

At War

- **Introduction**

- **Background:**

- In II Corinthians ch.8 and 9, Paul encouraged them to complete their benevolent collection for the saints in Judea.
 - Later in chapter 10, Paul will talk about his authority in relation to the false teachers in the church in Corinth.

- **Intent of the lesson**

- To account for the context of what Paul is saying to this early church.
 - To understand his remarks in light of that context.

- **Then to make some application.**

At War

- Discussion of spiritual warfare in II Corinthians
 - **II Cor. 10:1-6 - Paul's talks about the nature of the war that they are involved in.**
 - 2CO 10:1 Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ-- I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent! 2 I ask that when I am present I may not be bold with the confidence with which I propose to be courageous against some, who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh. 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, 6 and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

Spiritual Warfare

- vs.1-2 - Paul explains why he doesn't treat these erring brethren and false teachers in the same way.
 - He speaks of meekness and gentleness and his pleading with them.
 - Important to note because he will be talking of the spiritual struggle.
 - This gives us insight into the weapons and methods of that struggle.
 - Meekness - gr. strength under control
 - Like a work horse
 - Num.12:3 - Moses was the meekest man on earth.
 - The Israelites didn't confuse this with weakness when he made them drink water mixed with gold dust from their golden calf.
 - Mt.11:24 - Jesus was meek
 - The money changers in the temple didn't have any problem confusing this with weakness.
 - Nor the Pharisees who He sternly rebuked.

Spiritual Warfare

- vs.1-2 - Why Paul doesn't treat these erring brethren and false teachers the same way.
 - Meekness and gentleness
 - Gentle
 - Context: the ability to adapt yourself to the person you are teaching.
 - Jude 1:22 And have mercy on some, who are doubting; 23 save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.
 - Aristotle: The ability to always be angry at the right time and never angry at the wrong time.

Spiritual Warfare

- vs.3-4 - Power of spiritual weapons of our warfare
 - Not according to the flesh
 - Other passages speaking of our warfare:
 - 1TI 1:18 ¶ This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may fight the good fight,
 - 2TI 2:3 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
 - 2TI 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;
 - 2CO 6:7 in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left,

Spiritual Warfare

- vs.3-4 - Power of spiritual weapons (cont.)
 - To be a Christian is to be a soldier of Christ
 - Living in a war zone
 - Obeying our commander without hesitation or reservation
 - Willing to give our lives when ordered to do so.
 - As was the case with the saints in Revelation.

Spiritual Warfare

- vs.3-4 - Power of spiritual weapons (cont.)
 - "mighty in God for pulling down strongholds"
 - We don't often think of our spiritual weapons in terms of destructive power.
 - EPH 6:10 ¶ Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Spiritual Warfare

- vs.5 - The nature of the war.
 - NKJ "casting down arguments" - imaginations, manmade reasonings
 - Fighting in the middle of men's minds
 - Involving intellects, wills, motives etc.
 - Striving to pull every thought into subjection to Christ
 - Christianity isn't even just a way of life, but a way of thinking.

The War is Real

- **The reality of America's wars in this century**
 - This year (2010) is the 65th anniversary of the end of WWII,
 - TV has covered many campaigns and battles of the war.
 - Normandy invasion
 - Battle of the Bulge
 - Iwo Jima
 - Interviewing veterans and their families
 - Has brought a sense of realism to something that took place before many of us were born.
 - Though it really wasn't so long ago.
 - Gives us a glimpse of what suffering and sacrifices were made,
 - and how good we have it.
 - Even though we often don't consider the price made to make it good for us.
 - Men and women leaving their families and living in camps for years.

The War is Real

- **Reality of America's wars in this century** (cont.)
 - Gives us a glimpse of what suffering and sacrifices were made,
 - and how good we have it.
 - Even though we often don't consider the price made to make it good for us.
 - Men and women leaving their families and living in camps for years.
 - Men going into battle, knowing that it is likely that they will never see their home or family again.
 - Parents, wives and children left behind who've spend the remainder of their lives trying to cope with their loss.
 - Not to mention the unspeakable horror suffered by the direct victims of the war in other lands.

The War is Real

- **Passages referring to the struggle with our enemy**

– JOB 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." 8 And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."

The War is Real

- **Passages referring to the struggle with enemy** (cont.)
 - 1PE 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.
 - Satan hates us with every ounce of his being.
 - Not just a figure of speech.
 - Other passages discuss the struggle to be endured.

The War is Real

- **Passages referring to the struggle with enemy** (cont.)
 - LUK 2:34 And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed-- 35 and a sword will pierce even your own soul-- to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed. "
 - MAT 10:34 ¶ "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

The War is Real

- **Passages referring to the struggle with enemy** (cont.)
 - Christians are told of the conflict and struggle that they must endure.
 - GAL 6:17 ¶ From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus.
 - PHI 1:29 For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,
 - This is reality:
 - We are not here to live the most comfortable life we can before being ushered into our eternal home.
 - We are here to fight, to struggle, to suffer and to sacrifice.

The War is Real

- **Passages referring to the struggle with enemy** (cont.)
 - God has granted us the privilege to suffer
 - Just as we have the privilege of being baptized etc.
 - Eph.6:10 - Put on the whole armor of God....
 - JUD 1:3 ¶ Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.
 - contend - to agonize
 - Don't just hold on to your ticket,
 - but fight to get it.

The War is Real

- **Passages referring to the struggle with enemy** (cont.)
 - A theme through the Bible
 - GAL 5:24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
 - Christians must fight, defeat and destroy their fleshly desires contrary to their allegiance to Christ.
 - ROM 8:7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so;
 - The Bible teaches that we are each in a personal struggle, a war.
 - 2CO 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,
 - 1PE 1:7 that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

The War is Real

- **Passages referring to the struggle with enemy** (cont.)
 - A theme through the Bible (cont.)
 - 1CO 16:9 for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.
 - 1CO 16:13 ¶ Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.
 - ACT 14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."
 - *Our spiritual being is constantly involved in an actual war.*
 - Being a Christian is more than just living a good life and treating your neighbor right.

The War is Real

- **The armies and the captains**
 - God unveils the war, as it is going on
 - Showing Satan versus Christ, Satan versus the church, Satan versus the individual
 - REV 12:1 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; 2 and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.
 - Though there are no direct quotes in Revelation from the O.T.,
 - Revelation is filled with word pictures from the O.T.
 - Micah 4 - The nation of Israel is portrayed as a woman, in pain, about to give birth to a child.
 - The child being Christ.
 - A new nation would be born
 - Isaiah discusses this as well.
 - Rom. 9 - The remnant of Israel, saved through Christ.

The War is Real

- **The armies and the captains** (cont.)
 - REV 12:3 And another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems.
 - vs. 9 - The dragon is Satan.
 - Getting ready to destroy Jesus in what ever way he can.
 - Attempting to:
 - Kill him as an infant
 - Tempt him in the wilderness
 - Destroy him in his death.
 - 4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven, and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

The War is Real

- **The armies and the captains** (cont.)
 - 5 And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.
 - Ps. 2 - The Christ.
 - Satan fails to conquer Christ
 - Details in Mt., Mk., Lk & Jn.
 - 6 And the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she might be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.
 - The woman is the faithful people of God.
 - In either O.T. or N.T.
 - Failing to destroy Christ, Satan turns to destroy God's people, who God providentially protects.

The War is Real

- **The armies and the captains** (cont.)
 - REV 12:7 ¶ And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war, 8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

The War is Real

- **The armies and the captains** (cont.)
 - REV 12:7 - 9 (cont.)
 - This doesn't have anything to do with the origin of Satan.
 - Satan had won the souls of every man and woman
 - All had sinned and justly earned a sentence of hell.
 - Job 1 & 2 - Satan was in the habit of making accusations against individuals.
 - Pointing out their sin and their just reward.
 - Until Christ paid the debt, Satan had a legal right to claim the souls of all mankind.
 - A right to stand before the Almighty Judge and make these accusations.
 - Rom.3:28 - When the Judge paid the debt, Satan no longer had the right to make these claims.
 - This is when Michael threw Satan out of "court"
 - When we understand this, we understand how powerful & real Satan is,
 - And how much he hates everyone of us.

The War is Real

- **The armies and the captains** (cont.)
 - REV 12:7 - 9 (cont.)
 - Like a rival, hating us and making a legitimate claim in court against us.
 - But the judge continues to delay sentencing,
 - God couldn't be just and dismiss the case.
 - Until the judge steps forward and pays the penalty himself.
 - At that time, our rival can be thrown out of court for making an illegitimate charge.

The War is Real

- **The armies and the captains** (cont.)
 - REV 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ¶
"Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. 11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.

The War is Real

- **The armies and the captains** (cont.)
 - REV 12:10 (cont.)
 - When Satan failed to conquer God's people as a collective, he went after them individually.
 - What happens when a bear goes after an individual musk ox?
 - They form a collective for mutual protection.
 - The church does the same thing.
 - What to do to survive Satan's assault:
 - Be washed in the blood of the Lamb
 - Hold to the word of our testimony.
 - Do we have a testimony?
 - Did God not cleans us from our sins and give us eternal life?
 - Love not our life even unto death.

The War is Real

- **The armies and the captains** (cont.)
 - 12 "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."
 - Like our arch rival, who spends his entire life trying to get us convicted and sentenced to prison.
 - When the judge pays the fine and debt,
 - He'd realize his entire life had been for nothing.
 - He'd be outraged, when kicked out of court.

The War is Real

- **The armies and the captains** (cont.)
 - REV 12:13 ¶ And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. 14 And the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, in order that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.
 - God harbors the church.
 - 15 And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.
 - Satan mounts a full scale assault on the church.

The War is Real

- **The armies and the captains** (cont.)
 - REV 12:16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.
 - Yet, as prophesied, God will preserve the church.
 - Dan 2
 - MAT 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.
 - 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.
 - After failing to destroy the church,
 - Satan went after the individual Christian.
 - This is the struggle we are involved in everyday.
 - 1PE 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

The War is Real

- **How Satan makes war against the individual**
 - REV 13:1 And he stood on the sand of the seashore. ¶
And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. 2
And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.

The War is Real

- **How Satan makes war against the individual** (cont.)
 - Dan 7 - A similar beast came out of the sea described as a lion, bear, leopard and whatchumacallit (a diverse beast)
 - There we learn that these are four kings.
 - vs.23 - The fourth beast is to be a fourth kingdom.
 - Referencing Dan. 2...., and secular history, we can see that these four kingdoms are the Babylonian, Medo-Persians, Greek and Roman.
 - Rome started out giving Augustus title as Caesar,
 - They tried to give him title as god, but never really accepted.
 - However, Nero did accept the title,
 - Nero was a pervert, homosexual, bisexual
 - Married a man while his wife was acting as queen
 - Had his mother and brothers killed.
 - Even more unmentionable crimes.

The War is Real

- **How Satan makes war against the individual** (cont.)
 - 3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast;
 - In his degeneracy, Nero fell from the throne and almost took Rome with him.
 - 4 and they worshiped the dragon, because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?" 5 And there was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

The War is Real

- **How Satan makes war against the individual** (cont.)
 - 7 And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.
 - Rome recovered and set their Caesars up as gods.
 - Requiring worship one day of the year.
 - Simply by putting a pinch of salt onto an alter.
 - Allowing the worship of other gods the remainder of the year.
 - Yet, this is in direct conflict with allegiance to Christ.
 - Before all this happened, God told them that Satan was behind this Roman regime and that this is how he would attempt to destroy the church.

The War is Real

- **How Satan makes war against the individual** (cont.)
 - 8 And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain. 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10 If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.

The War is Real

- **How Satan makes war against the individual** (cont.)
 - A tremendous battle was fought at that time. (cont.)
 - Parents were made to watch their children, thrown to the lions.
 - Their eyes were then punched out.
 - So the last thing they ever saw was their children being torn apart.
 - All they had to do was to take that pinch of salt and toss it into the flame.
 - Just one day of the year.
 - Almost overpowering temptation!
 - *Almost, 1Cor.10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.*
 - *Only way they could overcome was through the strength of God.*
 - But they refused because they knew that battle would be lost.
 - Losing their children forever.

The War is Real

- **How Satan makes war against the individual** (cont.)
 - A tremendous battle was fought at that time. (cont.)
 - Others were nailed to crosses, covered with pitch and lit on fire.
 - Others were dropped into sacks filled with poisonous snakes.
 - Others had their stomachs cut open, corn thrown in and hungry hogs allowed to rip their intestines out.
 - *All of this while other Christians were forced to watch and given the choice of offering that one pinch of salt.*

The War is Real

- **How Satan makes war against the individual** (cont.)
 - A tremendous battle was fought at that time. (cont.)
 - This was very real.
 - Occasionally we even here of Christians in the former Soviet Union or China or Iran.
 - Beaten, mutilated, imprisoned or executed because they are Christians.
 - But like our freedoms in America,
 - we've become dead in our senses, lulled to sleep,
 - Don't realize what is really at stake,
 - *or what price has been paid.*
 - How did Satan do this?

The War is Real

- **How Satan makes war against the individual** (cont.)
 - REV 17:1 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I shall show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality. 3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.

The War is Real

- **How Satan makes war against the individual** (cont.)
 - REV 17:4 And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, 5 and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." 6 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And when I saw her, I wondered greatly.

The War is Real

- **How Satan makes war against the individual** (cont.)

- REV 17:1-6 (cont.)

- Who is this harlot and what are the many waters?

- REV 17:18 "And the woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth."

- This woman is the great city; Rome
- REV 17:15 And he said to me, "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.
- Rome offered up all sorts of immorality,
- much as Baal had for the Israelites.

The War is Real

- **How Satan makes war against the individual** (cont.)
 - REV 17:1-6 (cont.)
 - Satan would be, and now is, using the lusts of the flesh to destroy the individual Christian.
 - Using sex, money, strong drink etc.
 - Just as they overcame when tempted to compromise in face of the death of their own children,
 - they only way we overcome is through the strength of God.
 - Praying, confessing to Him what is going on in the battle,
 - and asking him for the strength to do what we otherwise wouldn't be able to.

The War is Real

- **Conclusion**

- **Just as the historic cases of WWII help us to appreciate what we have,**

- And the suffering that took place so that we could have what we do.
- If those who died on Iwo Jima were here to talk to us what would we say?
 - Hey, it is no big deal like in America has always been this way.

The War is Real

- **Conclusion** (cont.)

- **To an even greater extent,**

- Our spiritual ancestors went through a battle of unspeakable suffering,

- Without even the right to pick up a sword to protect themselves.
- They died as soldiers in the Lords army,
 - Carrying out the command of Christ to their last breath.
 - But unlike the physical wars we are acquainted with,
- Christ's soldiers didn't just win the battle for others while losing it for themselves,
 - They gained victory over Satan.
 - They gained eternal life for the forfeiture of their life on earth.

The War is Real

- **Conclusion** (cont.)

- **Do we realize the eternal struggle ?** (cont.)

- This is real, it is today.
- Or are we just playing Christian?
 - Are we willing to make compromises in the battle with money, sex, pride etc?
 - Even the slightest compromise?
 - Gives an entirely different slant on the little decisions we make that affect our spiritual welfare.
- REV 2:10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
 - Christ talks to some 1st Christians, who were taking it easy.
 - REV 3:3 'Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. If therefore you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you.

The War is Real

- **Conclusion** (cont.)

- **Do we realize the eternal struggle we are involved in?**

- We think we've suffered when someone says something bad to us.

- Consider the warning Christ gives to his soldiers who do compromise.

- REV 14:9 ¶ And another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his hand, 10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 "And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

- Consider the rewards to those who do endure.

- REV 14:12 Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. 13 ¶ And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in

The War is Real

- **Conclusion** (cont.)

- **Do we realize the eternal struggle ?** (cont.)

- The stakes are high.

- REV 20:11 ¶ And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.
- MAR 9:43 "And if your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire,