

## **“The War We Are In”**

### IS THERE A WAR GOING ON?:

- You ask many Christians today if they are personally involved in warfare and unless they are in the military, you will generally get a dial tone. Why?
  - Luke 10:18-10
  - Revelation 12:7-10
- Who is at war? Not God and Satan.
  - That is rank heresy evolving out of eastern religions, Zoroastrianism and Manichaeism, and actively adopted by Hollywood, television and popular culture.
- Since Satan and his followers are D<sup>3</sup> (defeated, damned, and doomed) the warfare is now over how many human souls he can drag into the Lake of Fire with him.
- Our mission is to share the Gospel by word and deed to all of the people we can.
- Do the Scriptures tell us Christians that we are soldiers in this spiritual war?

### On what battlegrounds is our spiritual warfare played out?:

- The three battlegrounds are the Flesh, the World, and Satan.
- The Flesh - our unredeemed and unredeemable human sin nature.
  - The Flesh is the result of the original sin that seeks to satisfy bodily needs and desires without restraint and in rebellion of God’s moral boundaries.
  - Jesus has called us to a life of daily battle with our flesh, but has given us the means to do it. [Matt 16:24-27]
- The World - It is the earthly human political, economic, and social orders and institutions which are under the influence of Satan. [1 John 5:19, John 12:30-31]
  - The World around us rejects/mocks the things of God and encourages us to indulge our flesh and pursue the hedonistic lifestyle. It is this World that Jesus said we are physically still in, but not spiritually or emotionally part of (not in agreement with or participating in [John 17:14-19])
  - We are warned of the World’s danger
  - We overcome the World the same way we overcome the Flesh: through Jesus [1 John 5:5]

If Satan is our enemy in this spiritual war, what do the scriptures tell us about him?:

- Jesus stated that Satan was real and told us that he was:
  - Ruler of this world (John 12:30)
  - A thief who comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10)
  - Murderer (John 8:44)
  - Father of lies (John 8:45)
  - Prince of demons (Matt 12:24)
  - Evil one (Matt 6:13, Luke 11:4)
  - Accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10)
  - Wicked one (Matt 13:19)
- Elsewhere in Scripture he is called:
  - Abaddon, Appollyon (Destroyer)
  - Adversary
  - Belial
  - Prince of the power of the air
  - Ruler of darkness
  - Serpent
  - God of this age
  - Lord of the Flies
  - The devil
  - The dragon
- When we go head-to-head with Satan and his demons, we are not to be afraid but to use the weapons of our warfare with the assurance of security. [Luke 10:19-20, Mark 16:17-18, Luke 4:4, 8, 12, Rev. 12:11]
- The two biggest obstacles to waging a successful warfare are the same as in physical combat:
  - Ignorance [Hosea 4:6; Isaiah 5:13]
  - Fear [2 Tim. 1:7, Rev. 2:10, Isa. 43:1-5, 41:10, Psalm 23:4]