

THE GREAT BATTLE FOR SOULS

Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Timothy 4:1-8

INTRODUCITON

- A. A spiritual battle is raging today. Note our text.
 - 1. EP 6:10-13.
 - 2. EP 6:14-18.
- B. Old Soldiers Pass, Battle Continues.
 - 1. 2 TI 4:1-5.
 - 2. 2 TI 4:6-8.
- C. God verses Satan – Each soul a prize. CO 2:8.
- D. God’s people verses Satan’s people – No middle ground. MT 12:30.
- E. God calls us in EP 6:13-14.
 - 1. V. 14 – Take a stand.
 - 2. V. 13 – Stand in battle.
 - 3. V. 13 – Stand in victory.
- F. We must faithfully fight to receive eternal life.
- G. There is a great battle going on for YOUR (my) soul!

DISCUSSION

- I. I MUST OBEY THE GOSPEL OF THE CHRIST.
 - A. Leave Satan’s Army, Enroll in God’s Army.
 - 1. JN 3:16.
 - 2. JN 16:13.
 - B. God Calling Every Soul to Salvation.
 - 1. MK 16:15-16.
 - 2. Acts 2:38.
 - 3. Acts 22:16.
- II. I MUST RISE TO WALK THE NEW LIFE.
 - A. RO 6 – Rise to walk new life, as Christ rose from the dead.
 - 1. V. 3 - Baptism: Union with Christ, His Death.
 - 2. Vv. 4-6 “Baptism into death” = “our old man is crucified..., the body of sin...destroyed”.
 - 3. Vv. 21-23 “Free from sin,...servants to God”.
 - B. Denominational Baptism Not Biblical.
 - 1. “Buried with Him,” Not Sprinkle or Pour.
 - 2. If Saved Before Baptism, Bury a Live Man.
 - C. Obey from Heart, True Change of Life!
- III. I MUST DRAW CLOSE TO GOD EACH DAY.
 - A. Soul United with God or Satan.
 - 1. Listen to God or Satan.
 - 2. Pay Homage to God or Satan.
 - B. Two Different Directions.
 - 1. PS 1:1-2 Way of Ungodly VS. Delight in God.
 - 2. PS 55:10-11, 16-18 Wicked Plans VS. Righteous Prayers.
- IV. I MUST TAKE GOD’S WORD AS FINAL AUTHORITY.
 - A. GE 6:14-16, 22 God’s Word Final to Noah.
 - B. EX 25:8-9 God’s Word Final to Moses.
 - C. 2 KI 5:10-14 God’s Word Final to Naaman.
 - D. 2 TI 3:16-17; 1 PE 4:11; 2 PE 1:3 God’s Word Final Today.
 - 1. Speak Where Bible Speaks, Silent Where It Is.
 - 2. Positive, Divine Authority.

- 3. Bible Things, Bible Names, Bible Ways.
- E. Preacher, Family, Friend, Majority No Authority
- V. I MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST – THE LORD’S CHURCH.
 - A. Church of Christ in the Bible
 - 1. MT 16:18-19 Christ’s Promise: Church, Kingdom
 - 2. Acts 2:47; RO 16:16 Start in Jerusalem, Spread.
 - 3. EP 5:23 Christ Only Head & Savior
 - B. New Testament Church Not Denomination.
 - 1. Name, Doctrine, Practice Found in New Testament.
 - 2. Names, Doctrines, Practices of Denominations NOT Found in New Testament.
 - C. HE 10:23-25 Faithful, Active.
- VI. I MUST RESIST EVERY STEP OF APOSTASY.
 - A. Acts 20:29-31; 1 TI. 4:1 Many Warnings!
 - B. Many Small Steps in Ancient Apostasies.
 - 1. Win Many Small Battles, Win Great Victory.
 - 2. Result: Catholicism, Denominations.
 - C. Many Small Steps in Modern Apostasies.
 - 1. Missionary Society (1849), Instrumental Music (1851).
 - 2. Premillennialism (1915-40s).
 - 3. Solo, Choir, Drama, Instruments, Expand Lord’s Supper.
 - 4. Recent Trends: New Cycle of Apostasy.
- VII. I MUST KEEP MYSELF UNSPOTTED FROM THE WORLD.
 - A. JA 1:27; 4:4 Worldliness: Enemy of God & of God’s People.
 - B. Many Forms of Worldliness.
 - 1. Materialism.
 - 2. Lascivious, Revel, Sexual Immorality.
 - 3. Sins of the Tongue: Lie, Gossip, Curse.
 - 4. Gambling.
 - 5. Intoxication.
 - 6. Pride in Family, Talent, Education, Possessions.
- VIII. I MUST LOVE GOD AND MY FELLOWMAN.
 - A. MT 22:37-40 - Foundation of All God Teaches.
 - 1. Total Love for God, Obey Him at All Costs.
 - 2. True Love for Others Requires God’s Instruction.
 - 3. “All the Law & the Prophets” Essential.
 - B. RO 13:9-10 - Love Neighbor, Seek His Welfare.
 - 1. Do No Harm.
 - 2. MK 16:15-16 - Seek His Highest Welfare.
 - 3. 1 TI 4:16 – Save Self & Others

CONCLUSION

- A. On Whose Side: God or Satan?
 - 1. Take a Stand for Truth & Right:
Desert Satan’s Army, Enroll in God’s Army!
Christian in Sin: Repent, Confess, Pray.
 - 2. Sinner in World: Believe, Repent, Confess Christ, Be Baptized.
 - 3. Put on Whole Armor of God, Fight to the End, Receive Eternal Life!