

THE ARMOR OF GOD

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS WITH PASTOR JACK ABELEN

Knowing our Adversary and the Armor of God Week 1: Eph.6:10-13 - Knowing our Adversary (Part 1)

Introduction

- A. We need to understand our enemy and the warfare we face as we seek to walk with God each day.
- B. Paul had written to the Ephesians about their sitting position in Christ and their walking worthy of His calling. The end of his letter focused upon the spiritual warfare they would face and overcome daily, their standing.

Ephesians 6:10-13

- A. One work of the Holy Spirit in the world is to bring the good news of Jesus' deliverance for all men from the power of the devil (Jn.16:11).
 - 1. Paul spoke of it when he testified before King Agrippa recounting his own salvation (Acts 26:15-18).
- B. Satan will continue to battle against us and the work of God in our lives until the moment that Jesus calls us to glory.
 - 1. There is tremendous value for us to know our enemy well (2Co.2:11).
 - 2. Satan was created an angel and though he is fallen, he possesses qualities that are found in angels.
 - 3. Satan has other fallen angels at his disposal and even amongst the fallen angels, there are rankings (Col.1:16).
- C. Angels were created before man (Job 38:7) and those that remained faithful to God are seen throughout the Scriptures worshiping God and ministering to His saints (Heb.1:13-14). We can even entertain them unknowingly (Heb.13:2).
- D. We all have a guardian angel (Mt.18:10) assigned to us who has the full authority of heaven and has continual access to our Father on our behalf.
 - 1. Angels, as man, were created for eternity. The faithful angels are found around the throne of God, whereas Satan and his angels are destined for eternal suffering (Mt.25:41).

He Had a Great Fall

- A. Eze.28:12-19 is one passage of Scripture that describes the fall of Satan from grace and tells us of his glory and position before his demise and impending judgment.
- B. Isa.14:12-17 gives us further information about Satan's fall, including the motivation that drove his 5 "I will's."
 - 1. God speaks to Isaiah about the sure fall of the King of Babylon (Isa.14:1-11).
- C. Satan is cast out of heaven (Lk.10:17-20) and many angels joined him (Rev.12:7-9); perhaps as many as 1/3 of all created angels (Rev.12:4).
- D. Today there is still a kingdom of darkness that rules the world, blinds the hearts of men and seeks to resist the work of God in the lives of His people.

Jesus Came to Destroy Satan – 1 John 3:8-10

- A. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1Jn.3:8-10) and did so upon the cross once and for all (Col.2:14-15). We have victory over him in Christ (Rom.16:17-20).
- B. Yet there is a battle I must be cognizant of (Eph.6:10-13)(1Pe.5:8). I know where my hope is to lie – Jesus (Jam.4:7). Unbelievers by virtue of their sin are bound in this kingdom of darkness with Satan as their father (Jn.8:42-44). However we have been saved from a foe far superior to us but far inferior to our Lord (Eph.6:10).
- C. Satan’s activities reveal much about his character and will (Rev.12:10)(Zec.3:1-4).
- D. Satan is:
 - 1. NOT self-existing, but limited to God’s will and purposes (2Co.12:7).
 - 2. NOT sovereign (Job 1)(Lk.11:21-22).
 - 3. NOT omnipotent. Any power he has is given by God and is limited (1Jn.4:4; 5:4).
 - 4. NOT omniscient. He cannot know your thoughts but is an excellent student of human nature (1Pe.1:12).
 - 5. NOT omnipresent. Angels can only be in one place at one time (Dan.10:11-14).

What’s in a Name

- A. Names are used to communicate character and influence in the Scriptures.
 - 1. God’s revelation of Himself: Jehovah, El Elyon, etc.
 - 2. The names of Bible characters versus the way we often choose names today.
 - 3. The revelation of the ways and activities of the enemy as reflected in the names God gives to him.
- B. Satan: It means adversary, enemy, one in opposition and is used 35 times in the New Testament. We see Satan as just that (Isa.14)(Lk.4:5-8).
 - 1. We see him fighting the good angels (Dan.10) and thinking he can thwart God’s plan (1Pe.5:8). He is every man’s worst enemy (2Co.4:3-4).
- C. Devil: It means accuser, slanderer and is used 61 times in the New Testament to speak of his misrepresentations and false charges. He slanders God to Eve, Jesus to Judas (Lk.22:3-4), and inspires men to lie to God (Acts 5:3).
 - 1. He slanders the people of God (Rev.12)(Job 1-2), yet we have God’s Word to the contrary (Rom.8:32-39).
 - 2. He slanders the Word of God (1Ti.4:1), which is one of his favorite tools of warfare.
- D. Serpent: It speaks of his craftiness and deceit, his subtle ways of evil (2Co.1 1:3).
- E. Evil one: It speaks of evil embodied or personified (Jn.17:15).
- F. Abaddon/Apollyon: They both speak of him as the destroyer, his ultimate goal (Rev.9:11).
- G. Tempter: It speaks of his looking for weak spots to exploit (Job 1:7-8). The word consider speaks of that search for weakness (Mt.4:3).
- H. Murderer: You become like your god, either in love or hatred and murder (Jn.8:44)(1Jn.3:10-12) (Ps.115:8).
- I. Liar: This speaks of his method of operations and continual trait (Jn.8:44).
- J. Sinner: He is the source of sinful encouragement, appealing to your fallen nature, using whatever it takes (1Jn.3:8)(1Jn.2:16).

Concluding Thoughts

- A. Most of his activities fall under these nine names, and most fall under the first 3 as he opposes us with slander and deception to lead us astray (2Co.11:13-15).
- B. Next week we’ll look at his methods amongst the lost.