

WEAPONS THE DEVIL IS USING
GETTING INDIGNANT ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON

INTRODUCTION

- A. EP 5:15-17.
- B. It comes as no surprise to hear that there are problems to be faced by the Christian. The challenge is to be accurately informed as to what the most significant problems are.
- C. In the preceding lessons we have tried to focus on some of these hindrances.
 - 1. Materialism.
 - 2. Our Fascination With Fun.
 - 3. Overcrowded Lifestyles.
 - 4. Crippled Families.
 - 5. Our Shortage of Personal Evangelism.
- D. We conclude these studies by asking what our attitude should be toward these critical matters. Are we to be:
 - 1. Discouraged?
 - 2. Fearful?
 - 3. Flippant?
- E. What outlook would God want us to have toward the challenges that confront us as His people?

DISCUSSION**I. THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE THREAT POSED BY SATAN**

- A. The attitude we need to have is, first of all, one that takes seriously what we are up against.
 - 1. We are involved in nothing less than a war — one of truly cosmic proportions. EP 6:12. God's enemy is our enemy — and he is intent on our destruction.
 - 2. 1 PE 5:8.
- B. Satan is not without intelligence and shrewdness in pursuing his malignant intent against us. GE 3:1; LK 4:13; 2 CO 2:11; 11:3.
- C. In the warfare between good and evil, we will be casualties if we are preoccupied with problems other than the ones where the devil is hitting us hardest. We must discipline ourselves to fight hardest at those points where we are sustaining the greatest damage.
- D. We need to be wide-awake, alert, and careful about the business at hand.
 - 1. It is necessary that we govern our minds and take a serious approach to life's challenges. 1 PE 1:13; EP 5:15-16; 1 TI 4:16.
 - 2. While being harmless as doves, we also need to be wise as serpents. MT 10:16.

II. GOD AS THE SOVEREIGN RULER OF HIS CREATION

- A. We do need to recognize the extent of the damage Satan has done to our world.
 - 1. We live "in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation" - PH 2:15.
 - 2. Satan has wreaked so much havoc in this world — so much of it is under his sway and it is so much his present dominion — that he is described as "the ruler of this world" – JN 14:30. JN 16:11; 2 CO 4:4.
- B. But Satan's dominion is a usurped dominion.
 - 1. It is as if our world is presently "enemy-occupied territory," held under the influence of an occupying army that has no right to the realm.
 - 2. The devil's encroachment will not last indefinitely. MT 25:41; JN 12:31; 2 PE 2:4.
 - 3. When the devil gives us grief about our past, we would do well to remind him of his future!
- C. God has overcome Satan, He is on His throne, and this world has never been anything but His. Song: This Is My Father's World: O let me ne'er forget that, though the wrong

seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet. — Maltbie D. Babcock

1. The outcome of the struggle between good and evil does not depend on the faithfulness of any single Christian or congregation.
 2. If we fail to fight valiantly, we ourselves will be lost — but the Lord will win His victories without us. The Lord will accomplish His purposes. ES 4:13-14.
 3. There can be no doubt about the survival of God's kingdom. DA 2:44.
- D. God has granted His Son all authority. MT 28:18.
- E. Jesus Christ is the "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (RE 19:16), the absolute Sovereign over all creation.
1. Our Savior has victoriously triumphed over evil; the courage we can have is grounded in His having overcome our enemy. HE 2:14-15. "
 2. The deciding battle has already been fought; the outcome of the struggle has been decided. For us, the only thing yet in doubt is which side we will have placed ourselves on when the final end comes.
- F. God is fully able to deliver us from the evil one. MT 6:13. Acts 26:18; RO 16:20.
- G. We cannot take the claims of Christ seriously without being endowed with confidence in His power. JN 14:27; JN 16:33; 1 JN 4:4; 5:4; EP 3:20
- H. Whatever our difficulties may be, God is: EP 3:20. PH 4:13.
- I. Our God is indeed a "mighty fortress." We may rest our complete confidence in Him with no fear whatever that He will let us down.
- J. Paul could say, 2 TI 1:12.

III. OUR NEED FOR RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION

- A. In light of these things that we know about God, what really should be our attitude toward the problems with which Satan tries to hinder us in the Lord's work?
- B. I believe it is of utmost importance that we begin to develop the mentality of triumphant overcomers through Christ.
1. We need to quit thinking of ourselves as "just getting by." In Christ we are overwhelming conquerors. Cf. RO 8:35-39; RE 21:1-7.
 2. Our weaknesses are no obstacle to what God can do through us. God's strength is made perfect in weakness. 2 CO 12:9-10. We need to be empowered with the confidence that through the Lord we can make a difference for good in our families, congregations, and communities.
 3. When we abound in the Lord's work our effort is not in vain. 1 CO 15:58.
- C. We need to adopt the viewpoint of the warrior, the soldier. True militancy is needed in our struggle.
1. Our duty and privilege is to "endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" - 2 TI 2:3.
 2. Our summons is to "wage the good warfare" (1 Tim. 1:18), to fight "the good fight"- 2 TI 4:7.
 3. We are commanded to put on "the whole armor of God" – EP 6:10-20. It is time to answer the Lord's call to arms.
- D. In waging the good warfare, of course, it is important to keep clear who the enemy is.
1. Often we treat those in sin as if they were our enemies.
 2. Sometimes we even focus our indignation, anger, and militancy against one another in the Lord's body. GA 5:15.
 3. We need to learn to distinguish the enemy from victims of the enemy. 2 TI 2:14-26. LK 13:16. Acts 10:38.

4. Victims of the enemy need to be rescued not despised. JA 5:19-20; Jude 22, 23.
- E. As the “soldiers of Christ,” there is nothing we need any more than courage. It is important for us to “watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong” - 1 CO 16:13. God told Joshua – 1:9 (cf. vv. 1-9). Fighting for God, we need to have the same attitude that the Philistines tried to have fighting against God: 1 SA 4:9.
- F. The courage that we can have is based on what the Lord has done and will do for us: we are not merely to be strong, but to “be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might” – EP 6:10. 2 TI 1:7. RO 8:31. Cowardice in the spiritual realm is more than a slightly bad habit — it will damn our souls. MK 8:38. RE 21:8. If we will remain faithful, the Lord will overcome whatever threatens us: RE 2:10.
- G. We are not merely helpless victims who must submit to the devil’s tactics. We can go on the offensive and defeat our enemy. Satan cannot separate us from God against our will. Jesus said of His disciples, JN 10:29. 1 CO 10:13. 1 JN 5:18-21. We must determine not to “give place to the devil” – EP 4:27. 1 TI 3:6-7. 5:14. 3. The devil can successfully be resisted. JA 4:7. 1 PE 5:8-9. GE 4:7. We can, in the name of God, order Satan out of our way. Jesus did not take a passive stance with the devil: MT 16:23. LK 4:8.
- H. We need to be consumed with righteous indignation against the devil for what he has done.
1. If we have any sense of zeal for the Lord’s honor, how can we simply stand by and let the devil work his mischief? Cf. NU 25:7-11.
 2. Should we not take what the devil is doing as a personal insult?
 3. In most places the devil has had it all his way for way too long.
 4. We can resolve that his work will not go unopposed where we live one day longer.
 5. Having determined that we are simply not going to take it anymore, God will help us. We can put the devil on notice to keep his filthy fingers off of those we know and love. We can let him know that he will not take a single soul within our reach without a fight from us.

IV. THREE REQUIREMENTS FOR SURVIVING WHAT SATAN IS DOING

- A. We must care deeply about what is going on. We cannot afford to be complacent. It would be dangerous merely to assume that everything is going well in our own congregation. 1 CO 10:12. We cannot afford to be apathetic or indifferent about what is happening. We are being hurt spiritually in ways that seem to escape our notice. It is time to wake up and repent of our unconcern.
- B. We must make up our minds whose side we are on. The Lord will not fight our battles if we compromise our convictions and accommodate ourselves to the enemy. Cf. JO 23:4-13. We cannot defeat sin while dabbling with it; we cannot conquer evil while compromising with it. The Lord’s help is available only to those who are wholeheartedly on His side, those who have truly consecrated themselves to Him. JN 17:14-17. 1 PE 1:3-5. There is a clear-cut choice that must be made about where our loyalties are going to be. JA 4:4. If we expect to overcome our spiritual difficulties, we must genuinely sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts. 1 PE 3:15.
- C. We must be steadfast — we must simply refuse to give up. In the end, it will not be enough to have had the right attitude for awhile and then quit. Christ is – HE 3:6. We must keep on keeping on. GA 6:9; 2 CO 4:16-18. HE 12:1-2.

CONCLUSION

- A. At the end of these studies, perhaps this quotation is appropriate: “I fully realize that I have not succeeded in solving all of the issues. Indeed, I know I have not solved any of them completely.

And the solutions I have suggested only lead to more problems (some of which we weren't aware were even issues when we began). To sum it all up, in some ways I know we are as confused as ever, but I believe that we are confused on a much higher level and about far more important things!" Sandra D. Wilson, *Hurt People Hurt People* (Nashville: Nelson, 1993), p. 221.

- B. Our intent has been for these studies to be sobering. RO 13:11-12.
 - 1. Jesus did not pray that His disciples be taken out of the world, but that they be protected from the work of Satan in the world. JN 17:15.
 - 2. Great adversity is often attended by great opportunity. Cf. 1 CO 16:9.
- C. There is hope — but only in the Lord and only for those whose eyes are open wide enough to what is happening to arm themselves with the Lord's might. Sin's disasters can be avoided only by those who are willing to be warned.
- D. If we will radically and unreservedly place ourselves on His side, our God will bless us with every strength and sustenance we need to overcome in His name.
- E. We need to conduct ourselves like children of the King. Cf. RE 19:11-16.
- F. God is waiting to do His work through us. Cf. 2 CO 9:6-11.
- G. Song: Soldiers of Christ, arise!