



Reading Ephesians Together Pt 9: The Reality of Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6:10-12

After issuing various commands for the church based on the glorious Gospel of Christ, Paul commands the church to engage in the spiritual war.

I believe that there are two equally devastating mistakes that are made. First, to see a devil behind every tree and second, to ignore him altogether.

OUR TEXT:

Verse 10

- “Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.” If we are commanded to be strong, that means we can be!
- For many, sadly, spiritual warfare is framed in the context of the believer’s power.

Verse 11

- In this fight, the Christian must arm him/herself with holy armor!
- Given that we don’t fight the way the world does, the armor is given in spiritual terms.

Verse 12

- The image of two people “wrestling” is instructive.
- Consider the words that Paul uses:

Principalities – wicked spiritual beings high in rank.

Powers – These spirit beings, for the time being, have a real impact.

Rulers (of darkness) – A “world ruler” and another name for Satan.

Spiritual Wickedness – It means “depraved, full of malice and sinful plotting.

Friends, we know Christ has defeated demonic powers. They know it too. Be we, the LORD’s Church, have been called to take ground. Remember that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church!

PERSONAL DEVOTION/FAMILY WORSHIP QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

1. Is your family suitably aware of the reality of spiritual warfare? If not, will you consider helping them understand (as age appropriate) this difficult but important subject?
2. A greater understanding of the spiritual war explains so much that we see in our world and even in the church. How might your prayer life change based on what you learned today?
3. Scripture declares where the “real” fight is. Have you been fighting “flesh and blood?”
4. Consider helping your family trace the spiritual war in Scripture. Help them engage in the “wrestling match!”
5. We will give a bit more detail on the spiritual war, Lord willing, this week in our Mid-Week service (Thursday). Will you consider making the effort to come as part of your family discipleship plan this week?

Catechism

Question: What does the tenth commandment forbid?

Answer: The tenth commandment forbids any dissatisfaction with what belongs to us, envy or grief at the success of others, and all improper desire for anything that belongs to someone else.