

INTRODUCTION

- * In our study of Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians, we have been studying Paul's transition into a consideration of spiritual afflictions.
- * Paul is reminding the believers of Corinth that the ultimate war that we are in is a spiritual war. Hence, we do not war according to the flesh. Prior to our week of Prayer and Fasting, we considered the spiritual discipline of fasting and the spiritual power that is derived from "true fasting." We then considered the "Armor of God" that Paul describes in Ephesians 6.
- * Two weeks ago, we began examining the utilization of these spiritual weapons of warfare by considering the first, of four items, against which we battle: Strongholds. We are told that these spiritual weapons are to be used for the Pulling Down of Strongholds. During that message, we considered four strongholds that we fight against: Ignorance, Idolatry, Iniquity, and Intimidation.
- * Today, we want to consider the other three items against which Paul states we battle.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE IDENTIFICATION OF OUR WEAPONS (cf. Ephesians 6:10-19)**

- A. **The Belt of Truth** (cf. 1 Timothy 2:3-4; John 17:16-19; 1 Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 4:11-16, 25)
- B. **The Breastplate of Righteousness** (cf. Philippians 3:7-9; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:19; Isaiah 53:11) ... *The Righteousness of Christ!*
- C. **The Footwear of the Gospel** (cf. Romans 1:16; 10:13-15; Isaiah 40:9; 52:7; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Matthew 28:19-20)
- D. **The Shield of Faith** (cf. Psalm 5:12; 18:2,30; 28:7; 91:4; 115:9-11; Hebrews 11:6) ... *To quench the fiery darts of the wicked one!*
- E. **The Helmet of Salvation** (cf. Titus 2:11; Acts 4:12; Rom 10:8-10; 2 Thess 2:13-14; Eph 1:13-14; 1 Thess 5:8-10; 1 Peter 1:3-5)
- F. **The Sword of the Spirit** (cf. Heb 4:12; Rev 1:16; 2:16; 19:15; Matt 4:4,7,10-11; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Thess 2:13) ... the Word of God!
- G. **The Power of Prayer** (cf. Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 2 Timothy 1:3; Matthew 26:41; 1 Peter 4:7; Acts 12:5)

II. THE UTILIZATION OF OUR WEAPONS

- A. For Pulling Down Strongholds ... 1. IGNORANCE 2. IDOLATRY 3. INIQUITY 4. INTIMIDATION

B. For Casting Down Arguments ... even every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God

1. D _____ THE ARGUMENTS

- a. They Are Based Upon The L _____ of M _____ (cf. Romans 2:15)
 - * λογισμος (logismos) – Logic; Reason; "Intentional, calculated thinking"
 - * λογιζομαι (logizomai) – Logistics; to take an inventory, to think through

- b. They Are Inflated (επαρουντες) Against The K _____ of G _____

- * γνωσις (gnosis) – intimate; experiential knowledge; 16 of 29 in Paul's letters to the Corinthians; cf. 1 Cor 8:1-11; 2 Cor 2:14; 4:6
- * cf. Philippians 3:8-10; 2 Peter 1:5-6; 3:18; 1 Timothy 6:20-21

2. D _____ (καθαιρουντες) THE ARGUMENTS (cf. Acts 17:22-34; 1 Pet 3:15; 2 Tim 2:15; Col 4:6; Psalm 119:97-100)

C. For Bringing Every Thought into Captivity ... to the obedience (ὑπακοη – under the hearing) of Christ

1. THE O _____ OF CAPTIVITY (cf. 2 Cor 2:11; 3:14; 4:3-4; 11:3)

2. THE P _____ OF CAPTIVITY (cf. John 10:27; Hebrews 4:12; Colossians 3:1-3)

D. For Preparing Justice (cf. Romans 12:19; Isaiah 59:14-18; Daniel 9:24; John 16:8-11; Rev 6:9-11; 19:1-2, 11-21; 20:11-15; 1 Cor 6:1-11)**INTROSPECTION**

- * So how would you rate your "obedience of Christ"? Are you living "under His hearing"?
- * Are you seeking to prepare yourself as a soldier of Christ, in order to be READY to give a defense to everyone who asks you?
- * What "thoughts" are you giving priority in your mind? Are you listening more to the world, or to Christ?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think ... and therefore act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * How can we, as an assembly, help each other and those around us begin to think with a biblical mindset?
- * How can we as an assembly seek to edify the body of Christ to be better equipped to stand against the wiles of the devil?

Romans 2:14-15 ¹⁴ for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:8-10 ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

2 Peter 1:5-6 ⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

2 Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

1 Timothy 6:20-21 ²⁰ O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge-- ²¹ by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.

Acts 17:22-34 ... Paul at Areopagus ... turn to it.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

Psalms 119:97-100 ⁹⁷ Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. ⁹⁸ You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. ⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. ¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 ¹⁰ Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:14 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 ³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Colossians 3:1-3 ¹ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Romans 12:19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

Isaiah 59:14-18 ¹⁴ Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. ¹⁵ So truth fails, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice. ¹⁶ He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor; therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; and His own righteousness, it sustained Him. ¹⁷ For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak. ¹⁸ According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, fury to His adversaries, recompense to His enemies; the coastlands He will fully repay.

Daniel 9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

John 16:8-11 ⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Revelation 6:9-11 ⁹ When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" ¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

Revelation 19:1-2 ¹ After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!" ² For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her."

1 Corinthians 6:1-11 ¹ Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? ² Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? ³ Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? ⁴ If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge? ⁵ I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren? ⁶ But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers! ⁷ Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated? ⁸ No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren? ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.