

Light Brings Salt

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Iron Range Bible Church

Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God



Provision for our Warfare!

Pastor John Griffith

We live in the midst of a spiritual conflict, an angelic conflict, and Paul gives us a glimpse of this fight that is raging night and day with Satan and the forces at his disposal in Eph 6:10-18.

However, when we read the book of Acts or the context of 1 Thessalonians 2, we find that it was men who had driven Paul and his partners in ministry out of the cities and were keeping them from returning, yet the Apostle attributes all of this not simply to men, but to Satan. [men - secondary causes, not primary]

This is the subtlety and deceptiveness of what is going on all around us every day. But we do not see Satan or demons in person. Normally what we see are human beings and strategies and values that oppose the plan of God. We do not see a literal Satan in person or his demonic forces because they are spirit beings. Doesn't mean that they are not there or not real. Don't expect to find Satan as obvious as a serpent on the sidewalk.

Occasionally, we may see or hear of demonic apparitions, and demonic voices coming out of demon possessed people who are also able to perform supernatural acts, but that's about the extent of it. So what happens? We tend to ignore the reality of who we are really dealing with.

We talk about this warfare. We believe it intellectually, but we often tend to ignore the reality of Satan and his demonic hosts by our failure to draw close to the Lord, by our failure to put on and use our armor, compounded by our neglect of prayer.

But Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:12 that *"our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.."*

Is he saying that we have no struggle with rebellious men and sinful people? No! He is saying that behind the scenes and working through people and the world system are powerful demonic forces. [Primary causes]

Consequently, the Apostle challenges us in a general way in Ephesians 6:10-11, and then in verses 13-18 we are specifically exhorted to "put on" the spiritual armor of God that is provided for our defense. Satan will do everything he can to hinder us, to neutralize us, or destroy us spiritually.

Need to keep in mind:

He will attempt to work from within the body (the church) to stir up trouble.

He will work through religious people as the Jews of Paul's day or the cults of our day.

He will work through the general philosophies, ideologies, and myths of the world.

He will work through politics, or economics, or government, or the work place.

But there is a wonderful and comforting truth in Scripture. Even though Paul was hindered by Satan as noted in 1 Thes. 2:18 or chained to a praetorian guard as we find him at the

time of writing Ephesians. Even though Paul was hindered from ministering freely, he continued to have a very fruitful ministry and to teach the Word. He remained useful and productive for God.

He was not defeated because he knew the Lord was in control and that though he may be bound and hindered, the Word was not bound (Phil 1:12f; 2 Thes. 3:1; 2 Tim. 2:9-10).

What about us today?

Some Observation on Satan and the Believer

Question we need to answer? Are we really just putty in Satan's hands??

Is it not interesting that the Epistle in which we have the most information on the provision we have in the warfare with Satan, with the unseen forces which he commands is the same Epistle in which we have the most emphasis on our position in Christ - Ephesians.

Satan and his demons are clearly at work in the world! But we as believers have a position in Christ. We have more than adequate spiritual resources available to us.

Therefore even though the enemy, Satan and his operatives, Demons, are very real, and they have many strategies to attack the believer, we are able to have victory every single time; because we are in Christ and because of the provisions available to us!

He had victory over Satan and his operatives at the Cross; (Col. 2:15).

As believers we are no longer in the domain of darkness ruled by Satan but in the kingdom of Jesus Christ; (Col. 1:13). We are transferred from darkness into the kingdom of His beloved Son.

If we fall prey to Satan's wiles, his strategies and his false teachers, its not because we have to! This is important for us to understand today because of the extent of the teaching out there that says basically that the believer can be so oppressed by demons that he is nothing but a poor helpless soul!! Its pure heresy!! Part of the "excuse"

theology. Some have carried this to the extent that they have a demon for every possible sin or problem that they might encounter in life. This is a blatant attempt to absolve the individual of any personal responsibility. There is no way that you can come to those views from Scripture!

Some are even teaching that Satan through some of his demons have power over a whole city and that one of the believer's purposes is to break that power! Totally false!!

As a believer who is in Christ, we do not need to be depressed or oppressed by any of Satan's demons. If we allow ourselves to think that way, we have fallen for some of his false teaching and will become neutralized, impotent in the angelic conflict that is in our daily life.

Where is your strength?? In Christ or under a demon! Is any demon or Satan himself able to overcome your position in Christ? No!

I don't mean to belittle their power or effectiveness for it is very real, and its powerful but it does not in any way compare to the power and resources that are yours in Christ! Satan's power is not as great as the power you have available to you! (1John 4:4)

Therefore, we should rejoice in the fact that when Christ died on the cross not only did He provide what is necessary for our salvation, but he also gained victory over Satan and his demon operatives, and when you believed in Jesus Christ, you were entered into union with Him in heavenly places and His destiny is now yours.

Quotable

A major national poll...by one of America's leading researchers...commissioned by AiG [Answers in Genesis]...as a follow-up to the results of an alarming Barna Research poll of 2002 and a Southern Baptist poll...clearly shows that...many have left the church because they no longer believe the Bible is the absolute Word of God....