? Answer: Both robbers reviled Jesus, but Luke chose to record the actual words of one of them, while Matthew and Mark did not.

### **Principle #3: Context Is Critical.**

We operate on a daily basis from the premise of context; how words are used by a particular person, in a particular time and place. For example, if I say, "he's on fire," context would determine if I mean literally he's on fire, or figuratively he's doing a great job. When I examine the context of one or more scriptures, I must ask myself some questions. Is the same person or thing under consideration? Is the same time frame under consideration? Is the same word meaning or sense under consideration? Is the same detail under consideration? Answering these question will resolve many alleged contradictions.

No, the Bible being God's word, does not contradict itself. When I take the time to study context, do proper word studies, examine all the parallel accounts, allow scripture to interpret scripture, and take notice of figurative language, I will find that the Bible does not contradict itself. Let's all busy ourselves to find ways to obey God's word rather than look for ways to reject God's word. - Chris Reeves

**Note:** A good place to find answers and solutions to alleged Bible contradictions is [www.apologeticspress.org](http://www.apologeticspress.org).