

On the Limited Power of the Devil in Saint John Chrysostom's Homilies

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Abstract

The study of Saint John Chrysostom's homilies and sermons reveals his teaching on the devil and on its work against the people. To know the way, the manner in which it fights against man and tries to make him lose his chances of redemption is very useful in our spiritual fight against evil. The traps of the devil are numerous and deceptive. We must be on our guard everywhere and at any time, we must be spiritually prepared to fight the devil and be aware of its machinations. In order to avoid its traps we have to lead a virtuous life.

The Chrysostomic work inspires realism and optimism: realism, for it makes Christians aware of the devil's continuous assault against them and optimism, for God gave them the best means to defeat the devil, through permanent fight against it. Through our earnest and virtuous efforts we can indeed defeat the beast; we are not afraid as we know we are not alone and the devil's power is limited.