

The Weapons of the Enemy

Introduction:

1. The Bible makes it clear that Christians are engaged in spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:10-20; 2 Tim. 2:3-4; etc.).
2. Because we are at war, we must understand our enemy and his tactics.
3. Even though "we wrestle not against flesh and blood," our enemy still has many weapons to use against us.
4. This lesson will consider how Satan operates in the battle for souls.

I. Deception

(John 8:44)

- A. Satan is a liar and the father of deception.
- B. He seeks to deceive man as he deceived himself (Ezekiel 28:2, 17).
 1. Pride and arrogance led to self-deception (Romans 12:3).
 2. Self-deception led to transgression (Ezekiel 28:15).
 3. Transgression led to a fall (Ezekiel 28:16).
- C. Satan lies about God (Genesis 3:1-6).
- D. Satan lies about man (Job 1:9-11; 2:4-5).
- E. Satan lies about God's Word (Matthew 4:1-11).
- F. Satan lies about sin.
 1. Glamorize (Hebrews 11:24; 1 Corinthians 7:1-2)
 2. Minimize (Isaiah 59:1-2; John 10:10; Galatians 6:7-8)
 3. Compromise (1 Samuel 15:16ff; Galatians 1:6-9)
 4. Rationalize (2 Corinthians 10:12)
 5. Paralyze (1 Corinthians 6:12; 2 Peter 2:14; 1 John 4:18)
- G. Satan cannot be trusted!

II. Destruction

(Job 1 – 2)

- A. God is not the source of evil or temptation (James 1:13-17).
- B. Satan and sin are the real causes of man's suffering.
 1. Decay (Genesis 1:31; 3:14-19)
 2. Disease (Genesis 5:27)
 3. Devastation (Genesis 6:5-7, 11-13)
 4. Death (Genesis 3:3, 21-24; 4:4; Romans 6:23)
- C. Remember what Satan did to Job!
 1. Destroyed his oxen 1:13-15
 2. Destroyed his sheep 1:16
 3. Destroyed his camels 1:17
 4. Destroyed his children 1:18-19
 5. Destroyed his health 2:7-8
 6. Destroyed his family 2:9-10

The Occult

- III. Distraction (Matthew 13:7, 22)
- A. Man's time and opportunities are to be used wisely (Ephesians 5:14-16; Ecclesiastes 9:10; Romans 13:11; Galatians 6:10).
 - B. Satan attempts to distract man with worldly things.
 - 1. Worry (Proverbs 22:13; 26:13; Philippians 4:6)
 - 2. Pleasures of sin (Hebrews 11:24-26; Ecclesiastes 11:9; 12:13-14)
 - 3. Materialism (Luke 12:19-20)
 - 4. Worldliness (Job 21:7-15; Mark 4:18-19; 1 John 2:15-17)
 - C. We must strive to keep our focus on the Lord's will (Matthew 6:33).
- IV. Discouragement (Numbers 21:4)
- A. A message at the heart of the Gospel is, "Never give up" (Luke 18:1; 2 Corinthians 4:1, 16; Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 12:3; Revelation 2:2-3).
 - B. Faithfulness is dependent upon trust and hope (Revelation 2:10).
 - C. Satan tries to remove man's trust and hope.
 - 1. By persecution (Revelation 2:10)
 - 2. By setbacks (Judges 6:13)
 - 3. By sickness and suffering (Job)
 - 4. By guilt (Psalm 77:7-9; Lamentations 3:31-32)
- V. Doubt (Matthew 14:31; 21:21)
- A. Satan wants man to doubt God's Truth (Genesis 3:1-5; Colossians 2:8; 1 Timothy 6:20; cf. Matthew 24:35).
 - B. Satan wants man to doubt God's love (Job 1 – 2; cf. John 3:16).
 - C. Satan wants man to doubt himself (Ephesians 1:3-7).
- VI. Death (Hebrews 2:14-16)
- A. Satan wants man to live in fear of death with a false understanding of it.
 - B. However, the Christian has victory over death!
 - C. The child of God knows that death is nothing to fear (Psalm 23:4).
 - 1. It is precious (Psalm 116:15).
 - 2. It is a reward (Luke 16:22; Philippians 1:23).
 - 3. It is a rest (Hebrews 4:9).
 - 4. It is a reunion (2 Samuel 12:23).
 - 5. It is a blessing (Revelation 14:13).

Conclusion:

- 1. Satan uses many devices, schemes, and plots to tempt man away from God.
- 2. Yet, with the Bible, we can know of his plan of attack and guard against him.
- 3. We can warn others so they can avoid the trap and save their souls.
- 4. Do not fall victim to Satan!
- 5. Put on the Christian armor and stand!