

**"The Practice of the Believer"**

**Ephesians 4-6**

**Part 27**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Ephesians we started into the final section of the letter. This section deals with the spiritual warfare of the believer. We looked at two points last week.

**I. "Preparations for Battle"**

**Notice Ephesians 6:10**

Last week we looked at why this verse is so very important. Many that come to this section skip over this verse and go directly to the armour of God. But when this happens, they miss valuable information in the preparation for the battle. The armour does no good if the soldier is weak. The soldier must be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might if he or she are going to stand against the enemy. This strength only comes from time with the Lord.

Someone reminded me last week that David is a wonderful picture of being strong in the Lord. He had spent years alone with God and when he faced Goliath, he was not afraid, and he had great faith in his God.

**1 Samuel 17:26-29**

*<sup>26</sup> And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?*

*<sup>27</sup> And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.*

*<sup>28</sup> And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.*

*<sup>29</sup> And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?*

Let us remember what happened to the church at Ephesus.

**Revelation 2:1-5**

*Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks:*

<sup>2</sup> *I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:*

<sup>3</sup> *And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.*

<sup>4</sup> *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*

<sup>5</sup> *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

This church eventually had their candlestick removed because they had fallen out of love with the Lord.

## II. "Understand our Enemy"

### Part 2

#### Notice Ephesians 6:11

We will get to the armour next week but today we are going to consider our enemy again. Last week we considered some of his ways which do not change. Today we are going to go a little deeper in considering how he works.

I must say that what we are going to look at today is very timely.

#### Notice Ephesians 6:12

Here we see that our battle is not with flesh and blood/people. Our battle is against the demonic world that is led by Satan. Let us remember that when Satan fell, he took with him one third of the angels.

#### Revelation 12:4

<sup>4</sup> *And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.*

The angels are innumerable and one third is still innumerable. Therefore Satan has a massive army of fallen angels that he commands.

**Notice Ephesians 6:12 again.**

Our battle is with Principalities [angels and demons], powers [powerful beings], rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places [the spirit world]. Our enemy is unseen. But our enemy is extremely powerful.

I want to take some time and explain how our enemy works. Satan and his demonic followers often work through people and programs. We need to see how this works.

**Romans 1:18-23, 28-32**

*<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

*<sup>19</sup> Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.*

*<sup>20</sup> For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

*<sup>21</sup> Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

*<sup>22</sup> Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

*<sup>23</sup> And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

*<sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

*<sup>29</sup> Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,*

*<sup>30</sup> Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,*

*<sup>31</sup> Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:*

*<sup>32</sup> Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

When these people suppress the Truth of God they turn to idolatry. This then opens them up to demonic influence.

**1 Corinthians 10:19-21**

*<sup>19</sup> What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?*

*<sup>20</sup> But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.*

*<sup>21</sup> Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.*

Demons attach themselves to idols and when people get into idolatry, they put themselves in a situation where they are heavily influenced by the demons. This is what we are seeing in our world today. We are under a government that has basically rejected the moral Authority of the Word of God and I can assure you that today the demons are working through many of the elected officials in our country and in our nation.

Listen to this article from the Epoch Times written by an unsaved individual who sees what is happening today in our world.

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This system that Satan and his demons are behind is referred to in the Bible as the world.

**1 John 2:14-16**

*<sup>14</sup> I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*

*<sup>15</sup> Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

*<sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

When the Bible refers to "THE WORLD" as in this text, it is not referring to creation. It is referring to the world's system and its philosophies. Now this WORLD SYSTEM can be divided into two parts. In the book of Revelation this SYSTEM is referred to as BABYLON.

**1. Religious Babylon**

**Notice Revelation 17**

**2. Commercial Babylon**

**Notice Revelation 18**

These are the systems which Satan and his demonic forces work through. Through false religions and false teachers and through the commercial system of the world. We are faced with all of this each and every day of our lives. This is exactly why we must be **STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT.**

**Conclusion:**

Next week we will start to look at the Armour of God and how it protects us against the enemy and his demonic forces.