

**“SATAN CRUSHED.”**

**Rev. Robert T. Woodyard**

**First Christian Reformed Church**

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**Scripture Texts: Romans 16:20-23**

**Prayer:**

Holy Father, give to our minds spiritual understanding and enable us to grow in grace, love, and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in His name, Amen.

**16:20a**

**Romans 16:20** The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

This is the first explicit reference to Satan in the letter to the Romans. And when he finally brings him up, the only thing he has to say is that he is soon destined for doom. This is a unique verse in the NT. It is the only direct reference to one of the most famous verses in the OT.

In the third chapter of Genesis after the fall of Adam, God curses the serpent and says:

**Genesis 3:15** I will put enmity [hostility, hatred] between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Let me remind you of the context of what happened and how we got to that point.

God who is infinite and holy and perfect and lacking in nothing, out of His eternal perfection and wisdom decided to create a perfect garden and He created a perfect man and woman. And it was good and they had everything they needed in perfect harmony. And God walked with them in the garden in the cool of the evening.

As a test of their love and loyalty, obedience and faithfulness God made one tree from which He told them not to eat, the tree of the knowledge of

good and evil. Having absolutely everything, and lacking no good thing, Adam and Eve ate and instantly they were ruined, filled with shame and guilt, hiding from their God. And death entered this perfect world. Satan ruined everything.

Now in that moment what was going on in heaven? Was God wringing His hands saying, “Well I didn’t see that coming, now what do I do?” Was He thinking I told them if they ate they would die, so I have to keep my word and kill them on the spot? He could have decided He would do a do over, start over with a new couple, and this time He would keep a better eye on Satan and not let him slip past the security. Was God thinking He had to start coming up with a Plan B to fix this big problem?

God did none of those things, because nothing about this caught God off guard or threw Him for a loop. God could have stopped Satan, He could have stopped Adam and Eve, but the fact that He didn’t means He had a reason. In fact, this was God’s plan from before He set out to create anything. This was exactly as God not just permitted, but ordained. Satan was a tool, a pawn, an unknowing instrument in God’s hands for accomplishing God’s perfect purpose and all for His glory. God’s goal was to make the glory of His Son shine as brightly as possible and Adam’s sin does that.

You want a clue for how we can know this is true. **First**, God is God and He knows everything and nothing can sneak up and surprise Him. **Second**, we are told elsewhere in Scripture that God had planned this from before the foundation of the earth. Jesus was not an afterthought.

II Timothy 1:9 says God saved us in Christ Jesus before the ages began. 1 Peter 1:19-20 says Christ’s sacrifice was foreknown before the foundation of the world.

The third clue we have that this was the plan is that immediately after the fall, God was right there immediately announcing what He was going to do. At Satan’s first blush of victory, God steals his thunder. The plan was already written up, it was written before the fall, before creation. Immediately God shines a light into this great darkness.

Let’s walk through God’s plan as He announced it is Genesis 3:15.

Beneath the surface this verse is a deep well of glory and grace, of truth and goodness, of comfort for those so soon in the misery of sin.

Genesis 3:15 is called the *proto-evangelium*, the first Gospel. God is the first preacher, the first evangelist and this is His first Gospel message. This verse is called the mother promise, the mother of all promises. This is the foundational Biblical promise that gives birth to all the rest of the promises of the Bible, that the seed of the woman would ultimately defeat the serpent.

This verse is “the sum and summary of the whole Bible.” From this acorn grows the mighty oak of salvation. This is the beginning of the history of redemption. The entire rest of the Bible is a fleshing out of this verse.

Genesis is the unique book of beginnings; not only the beginning of creation and humanity, but also the beginning of God’s redemption.

Genesis 3:15 is God’s first Gospel sermon, one verse, one sentence, 27 words, and in it are at least six truths revealed about God’s plan of redemption.

**First**, while Adam and Eve were hiding, shrinking away from God in fear, God came. Salvation begins not with our initiation but with God’s initiation, it is God’s grace. While we were yet sinners, God brought salvation to light.

This is God’s covenant of grace in which He commits Himself to saving us by sending a Redeemer who will gain our victory over Satan.

**Second**, this Redeemer will be human, of the seed of woman, he will become the new Adam, the Second Adam, our representative.

**Third**, while a man, he must be a being greater than man to do battle with Satan. He must be the conqueror of man’s conqueror. He will have to be without the sin that created the problem, and to be sinless, he must also be divine.

**Fourth**, there must be a new nature involved to overcome the old nature, to counter the sinful nature inflicted on us as we became subject to Satan.

Enmity toward Satan or with Satan means a new nature, a new heart, a divine regeneration, since God says, “I will put enmity between you and the woman.” When God’s grace enters into us He creates a hostility in us toward sin, Satan and our fallen flesh.

*Fifth*, this redemption will be accomplished at great cost through suffering, since the Redeemer will be bruised on the heel in the midst of the work of recovery and restoration. This will be a cosmic battle between principalities and powers.

*Sixth*, in this cosmic battle Satan’s defeat is certain and decisive, his wound will be a mortal wound, the serpent’s head will be crushed. As Martin Luther wrote in his great hymn: “his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.”

God puts Satan on notice. Satan can try all he wants to stop God but he will fail. Come hell or high water or anything else, God will redeem His creation and His image bearers. There will be a triumph over death and a restoration of fallen humanity to its original estate.

God will not have His glory robbed. No one can steal His glory. No one can destroy His good and glorious purposes. It is all God and it is all grace.

We don’t have to be anxious about the future. A God of grace has invaded our world and life, He has had a plan from the beginning and He always finishes what He starts.

**I John 3:8** The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

### **How is Satan crushed?**

Progressively, in one crushing blow after another. Defeat upon defeat.

It began with the birth of Jesus and when Satan tried to kill the child Jesus at the hand of Herod God revealed to Joseph Herod’s treachery and they escape to Egypt. Satan foiled, defeated.

The next defeat is at the temptation in the wilderness, it was a real and powerful tempting, but Jesus resisted Satan's temptations using the power of the Word of God. Satan crushed.

The next defeat is when Jesus again and again delivered people from demonic influence casting out demons. A crushing blow to Satan's kingdom, power and authority.

Of course the most decisive defeat of the Devil came on the cross. About the cross Jesus said, "Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out" (John 12:31).

**Colossians 2:15** Jesus "disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him." When he was raised from the dead, the Father exalted Jesus "far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, . . . and put all things under his feet" (Eph. 2:21-22).

By his death and resurrection Jesus destroyed "the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14).

The final defeat, the ultimate and everlasting overthrow of Satan happens when Christ returns and he is "thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur" where he will be tormented day and night (Rev. 20:10).

**I John 3:8** The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

### **How is Satan crushed under our feet?**

Notice, it doesn't say God will crush Satan under His feet, but under our feet. In this life there is still a perpetual conflict between those who belong to Christ and Satan. We are joined to Christ to share in His victory over sin and Satan. Paul connects us to that continuing crushing of Satan as we destroy the works of the devil in our hearts and lives.

There will be a victory that will be ours, but it will be gained through God. We don't do battle with the great enemy in our own power, but in God's power with His armor. We are to do battle. But we can fight the current battles without fear, confident in the Spirit and Word, assured the victory is guaranteed.

We apply Christ's victory to ourselves every time we continually crush Satan by resisting him and making him flee again and again (James 4:7).

We crush Satan under our feet every time we resist the temptation speak unkindly, with sarcasm, that jab, that curse. We crush Satan when we give a gentle response to anger, when we don't click that link or that image, chose purity over lust, generosity over selfishness, honesty over lies.

We crush Satan when we let someone else go first, when we let our brother or sister have the last piece or the biggest piece. We crush Satan when we don't care who gets credit or someone else is honored more than us.

We crush Satan under our feet every time we forgive someone who has hurt or offended us, when we confess and ask forgiveness, or when we give forgiveness, when we let go of grudges, or refuse to get even, and repay evil for evil.

We crush Satan under our feet every time we believe God's truth and reject Satan's lies, when we believe God's promises over fear; when we open our Bibles to read.

We crush Satan under our feet every time we raise our children in the faith, in the knowledge and love of God, when we train them in the way of truth and righteousness, when we discipline them in their disobedience.

We crush Satan under our feet when we endure suffering faithfully and patiently, refusing to give into Satan's attempts to discourage us and weaken our faith, and rely on God's grace.

We crush Satan under our feet every time we pray, when we depend on God and call on the name of the one who has defeated Satan and gives us power over him.

We crush Satan under our feet every time we worship God, declaring our allegiance to Him and giving Him the glory that Satan tries to steal.

Put your foot down on Satan and keep him under your foot.

Live in the light and hope of that coming day when Satan will be fully and finally crushed. Live out that reality now in your daily life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Beware there is a warning implicit in this verse. This is a battle that will not be without cost. There is mutual hostility. It is war and it is to the death. There will be suffering, but take heart, even in the suffering there will be victory.

Where there is suffering there are always divinely orchestrated purposes and plans. God will strengthen us with His endurance and hope as He pours out on us His love and sufficient grace. By His Spirit He will bring us all the way through to victory.

Notice, it is the God of peace who will crush him, who will do this violence to Satan. It is the God of peace who gives us peace in the midst of our battle with Satan and sin and evil.

God is the one who defends and protects us in every spiritual battle and danger.

## **16:20b**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

This is an ever-flowing fountain of grace. Those who have been bought by the blood of Jesus, will never cease to receive His abounding grace. This is true every minute of every day, in every need and circumstance. Our perseverance in this life, our being able to stand against so great a foe, is because of the never-failing grace and steadfast love of the Lord.

“I will be their God and they will be my people.”

## **Conclusion.**

Daily draw strength and comfort from the knowledge that Satan is a defeated foe, that the sting and fear of death is destroyed. We are on the winning team, the victory is secure. Jesus is our advocate and the Holy Spirit is our strength.

Genesis 3:15 is a lens for understanding the world we live in and seeing God's plan at work. Romans 16:20 is a promise to encourage and comfort and strengthen us in this battle:

**Romans 16:20** The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.