

SERIES:

SUBJECT: The Battle We Fight

READING: Eph 6:10-17 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. (13) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (14) Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; (15) And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (16) Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Introduction:

Last Sunday Evening I introduced The Battle We Fight by calling your attention to Paul's words concerning that battle; I want to revisit that with more depth this evening;

- **First of all I want you to understand how I see our forces;**

The soldiers we fight alongside includes every saved man, woman, and Child;

In a particular location a number of these soldiers assemble themselves into Local Churches which are scattered across the battle field in various locations.

In those locations Christian soldiers gather for training and equipping to carry out commands of their leader Jesus Christ.

Although skirmishes take a variety of forms they all seek two things in common;

- The winning of the lost to Christ;
- The training of the saved to live out the disciplines of their commander.

Mat 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

- There is however another army made up of all those who followed their general Lucifer as he fell from heaven. **Their numbers are immense and far outnumber the soldiers in God's army!**

For God's army to win the lost and train the saved they must be equipped and trained to battle and defeat this alien army at the same time;

It is this battle and this enemy that Paul introduces us to;

I. The first thing Paul tells is that the Battle requires strength and power we do not have;

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

- a. Every soldier needs a battle plan;
 - i. We can have the right doctrine;
 - ii. We can have the right bible;
 - iii. We can recognize what needs to be done;
 - iv. But we lack strength and power to take the battle to the enemy!

- b. That power and that strength Paul reminds us must come **from God! be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.**
 - i. That strength and that power can only be gained by a daily walk in the light of God's word.
 - ii. A life committed to our commander Jesus Christ is the only way we can be strong and possess His power.
 - iii. People who pack the churches, get excited about the programs, then go out into the work-a-day world without a commitment to a godly life will never survive on the battle lines.

- c. **I do not think the devil is concentrating on the lost world with its pornography, sexual promiscuity, its drug trade, or its fascination with the things of this world they are all the natural products of a sinful heart!**
 - i. The devil draws his battle lines in the church. If he can reach those in the pews with a desire to be entertained, he is going to compromise their witness and their desire to hear something more in tune with the world's thinking!
 - ii. If Satan can expose the Christian home to an atmosphere that embraces a new morality instead of exposing it as error!
 - iii. If the Devil can convince preacher that he needs a slightly more contemporary atmosphere to attract more people and a new

communication style that abandons preaching for skirts one that addresses relationships in the office instead of sin at the water cooler then he has drawn the battle line on the high ground he has been given from which he has the tactical advantage!

iv. I'm against abortion, against the attempt to purge God, the bible, and the Christian's voice from public discourse as much as the next guy!

1. But that's not my battle! I can call your attention to it, I can do my personal part by speaking out against such things!
2. **But my battle is here in the pulpit,** in the assembly of the redeemed.
3. It is to equip the Christian man or woman in the pew with "...**the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Eph 6:11**
4. Dr. J. Vernon McGee used to say; He (the devil) is not out on the town on Saturday night. He has gone to bed early so he can get up and go to church on Sunday morning. The spiritual battle is being fought wherever a man is giving out the Word of God, where a church is standing for the Word of God. That is the place the devil wants to destroy, and that is the place of the spiritual battle."

- d. **The enemy is not only in the place you would least expect him, he has tactics that are called **the wiles of the devil**. What are these wiles?**
- i. I have lamented that the contemporary Church has misdirected its energies which I believe is true!
 - ii. But the reality is my battle is not with them, they are flesh and blood; **My battle, beloved your battle is “...not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.** Eph 6:12
- e. **To fight this battle that is behind the flesh and blood there is a much more dangerous enemy that must be exposed; *The intelligence corps plays a vital part in warfare because it enables the officers to know and understand the enemy.***

Unless we know who the enemy is, where he is, and what he can do, we have a difficult time defeating him.

Not only in [Ephesians 6](#), but throughout the entire Bible, God instructs us about the enemy, so there is no reason for us to be caught off guard.

- i. ***The leader—the devil.*** The enemy has many different names. *Devil* means "accuser," because he accuses God's people day and night before the throne of God ([Rev. 12:7-11](#)). *Satan* means "adversary," because he is the enemy of God. He is also called the

tempter ([Matt. 4:3](#)), and the murderer and the liar ([John 8:44](#)).

1. He is compared to a lion ([1 Peter 5:8](#)),
2. a serpent ([Gen. 3:1](#); [Rev. 12:9](#)),
3. and even an angel of light ([2 Cor. 11:13-15](#)),
4. as well as " the god of this world" ([2 Cor. 4:4](#)).
5. Where did he come from, this spirit-creature that seeks to oppose God and defeat His work?
6. God created him when He created "heavens" he was "Lucifer, son of the morning" ([Isa. 14:12-15](#))
7. He was cast out of heaven because of his pride and his desire to occupy God's throne.
8. God's way of helping us battle the chief spiritual enemy is seen in the word of God and there **what he is doing and where he is going** are revealed.
9. Since he is a created being, and not eternal (as God is), he is limited in his knowledge and activity.
10. Unlike God, Satan is not all-knowing, all-powerful, or everywhere-present raising the question How does he accomplish so

much in so many different parts of the world?"

11. **He is a master of observation!** He see what we do, he hears what we say, he takes note on how we approach life!

- f. He has an army of spiritual *helpers*. Paul called them "principalities... powers... rulers... spiritual wickedness in high places" ([Eph. 6:12](#)).
 - i. There is a definite army of demonic creatures that assist Satan in his attacks against believers.
 - ii. The Apostle John hinted that one third of the angels fell with Satan when he rebelled against God ([Rev. 12:4](#)), and Daniel wrote that Satan's angels struggle against God's angels for control of the affairs of nations ([Dan. 10:13-20](#)).
 - iii. A spiritual battle is going on in this world, and in the sphere of "the heavnlies," and you and I are a part of this battle.
 - iv. Knowing this makes "walking in victory" a vitally important thing to us—and to God.
- g. The important point is that our battle is not against human beings. It is against spiritual powers. **But these powers work through people they observe in and around the work of God.**
 - i. **People who unwittingly hinder the work of the Church!**

- ii. We are wasting our time fighting **people** when we ought to be fighting the **devil who seeks to control people and make them oppose the work of God.**
- iii. **During Paul's ministry in Ephesus, a riot took place that could have destroyed the church ([Acts 19:21-41](#)). It wasn't caused only by Demetrius and his associates, for behind them were Satan and his associates.**
- iv. Certainly Paul and the church prayed, and the opposition was silenced. The advice of the King of Syria to his soldiers can be applied to our spiritual battle: "Fight neither with small nor great, save only with the king" ([1 Kings 22:31](#)).