

# ***Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study***

## **Spiritual Warfare and the Armor of God.**

Week of January 31, 2021 A.D.

Our culture has been trained to view our life on earth as a visit to an amusement park. But, in reality, our life on earth is better described as a spiritual military zone. Are you in engaged in the battle? That is the topic for discussion in this lesson.

### **Read Ephesians 2:1-3**

1. Are “the ways of this world” the same as “the ways of God”? What does Paul mean when Paul states that all followers of Christ were previously “dead in your transgressions and sins”? Does Satan have a kingdom? If so, is it (a) a physical kingdom, (b) a spiritual kingdom, or (c) both a physical and a spiritual kingdom? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
2. Is Satan disobedient to God? Is Satan a spiritual or a physical being? Are all non-Christians (a) disobedient to God, (b) followers of “the ruler of the kingdom of the air”, and (c) “by nature objects of God’s wrath”? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

### **Read 1 John 5:18-19**

3. Give examples of some events and/or activities which are taking place in America and throughout the world which give validity to John’s statement that “the whole world is under the control of the evil one.”
4. Please analyze, explain, and discuss the meaning of verse 18.
5. Should Christians fear Satan? How does Satan harm people? Who are the class or group of people to whom Satan causes harm? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

### **Read Luke 4:1-2; 5-8**

6. Who gave to Satan the authority which Satan has over “all the kingdoms of the world”: (a) God, (b) Adam and Eve, or (c) both (a) and (b)? Please explain your answer.

### **Read Matthew 12:25-28**

7. Are the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan (a) at war with one another? (b) exclusive and separate from each other? (c) the only kingdoms within which human beings can and must exist? Please explain your answers.

### **Read Ephesians 6:10-18**

8. Do the followers of Christ have the power with which to successfully wage war against the evil power of Satan? If not, why not? If so, what is the source or nature of that power? Please explain your answers.
9. Who or what are “the powers of this dark world” and “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”? Have you personally struggled against those powers and spiritual forces? Can you personally identify any spheres of influence in which those powers and forces are at work in our culture? Please give the specific details for each of your answers.
10. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Every follower of Christ must depend on Jesus to provide the strength, power, and authority to overcome the power of Satan. Non-Christians do not have any power or ability to stand against the power of Satan.”
11. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Any follower of Christ who does not put on the full armor of God each and every day is going to suffer defeat at the hands of the devil in some way, shape, or form.”
12. Refer to verse 17. The “sword of the Spirit” is the only offensive weapon which is available in the armor of God. Please describe what every follower of Christ should be doing in order to enable himself to use the “sword of the Spirit” to its maximum effectiveness and potential. Are love for Jesus, love for the lost, and love for your fellow Christians absolutely essential for you to be an effective warrior in the army of God? Please explain the reasons for your answer.

**Consider:** Your life span on earth is infinitesimal. Your life span in Heaven is eternal. When your earthly life has ended, you will take none of your wealth or possessions with you. When you arrive in Heaven, you will enjoy for eternity any riches and wealth which you have earned by faithfully serving Christ and His kingdom during your short time on earth. So, do not be a fool. Give the best of your time, talents, and treasures to God and His kingdom. Engage the enemy. Fight the good fight of faith. Be strong and courageous in the spiritual battle. God honors those who forfeit their personal agenda on earth to faithfully serve Christ and His kingdom. “You think about that. Amen.”