

The Bride's Battle – Ephesians 6:10-20

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Have you ever heard of the already/not yet? Does it help make sense of your experience as a new creation in Christ? Why or why not?

Read the account of how Jesus was tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11 and read verse 17). Compare it with the way Satan tempted Adam and Eve in the garden. Do you see any similarities? Do you see any differences? In light of the war for the kingdom and the battle during the already/not yet, why would it be significant that Jesus' first words after defeating Satan were "repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Was the World War II illustration helpful in talking about the epic War versus the bride's battle? Why or why not? Knowing the war has been won by our victorious King (Eph. 1:19-21 & Colossians 2:15), how do we fight in the already/not yet? Should we be confident? Should we be scared of Satan? Are we capable of winning the battle against Satan? Why or why not? What would we need in order to win?

Compare Eph. 1:19-21 and Eph. 6:10. The phrase "by his great might" is actually the exact same phrase used in the Greek in both verses. What is Paul specifically speaking of here when he refers to the great might of Christ?

The armor of God is as follows: the belt of Truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes (boots) as the readiness of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit. We did not have time in the sermon to cover all the armor of God in detail, but knowing what you know about the way Satan tempts, why do you think Paul chose these particular pieces of armor. Not the physical pieces per se, rather truth, righteousness, salvation, etc.

What kinds of occasions (weaknesses, strengths, perhaps even pleasures that are not inherently evil) does Satan use to tempt you? Do you have any victories that you could share? What does it look like to take up the full armor of God? Do you have a sense of urgency when it comes to prayer and spiritual warfare? Has prayer helped you in times of temptation? Why or why not?

OUTLINE:

Why does my life not look like Paul's description in Ephesians 4-5? Because we are in a battle. In the midst of the battle, because of his great might, we must stand strong in Christ. How do we stand strong?

- I) We know our Enemy
- II) We know the plan of our enemy
- III) We Put On God's Armor
- IV) We Take Up God's Armor
- V) We Pray In The Spirit