

"In power as preachers, expositors, writers, and critics, the Puritans in their day were second to none. Their works still speak for them on the shelves of every well-furnished theological library," wrote J. C. Ryle. To this he added, "The more they are really known, the more they will be esteemed."

Thomas Brooks's book, *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*, supports well Ryle's affection for the Puritans. It is a shining example of the Puritans' heart for practical theology. I wanted to feature this book for our church because it provides such an excellent model of heart-shepherding. Page after page, Brooks unmaskes the lies that Satan offers our deceitful hearts by identifying the lie and fighting it with the multifaceted truth of God's word. As the chapter titles and subheadings indicate (see the back of this reading guide), Brooks is very thorough in his subject matter. Readers seeking to successfully wage war against temptation by faith in the truth will appreciate these piercing insights. Since the author lived from 1608-1680, the writing style might require more labor from modern readers, but those who patiently toil to unearth Brooks's wisdom will be well rewarded!

— Omri Miles, Pastor/Elder

QUOTES

"Whatever sin the heart of man is most prone to, that the devil will help forward. If David be proud of his people, Satan will provoke him to number them, that he may be yet prouder (2 Sam. 24)."

"Remember this, that your life is short, your duties many, your assistance great, and your reward sure; therefore, faint not, hold on and hold up, in ways of well-doing, and heaven shall make amends for all."

"Every parcel of truth is precious as the filings of gold; we must either live with it or die for it. As Ruth said to Naomi...so must gracious spirits say, Where truth goes I will go, and where truth lodges I will lodge, and nothing but death shall part me and truth."

"Adversity hath slain her thousand, but prosperity her ten thousand."

"Ah, souls! he that now tempts you to sin, by suggesting to you the easiness of repentance, will at last work you to despair, and present repentance as the hardest work in all the world, and a work as far above man as heaven is above hell, as light is above darkness. Oh that you were wise, to break off your sins by timely repentance."

"It is impossible for that man to get the conquest of sin, that plays and sports with the occasions of sin. God will not remove the temptation, except you turn from the occasion."

Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices

Thomas Brooks



PURITAN  PAPERBACKS

"Ah, souls, it were better that all the temporal plagues that ever befell the children of men since the fall of Adam should at once meet upon your souls, than that you should be given up to the least spiritual plague, to the least measure of spiritual blindness or spiritual hardness of heart."

"The more saints are beaten with the hammer of afflictions, the more they are made the trumpets of God's praises, and the more are their graces revived and quickened."

"Though saints have little in hand, yet they have much in hope. You count those happy, in a worldly sense, that have much in reversion, though they have little in possession; and will you count the saints miserable because they have little in hand, little in possession, though they have a glorious kingdom in reversion of this? I am sure the poorest saint that breathes will not exchange, were it in his power, that which he hath in hope and in reversion, for the possession of as many worlds as there be stars in heaven, or sands in the sea."

"Christ in this life will not free any believer from the presence of any one sin, though he doth free every believer from the damning power of every sin."

book of the month *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices – Thomas Brooks*

Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices

Thomas Brooks
9-10 pages per day

Week 1: Monday February 28th - Sunday March 6th

Bibliographical Introduction, 6 pages
Epistle Dictionary, 8 pages
A Word to the Reader, 3 pages
Introduction, 3 pages

- I. The Proof of the Point, 3 pages
- II. Satan's Devices to Draw the Soul to Sin (12 devices and their remedies)
 1. By presenting the bait and hiding the hook, 7 pages
 2. By painting sin with virtue's colours, 3 pages
 3. By the extenuating and lessening of sin, 10 pages
 4. By showing to the soul the best men's sins and by hiding from the soul their virtues, their sorrows, and their repentance, 6 pages
 5. By presenting God to the soul as One made up all of mercy, 7 pages
 6. By persuading the soul that repentance is easy and that therefore the soul need not scruple about sinning, 13 pages

Week 2: Monday March 7th - Sunday March 13th

7. By making the soul bold to venture upon the occasions of sin, 6 pages
8. By presenting to the soul the outward mercies enjoyed by men walking in sin, and their freedom from outward miseries, 11 pages
9. By presenting to the soul the crosses, losses, sorrows and sufferings that daily attend those who walk in the ways of holiness, 13 pages
10. By causing saints to compare themselves and their ways with those reputed to be worse than themselves, 4 pages
11. By polluting the souls and judgements of men with dangerous errors that lead to looseness and wickedness, 9 pages
12. By leading men to choose wicked company, 4 pages
- III. Satan's Devices to Keep Souls From Holy Duties, to Hinder Souls in Holy Services, to Keep Them Off From Religious Performances (8 devices and their remedies)
 1. By presenting the world in such a garb as to ensnare the soul, 14 pages

Week 3: Monday March 14th - Sunday March 20th

2. By presenting to the soul the dangers, losses and sufferings that accompany the performance of certain religious duties, 7 pages
3. By presenting to the soul the difficulty of performing religious duties, 6 pages
4. By causing saints to draw false inferences from the blessed and glorious things that Christ has done, 8 pages
5. By presenting to view the fewness and poverty of those who hold to religious practices, 7 pages
6. By showing saints that the majority of men make light of God's ways and walk in the ways of their own hearts, 3 pages
7. By casting in vain thoughts while the soul is seeking God or waiting on God, 7 pages
8. By tempting Christians to rest in their performance, 3 pages
- IV. Satan's Devices to Keep Saints in a Sad, Doubting, Questioning and Uncomfortable Condition (8 devices and their remedies)
 1. By causing saints to remember their sins more than their Saviour, yea, even to forget and neglect their Saviour, 8 pages
 2. By causing saints to make false definitions of their graces, 5 pages
 3. By causing saints to make false inferences from the cross acts of Providence, 5 pages
 4. By suggesting to saints that their graces are not true, but counterfeit, 11 pages

Week 4: Monday March 21st - Sunday March 27th

5. By suggesting to saints that the conflict that is in then is found also in hypocrites and profane souls, 7 pages
6. By suggesting to the saint who has lost joy and comfort that his state is not good, 5 pages
7. By reminding the saint of his frequent relapses into sin formerly repented of and prayed against, 8 pages
8. By persuading saints that their State is not good nor their Graces sound, 9 pages
- V. Satan's Devices to Destroy and Ensnare All Sorts and Ranks of Men in the World (4 devices and their remedies)
 - I. Devices Against the Great and Honourable of the Earth, 16 pages
 - II. Device Against the Learned and the Wise, 6 pages
 - III. Device Against the Saints, 17 pages

Week 5: Monday March 28th - Sunday April 3rd

- IV. Device Against Poor and Ignorant Souls, 4 pages
- Appendix
 - I. Touching Five More of Satan's Devices, 20 pages
 - II. Seven Characters of False Teachers, 6 pages
 - III. Six Propositions Concerning Satan And His Devices, 11 pages
 - IV. Conclusion: Chiefly, Ten Special Helps and Rules Against Satan's Devices, 15 pages