

SPIRITUAL WARFARE: Class #2

Bible verse of the Day: "For I know that my redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then without my flesh I shall see God." Job 19: 25-26

Last week, we began the INTRODUCTION to this course by considering some important questions and we briefly examined the OUTLINE we will be using in the many months ahead.

Before we begin continue, however, I want to revisit our SLIDE which showed WHO is fighting the Spiritual War.

A. Notice that point #2 indicates that the War is being fought between the Christian Church and the "world".¹

1. Jesus gave us a clear message about how SERIOUS this War is when he prayed his moving prayer for His Disciples and us at the Last Supper.

a. READ: John 17 and CIRCLE every time the word "world" is used:

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

⁶"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by^[c] that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Jesus Prays for All Believers

²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴ "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵ "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

QUESTIONS: Now, answer these questions about this reading:

- 1) What does v.14 say about the world and us?
- 2) What is Jesus asking His Father in verses 11 & 15?
- 3) In v. 21, what is the main point of Jesus' prayer for us? (
- 4) What do you think Jesus meant in at the end of v.12 when He said, "None has been lost except the one doomed..." and in v.20?
- 5) What is Jesus praying for in v.24?

B. So exactly how do we stay in the world without being part of it?

1. READ: 1John 2:15-17

a. How does the Apostle John tell us to separate ourselves from the world?

2. READ: Romans 12:2-2

a. How does the Apostle Paul tell us to stay apart from the world?

1. The STRATEGIC work of transforming ourselves through the renewing of our minds will be discussed in detail in future classes as part of this course.

C. Reading between the lines, in John17 it also makes it apparent that if we are IN THE WORLD, BUT NOT PART /OF THE WORLD, that there *will* be conflict!

1. Evil forces that control the world are fighting against God and against us.

D. Now that we have a firm grasp of what we this Spiritual War entails, it's a good idea to briefly revisit the OUTLINE for this course so you know exactly what our study will cover and how we will proceed in this course:

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE

I. KNOW THE ENEMY

- Determine that we *have* an enemy and how we know it.
- Determine what he wants.
- Identify the enemy, by name, and learn how he thinks and behaves.
- Identify the enemy's Allies.
- Identify the enemy's strengths and weaknesses?
- Identify the enemy's resources, including weapons. Are his resources limited?
- Analyze the enemy's strategies.

II. RECOGNIZE, IDENTIFY AND EVALUATE OUR OWN SITUATION

- Determine that we *have* Heavenly support and how we know it
- Identify how our Heavenly supporters think and behave.
- Identify our Allies?
- Identify our strengths and weaknesses when it comes to Spiritual Warfare? How can we maximize our strengths and minimize our weaknesses?
- What are our resources (including weapons)? Where do our resources come from? Are these resources limited? How can we get more?
- What is our Strategy for winning the battle(s) and the war?

III. WHAT IS AT STAKE IF I WIN THE WAR? WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I LOSE THE WAR? HOW CAN I KEEP FROM LOSING SIGHT OF WHAT'S AT STAKE

E. As you can see, we will proceed in the study of Spiritual Warfare in the most logical and organized manner possible.

1. This is a HUGE topic with many sub-topics that also need to be addressed. So, be prepared for a lengthy study as you know that I like to leave no stone unturned!

2. We will rely, as always, on the BEST SOURCE of information about spiritual things: The Holy Bible. And, we will rely on the BEST TEACHER to inspire our education on this subject: The Holy Spirit!

2. My research also included the use of a few good books and articles, which helped to identify BIBLICAL examples for this course, and they will be given credit whenever credit is due.

3. So, the outline for the course follows the logical response to the question we asked at the beginning of this class: "How do successful warriors prepare and win battles and wars?"

Next week, we will begin, in earnest, by starting with KNOW THE ENEMY...be prepared for an exciting, yet terrifying, examination of our mortal enemy, the De

¹ NOTE: parts of this class have been borrowed from the Bible study, "Spiritual Warfare: Understanding the Battle" by Tonilee Adamson and Bobby Brooks, of Daily Disciples, Inc.