

Sunday, May 12, 2013—The Battlefield of the Mind: The Weapons of our Warfare

Review/Introduction

- Last week we began a new series of study on the topic of the battlefield of the mind. To get started we discussed the difference between walking according to the flesh (II Cor. 10:2) and walking in the flesh (II Cor. 10:3). The unsaved live both *in the flesh* and *according to the flesh*. In contrast believers who have trusted in the finished work of Christ live *only in the flesh*, but *not according to the flesh*.
- We further saw in II Corinthians 10:3 that even though as believers we inhabit and walk in the flesh we do not war after the flesh. The nature of our warfare is spiritual. Therefore it is not with flesh and blood but with principalities and powers in high places. It is crucial in any military situation to know who your enemy is as well as the nature of the battle.
 - Ephesians 6:11-16—wiles of the devil, fiery darts of the wicked
 - II Corinthians 2:11—Satan is seeking to gain an advantage over us through his devices
- Lastly, we saw our warfare with principalities and powers in high places steams from the revelation of the mystery.
 - I Corinthians 2:7-8—had Satan and his minions knew about the revelation of the mystery they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
 - Colossians 2:15—the best laid plans of Satan and his cohorts were shattered at the cross.
 - Ephesians 3:9-10—as we endeavor to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery we teach the principalities and powers in heavenly places about the manifold wisdom of God.
- This morning we want to begin study about the nature of the weapons that are to be deployed in this battle.

II Corinthians 10:4

- The Greek word translated weapons appears 6 times in 5 verses in the King James Bible.
 - John 18:3—physical weapons
 - Romans 13:12—armour of light
 - II Corinthians 6:7—armour of righteousness
- Notice that we need weapons because we are engaged in warfare. Prior to going into battle soldiers are extensively trained in how care for and utilize their weapons. The reason we need weapons is because we are engaged in warfare.

- I Timothy 1:18—*Webster's 1828 Dictionary* offers two definitions for the English word warfare: 1) Military service; military life; war. The Philistines gathered their armies for warfare. 1 Samuel 28. 2) Contest; struggle with spiritual enemies. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal. 2 Corinthians 10. As a verb it means “to lead a military life; to carry on continual wars.”
- II Corinthians 10:4—the weapons that comprise our warfare are not carnal or fleshly.
 - Romans 7:14
 - Romans 15:27
 - I Corinthians 3:1-4
 - II Corinthians 1:12
 - I Peter 2:11
- The weapons of our warfare are not carnal because “we do not war after the flesh” (II Cor. 10:3) and because “we wrestle with flesh and blood” (Eph. 6:12). You cannot fight a spiritual enemy with a fleshly weapon.
- If we are going to fight the good fight of faith we need to understand the nature of our weaponry and how it is designed to function in our lives as believers.
- Ephesians 6:11—we need to put on the whole armor of God so that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. A wile is a cleverly designed trick or device by which someone deceives another. It is cunningly produced with the goal of fooling someone in accepting something as true, when in reality it is false. It is important to understand that the nature of Satan’s warfare against us is designed to deceive, beguile, trick, or fool us into accepting for the truth something that is false.
 - Galatians 3:1—bewitched
 - Colossians 2:4—beguile you with enticing words
 - Colossians 2:8—spoil you
- II Corinthians 11:13-15—Satan’s devices and tactics are not going to give the impression that they came from him. No Christian would be fooled if they did. Therefore, with respect to Satan’s “wiles,” it ought to be expected that they will present themselves in a cloak of Christianity. They will bear all the appearance of God’s own involvement and hence of the truth. However, this will be a smokescreen designed to mask and provide cover as false information and erroneous doctrine is disseminated.
- Ephesians 6:11—it is important to notice that the whole armor of God is what allows us to stand against the wiles of the devil. According to *Strong's Concordance* there are multiple meanings of the Greek word translated “stand” in this passage. One of them means to make firm to fix or establish. Therefore, the wiles of the devil are designed to dislodge us, knock us off our fixed position, and cause us to not hold the line.

- Ephesians 6:13—because we are in a spiritual struggle in verse 12 the only way we can withstand is to take up and put on the whole armor of God.
- Strategically, Satan’s battleplan calls for three major lines of attack designed to dislodge the believer from his/her fixed position and cause them not to withstand and hold the line.
 - Phase One (first line of attack): Attack the Message.
 - Phase Two (second line of attack): Attack the Messenger.
 - Phase Three (third line of attack): Discredit or Discourage the Messenger.
- Success in any of these three phases given Satan the opportunity to carry out the slander and reproach in heavenly places that he longs to produce. All of Satan’s wiles are designed by him to be effective in one of these three phases. If phase one doesn’t work he moves on to phase two and so on.
- Over the next couple weeks we will study Satan’s three part strategy so that we can then understand how the armor of God enables us to withstand it.