

WHO IS YOUR REAL ENEMY? Dr. David R. Landis 6/17/18-028

Text: Ephesians 6:10 “*be strong in the Lord...*”

- Review:
1. “***Against***” means a forward, face to face like David/Goliath.
 2. “***Wiles***” means a road to our minds.
 3. “***devices***” means mind games
 4. II Corinthians 10:4,5 We must replace thoughts with the Word of God
 5. “***devil***” means penetration, to throw something continuously to eventually break or wear through.

- I. Our battles are not against flesh and blood.
 - A. We wrestle or struggle like wrestling, hand to hand fighting. Wrestling is a very tiring sport.
 1. Palastria was a building in Greek times where combat sports took place. It looked like a palace. Boxing, wrestling and pankratists took place.
 2. No protective gear was worn and most died in the ring.
 - a. They wore gloves with glass, steel and spikes wrapped into the leather. Many deformed faces were the results of these fights.
 3. Wrestling consisted of breaking backs and choking one into submission. It was brutal as well as bloody.
 4. Pankratists meant more powerful than others and was extremely violent. Anything would go and no rules. Fight to the end.
 - B. Paul used this word to describe our battles which can be intense conflict at times.
 1. Satan knows no rules and anything goes. He is not a fair fighter. Hits you when you are down.
 2. Whoever fights the hardest and whoever outlasts the longest becomes the winner. Patience has its perfect work.
 - C. Satan is limited by God according to I Corinthians 10:13.
 1. He is limited by our flesh being dead and our minds renewed.
 2. Romans 6:6,7 We are dead men walking.
- II. Who are these forces of evil? Principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places.
 - A. “***Against***” is mentioned 4 times in Ephesians 6.
 1. John 1:1 Jesus was *with* or had a face to face relationship.
 2. At some point in your life, you will have an encounter.

- B. Ranks: **principalities** or the highest positions of rank/authority (ancient times) Probably referring to the angels that fell with Satan.
1. **powers** = second in command. Delegated authority of evil wickedness
 2. **rulers of the darkness of this world** = kosmos or order or arrangement with raw power through discipline/rank/ file.
 3. **spiritual wickedness in high places** = dealing with positions of power in the world like through men like Hitler etc. Means bad, vile, vicious, impious, malignant ways.
 4. The question is why is the church so defeated if we are more than conquerors, and greater one living in us? What does Satan's kingdom have that the church doesn't have?
Discipline, organization, and commitment.
 - b. Average church member doesn't stay in a church for a year.
- C. Satan's access is mostly because of our negligence, un-committalment, and unrenewed minds.
- D. 17 names for Satan and 4 categories he is known for: his **destructive ways**, perverted nature, desire to control, and his mind manipulation.
1. **destroyer** = Abandon (Revelation 9:11) called a king over them
 2. **perverted nature** = Beelzebub or lord of the flies or dunghill.
 3. **Belial** = worthless, filthiness, wickedness
 4. **dragon** = perverted nature as a serpent which strikes and poisons with a deadly attack
 5. **evil one** = Lord's prayer, "*deliver us from evil or evil one*"
 6. **murderer** = John 8:64 he inspired Cain to kill Abel, Herod to kill babies, kill Christians, Jews
 7. **prince of this world** = he offered Jesus these kingdoms
 8. **prince of demons** = the highest seat of power
 9. **prince of the power of the air** = space around us. "**neither**"
 - a. Keep him out of your space. You family, finances, health etc.
- E. **Satan the mind manipulator** = called the adversary, roaring lion, angel of light, devil, Satan
1. **adversary** = opponent in a lawsuit, used to denote a person who was on the edge of insanity
 - a. Against or opposes righteousness. Hostile towards the righteous and tempts us to sin so as to become in a state of unrighteousness.

2. **roaring lion** = I Peter 5:8 Jesus took the bite out of him (Colossians 2:15).
 - a. Sounds dreadful and is very persistent in wearing one out.
 - b. **“whom he may devour?”** Not everyone gives into it.
 - c. The weak in faith, ignorant of the Word, isolated ones, the immature are prey for him. *“to swallow up completely”*.
3. **angel of light** = II Corinthians 11:13-15 false teachers, apostles, Prophets
4. **the devil** = penetration or the act of repeatedly throwing a ball or a rock at something in order to break through something.
5. **Satan** = to hate and accuse It is used 50 times in the Bible. Slanderer and false accuser.

- III. This is why we are to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10).
- A. But before we put on the armor we must put off some things.
 1. v25 lying
 2. v26 speak the truth in love with our neighbor
 3. v26 be angry and sin not by not letting the sun go down on it
 4. v27 give no place to the devil
 5. v29 let no corrupt communication proceed from our mouths
 6. v30 grieve not the Holy Spirit
 7. v31 let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking and malice be put away from you
 - B. A consecrated life is required to fight the good fight of faith. Your faith works by love.
 1. Screaming, yelling, shouting, stomping, will not accomplish anything against resisting the devil.
 2. We must gird up the loins of our minds.
 3. We can be an awesome weapon in the hands of God in enforcing God’s will on this earth.

