

The Christian's War on Error (II Corinthians 10:3-6)

Introduction:

- I. Images of war have become all too familiar to us today.
 - a. We have friends and family serving in the armed forces here and abroad.
 - b. There is constant war footage on television and internet.
 - c. There are innumerable video games that use war as a basic plot.
- II. Somehow, however, we tend to forget that we are constantly in a war ourselves.
 - a. Are we serving here and abroad?
 - b. Does the mass media know what the Christian's war on error is about?

Discussion:

- I. Are we at war?
 - a. That depends on you.
 - i. On whom will the soldier fire?
 1. The enemy soldier.
 - a. There are two qualifications to being a soldier.
 - i. You oppose the enemy,
 - ii. You are a soldier.
 2. Are you in opposition to the enemy?
 - a. Do you separate yourself from the enemy?
 - b. Do you make an effort to stop the enemy?
 3. Are you a soldier?
 - a. If you are not fighting, you are not a soldier; you are a civilian.
 - b. Satan will not fire at you because you are no threat.
 - i. You say, "It's just easy for me to be a Christian."
 - ii. That makes about as much sense as a soldier saying that the war in Iraq is an easy fight.
- II. What is the enemy?
 - a. By its very definition, Satan means "Adversary."
 - i. It was an accuser (Job 1, διάβολος).
 - ii. Peter was called Satan (Matthew 16:23, Mark 8:33).
 - b. We are not in a battle against flesh and blood.
 - i. We are fighting principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age, spiritual hosts of wickedness (Ephesians 6:12).
- III. What weapons do we have?
 - a. We are not left to fend for ourselves (6:14-18).
 - i. We have:
 1. The Belt of Truth
 - a. Dishonesty has a way of embarrassing us. Sooner or later we are found out, and as the expression goes, we are

“Caught with our pants down.” With the belt of truth, this will never be a concern for us.

2. The Breastplate of Righteousness
 - a. The heart is a vital organ; if it is lost, the life is lost. With righteousness, or justice, we will have pure hearts, and we will live righteous lives.
3. Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace
 - a. Notice that these feet mentioned are not “Feet Shod with the Gospel,” but feet shod with the preparation of the gospel. We can not hit the front lines before enduring basic training. We must prepare before running into battle.
4. The Shield of Faith
 - a. As we studied earlier, the Devil is an accuser. He will find your spiritual weaknesses and will fire away at them. He will try to let those weaknesses keep you out of heaven, but with strong faith, you will overcome those weaknesses, and he has no clear shot at you.
5. The Helmet of Salvation
 - a. As with the heart, the head needs protection to ensure survival. Salvation will protect us from death’s victory (I Cor. 15).
6. The Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God)
 - a. This is our weapon. It is what we use to fight off those rulers of darkness, and it is how we cast down those arguments against us and against the truth.
7. Prayer.
 - a. Sometimes I hear people say, “All we can do is pray.” That is not expressing very much faith at all! Prayer is strength. It is effective (James 5:16). We must pray.

IV. How can we prepare?

- a. We must prepare ourselves.
 - i. Will a student that refuses to study be ready for the test that waits?
 - ii. Will a school play go perfectly if there are no rehearsals?
 - iii. Will a car make a long journey no gas is put in the tank?
 - iv. How then, do we expect to be soldiers for Christ, and never study and prepare ourselves?
 1. I have friends at school, here in the church, and all over the place that must watch their favorite television show before going to bed.
 - a. Would they be able to survive without it? Yes.
 - b. Are they that adamant about personal Bible study?
 - i. Do they think they can get by without it?
 - ii. Is it less important than that television show?
- b. We must go through basic training at our base, the church.
 - i. Will a soldier who has had no military training do well on the front lines?
 - ii. Will a doctor who skipped class in college do well in his or her practice?
 - iii. Will a lawyer who has never gone to law school be a good lawyer?

- iv. How then can we expect to be soldiers for Christ, and rarely come to Bible class or worship services here?
 - 1. Is Sunday morning holier than Sunday night?
 - 2. Is 10:30 (or 10:45 for some) holier than 9:30?
 - a. Does your job start before 9:30 each weekday?
 - b. How can you get to your job at 7:30, 8:00, 9:00, and you can not make it here before 10:30?
 - 3. Does it make sense to you that some people think they have enough faith to get them to heaven, but it is not even enough to get them here?
 - a. Is it just not important? Am I just pressing an issue here that really is not a big deal?
 - i. Will you make it to all of your child's basketball, football, baseball games? If not, will you try to go to every one? Or do you say, once a week is enough. I'll go to one game per week.
 - ii. If you are not coming to Bible class at all, and if you rarely come to services except on Sunday morning, you will not get your healthy dose of edification and study that comes from healthy church attendance.
 - iii. You are hardly a threat to Satan at all. He will not waste his fiery darts on you. That is why it seems easy to be a Christian sometimes.

Conclusion:

- I. When you read about heaven in the book of Revelation, it is described with finite measurements. It is about 1380 miles long, 1380 miles wide. That is smaller than the United States! It used to scare me that heaven was seemingly so small. It scared me because I was afraid it would fill up before I could get there.
 - a. But if church attendance is a factor in deciding who goes to heaven and who does not, heaven will not be very crowded at all.
 - b. Just think of the cries of those who thought that it was not a big deal. Now it is that great chasm between them and the other side. What a sad day that will be for so many people!
 - i. Do what you need to do to make sure you are following Christ.
 - 1. Obey his commands. If you love him, you will.
 - 2. This means that you will die to your selfish ways and will take on his burden, to do his work.
 - 3. You will be buried in baptism, washing away that old life with its sins and impurities, and rising up a new creation to walk a new life with Christ.
 - 4. It also means that you need to thoroughly and constantly examine yourself to be sure you are following him, and correct your mistakes.

5. If it is a change that needs to be made, then only you, God, and the people it affects need to know. Some changes need to be made publicly, because of the effect they have on the church and the community.
6. If you want to make a change or be baptized publicly right now, then we are ready to help you. If you simply want prayers we will help you. It is up to you.
7. You may say you have enough faith to get to heaven. Do you have enough faith to obey Christ? If you must make a change, please do so now. Let us stand and sing.