

5-29-22
ASPECTS OF THE SPIRITUAL WAR FOR OUR SOULS

Tomorrow is what we call Memorial day. This is a day set aside to honor all those who died serving in the military. It is a day of decorating graves.

I believe there is another war that is being waged in our country today. The problem we have is that those who are dedicating their lives to fight in that war are rarely recognized. That war is claiming many lives and victims everyday. This is a war for the very heart and soul of our nation. What we need more than ever are spiritual warriors who are willing to give their lives for this cause.

This war involves a battle for the very souls of people in our nation.

II Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

II Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

II Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

This war is over thoughts and imaginations of the heart. It is a war of ideas. These ideas dictate a person's actions. This is an invisible war and the Lord is trying to recruit soldiers who will dedicate themselves to this battle and cause.

October 27th 1974 my eyes were opened to this warfare. It is an invisible warfare and the devil does not want us to know it is even going on! October 27th 1974 was the day I was recruited to be one of our Lord's soldiers in this battle. I remember when then Lord recruited me for this cause. I was going on my merry way living my life the way I thought I should live it. I had my own ideas and thoughts about life. My mind was alienated from God's ways and I was a victim of wrong thinking. The enemy had taken me captive. He blinded my eyes and had my will in captivity to wrong thoughts. Like all wars there are two sides to this conflict and two armies that are fighting.

Many people are blinded to this war.. But like all wars there are two sides: The two sides are God and his adversary the devil. The Bible says, Satan does not want you to be aware of this battle..

II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

II Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Just as II Cor. 10:4 says, this is not a carnal or fleshly battle. It is a battle over thoughts, ideas, and the way we think and what we believe and how we live.

When I recruited in the service of the King I went to a service and there I saw a film that portrayed life as a spiritual battle between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan. The film showed how people in the Kingdom of Satan lived and then it contrasted this with the way people lived who were in the Kingdom of God. Everything that it portrayed about the Kingdom of Satan was where I was and the people I hang with.. The film started out with footage of soldiers, and jet planes, and tanks rolling out on a mission. The narrator said, this is the Spiritual warfare. Which side are you on...

They contrasted the two sides of this battle. After this film was over there was no doubt in my mind that I was on the wrong side of the battle and had been rebelling against God's army. Suddenly the Kingdom of God seemed right, pure, and what any sane person should want. Then I asked myself why am I fighting this. Suddenly I wanted to be one of God's soldiers.

If there was a spiritual army recruiter right there I would have signed up that day. That Sunday I was recruited into God's army and my life was not the same after that.

Now in any war there are victims. People who are just trying to live their lives and are destroyed by the enemy.

In our country we are trying to figure out why some people do the things they do. Let me submit everyone's actions are dictated by what they believe. Wrong thinking produces wrong actions. God's word is written to straighten out our thinking. We are in a battle over what people believe and think.. Satan blinds the minds of those who are in unbelief and in Satan's Kingdom. Our text says we are in a battle to fight against wrong thinking!

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

ASPECTS OF THE SPIRITUAL WAR FOR OUR HEARTS AND MINDS AND SOULS

- I. IN THIS WAR WE ARE FIGHTING AGAINST MEN'S IMAGINATIONS***
- II. IN THIS WAR WE ARE FIGHTING AGAINST THOSE WHO THROUGH PRIDE REJECT THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD (THE BIBLE)***
- III. IN THIS BATTLE WE ARE FIGHTING AGAINST THOSE WHOSE THOUGHTS ARE IN REBELLION AGAINST CHRIST..***

IV. IN THIS BATTLE WE ARE LOOKING TO RECRUIT PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE OBEDIENT TO CHRIST.. Victory comes when the disobedient become obedient..

I. IN THIS WAR WE ARE FIGHTING AGAINST MEN'S IMAGINATIONS

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations,

What is the definition of Imaginations?

logismos, log-is-mos'; from 3049; computation, i.e. (fig.) reasoning (conscience, conceit):-imagination, thought.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

logizomai, log-id'-zom-ahee; mid. from 3056; to take an inventory, i.e. estimate (lit. or fig.): -conclude, (ac-) count (of), + despise, esteem, impute, lay, number, reason, reckon, suppose, think (on).

The spiritual war involves ideas, and man's thinking and minds.. This war is not based on material things.

These are the reasonings of men.. based on their wild imaginations reasonings, and ideas and man's thinking....

Men have their reasoning..
Men have their ideas..
Men have their logic..

We come up with our own standards.. of life.. and those standards, if not in harmony with the Bible are absolutely wrong and will lead to destruction.

People say, "This is what I think.." Our thinking proceeds from our own imaginations.

We need to bring our imaginations into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

So often.. we are more influenced by the world.. TV.. Movies.. Hollywood, than the Bible

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU START REAPING THE SAME TRAGIC.. RESULTS OF THE WORLD.

BROKEN HOMES..
DRUG AND ALCHOL ADDICTIONS
BITTERNESS.. STRIVINGS..
DISCONTENTMENT..

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

What is sad is that people really think that these imaginations come from themselves.. They do not. They are planted there by Satan.

The goal of this battle is to cast down the vain imaginations that Satan has planted in the minds of his victims. Those who have been blinded by the devil. These imaginations dictate their actions and how they live.

These imaginations are fabrications of our mind that are contrary to the truth.

These imaginations are the reasonings of man that contradict the Word of God.

II. IN THIS WAR WE ARE FIGHTING AGAINST THOSE WHO REJECT THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD (THE BIBLE)

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God,

When men exalt their imaginations and fabrications of their own thoughts against the Word of God, be sure Satan is there prodding men to do this.

The Bible promises a blessing for obeying God's word and a cursing for going your own way..

Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death.

In our minds we can convince ourselves that we are right.. but this way leads to death and destruction. I am sure Eve thought she was right when she ate the forbidden fruit, but look where it got mankind!

Today our nation has wholesale, rejected God's word and look at what is happening to it.

Once again an atrocity has taken place in our nation and everywhere we are hearing about the shooting in Uvalde, Texas. People are crying out for answers as to why this happened. Again, many think gun control is the answer! Others say we need better monitoring of social media!

Now people are upset at the response of the police. They didn't go in quickly enough, they didn't respond quickly enough.. The problem is the same crowd that is criticizing the police want to do away with police. They are the ones that have the police under a

microscope to the point that they are afraid to do anything for fear of losing their jobs or worse, being arrested themselves.

In some cities, the police are just letting people kill each other because if they intervene, they fear someone will be there to take a video of them taking someone down and they themselves will be arrested.

The fact is that no one is looking at the root of the problem. The root of the problem is that our children are out of control. This is all because we have rejected the Lord God who is the ultimate authority. We have a society that has no restraints and all this leads to bizarre behavior. A free society only works when people have self restraint, and self restraint only comes when people have right thinking, and right thinking only comes from the word of God.

God is the ultimate authority, and when we reject his word and authority, soon that trickles down into society. Men will no longer know how to have authority and to demand people submit to authority. Our schools are out of control. We can have children cursing at their teachers, and the teachers do nothing about it and can't do anything about it. We have teachers teaching perversion in the classrooms and parents are helpless to change it. We have political leaders that refuse to restrain people who are rioting in the street because it advances their political narrative.

All this is simply happening because we have rejected the knowledge of God.

There was a time in our nation that every grade school child could quote the ten commandments. This is healthy to know the law of God. The ten commandments are a good starting point to develop moral character.

III. IN THIS BATTLE WE ARE FIGHTING AGAINST THOSE WHOSE THOUGHTS ARE IN REBELLION AGAINST CHRIST

II Corinthians 10:5 bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

I often hear people saying.. Well I know the Bible says this but.. and then they proceed with their own thoughts about the matter.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

My question is which? Could you name the commandments of Christ..

Do you know that the lord reiterated every one of the ten commandments in one way or the other..

Just because Jesus fulfilled all the law and paid the penalty of our sin on the cross does not mean in the New Testament Church we are lawless and can sin that grace may abound. In fact Paul warned that some people were teaching that in his day:

Though we are not saved by keeping the law.. when we are saved we are now under the law of Christ. Jesus said,

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Now it would do us good to memorize the commandments. Jesus reiterated every one of them.

Here is an article about a survey was taken about men's knowledge of the 10 commandments..

"How many of The Ten Commandments can you name? Put to the test, Americans recalled the seven ingredients of a McDonald's Big Mac hamburger and members of TV's "The Brady Bunch" more easily than the Bible's Ten Commandments.

A survey by Kelton Research found 80 percent of 1,000 respondents could name the burger's primary ingredient -- two all-beef patties -- but less than six in 10 knew the commandment "thou shalt not kill."

Less than half of respondents -- 45 percent -- could recall the commandment "honor thy father and mother" but 62 percent knew the Big Mac has pickle.

Bobby and Peter, the least recalled-names from the fictional Brady Bunch family, were remembered by 43 percent of respondents -- topping the 34 percent who knew "remember the Sabbath" and 29 percent recalling "do not make false idols."

I once read another survey that 1/2 of the clergy could not quote all ten of the ten commandments. I remember when I was in elementary school that we were taught the 10 commandments back then. They stopped it though as I got into the upper elementary school grades in 1962.

Can you quote the ten commandments? I wrote a song so every kid in our church if they attend patch club should learn the ten commandments.. I hope your kids are learning them.

Think of how the least of the ten commandments is the door opener to all sin..

The 10th commandment .. Thou shalt not covet.. THIS IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL..

I Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

If a man will covet and be greedy for gain.. he will lie to get that gain and violate the 9th commandment..

A man who will lie and deceive to get what he wants will think nothing of just taking what he wants and stealing it. Dishonest people will steal..

A man who will covet will lie.. a man who will lie will steal.. a man who will steal is never satisfied and the ultimate thing he could steal is another man's wife.. So therefore he will violate the 7th commandment given the opportunity .. thou shalt not commit adultery.

So a man that will covet, will lie.. a man who will lie.. will think nothing of stealing.. a man who will steal will think nothing of stealing another man's wife.. a man who will commit adultery .. is one step away from being a murderer..

Immorality is the door opener to murder.. Did not David commit adultery with Bathsheba and then he murdered Uriah the Hittite..

People want to solve the murders in our society.. but they think nothing of the immorality. No one will say anything about the background of this young man who went into that Texas school and killed 19 people..

We ask why why why ..

I'll tell you why ..

Adultery is the door opener to murder.. no only for the one who commits adultery, but for those who are the family and victims of parents who are immoral..

David committed adultery with Bathsheba and it caused the death of Uriah the Hittite, and also the death of his first born child with Bathsheba.. and also the death of Amnon his oldest son, who committed fornication with his sister, and then Absalom murdered him. Absalom actually tried to kill his own father all as a result of David's sin with Bathsheba.

You see adultery is the door opener to murder..

Just like those who covet, will lie, those who lie will steal.. those who steal will commit adultery.. those who commit adultery will open the door to murder.. either they will do it.. or the hurt they cause will lead to it..

Most murders in this country happen because of domestic violence... Most domestic violence happens because of immorality.

NO ONE NO ONE.. in our immoral society will ever question how the immorality of Salvador Ramos's mother may have affected the mind of Salvador Ramos!... She was living with a man out of wedlock.. she was in an adulterous relationship.

What is adultery.. Adultery is having a sexual relationship with someone, who is married or unmarried.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage [is] honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

No one ever thinks of how their immoral lifestyle will affect their children. Children need the stability of a mom and dad.. They need a home that is secure.. That insecurity or immoral relationships cause all kind of scars not just in the person involved but also the children. David had all kind of problems with his children because of what he did with Bathsheba. Yes he was forgiven, but forgiveness does not mean you will not have to live with the long term consequences of your sin. A person can be forgiven for their sin, but their sin has a domino effect in this life and that filters into society.

You might say, well Solomon was the result of David marrying Bathsheba.. yes but that was grace. Be very careful that you don't say..

Let me sin that grace may abound.. because sometimes God does not let things work out by his grace. Grace means unmerited favor. It does not mean promised favor.. David truly was broken and repented over his sin. He was not proud of it and arrogant about it..

Alright .. so we showed how the breaking the

10th commandment.. Coveting.. leads to the breaking of the
9th commandment.. Lying.. which leads to
8th Commandment... Stealing.. Which leads to the breaking of the
7th Commandment... Adultery..
6th Commandment... Murdering..

Which brings us to the 5th commandment.. HONOR THY FATHER AND MOTHER..
Remember there were 10 commandments on two tables of stone..
I believe there were 5 on one and 5 on another..

All the commandments are narrowed down to two..

Matthew 22:36 Master, which [is] the great commandment in the law?

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Matthew 22:38 This is the first and great commandment.

Matthew 22:39 And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Matthew 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

The first tablet has 5 commands that show you love God..

The second table has 5 commands that show you love your fellow man..

The 5th commandment is HONOR THY FATHER AND MOTHER..

In the old testament.. the penalty in Israel for violating any of the 5 commandments on the first tablet was death.

What are the 5 commandments on the first tablet..

I believe the 10 commandments are a good outline of all the commandments. The basic outline is two commands love God love your neighbor. Then these are broken into 5 and 5 and then all the commands in the Bible fall under these.

The 5 commands on the first table are these..

1. Thou shalt not have any God's before me.. God said idolatry was punishable by death
2. Thou shalt not make any graven image.. if a person made an idol he was suppose to be punished by death..
3. Thou shalt not take God's name in vain.. remember that Egyptian that cursed and took the lord's name in vain.. in Lev. 24:10-11
4. Remember the Sabbath day.. you remember the man in the wilderness who was picking up sticks on the Sabbath to kindle a fire.. what happened to him? Numbers 15:32
5. The 5th command is Honor thy Father and Mother.. Jesus reiterated the 5th commandment.. and said this to the Pharisees..

Matthew 15:4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

Why would God say that a person who would curse their own mother and father is worthy of death..

He said it because the door opener to murder is a person who curses his own mother.. or father.. If someone would not honor and respect their own parents they would not care about others and would think nothing to murder given the opportunity.

Before a person gets to know and love and fear God they need to come to know and love and fear their parents.

This is how serious it is to raise children and to restrain children. It is the divine job of parents to restrain their children. This is part of child training.

The problem is that Salvador Ramos had an argument with his own mother and could not live with her.. so he went to live with his grandmother.. and could not respect her, and shot her in the face. Then he stole her Ford Pick up truck and drove to the school where he killed 18 students and one teacher.

The problem is not gun control.. the problem with our nation today is child control, and immorality.. and dysfunctional families. These live-in relationships are destroying the children involved.

So the least of the commandments is the door opener to all sorts of evil.

Every sin of the second tablet relates to mans relationship with man..
Every sin or violations of the 1st table relates to man's relationship with God.

How do we show we love God..

1. WE PUT HIM FIRST..
2. WE FLEE IDOLATRY..
3. WE HONOR HIS NAME.
4. WE SET ASIDE A DAY TO WORSHIP AND HONOR HIM..
5. WE RESPECT, HONOR AND SUBMIT TO OUR PARENTS WHEN WE ARE YOUNG..

Every body is looking for a solution to these wacky gun murders..

They blame the gun laws..
They blame our schools..
They blame.. the police..

This is a spiritual battle and the problem is we as a nation refuse to be under the law of God..

IV. IN THIS BATTLE WE LOOKING TO RECRUIT PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE OBEDIENT TO CHRIST..

II Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

In every battle when the enemy attacks, a good general will seek to counter the attack with a victory. A victory in the spiritual warfare is when we through preaching and teaching can convince a sinner to obey Christ and his commandments by faith.

Believe God and watch him work. What do we have to loose in serving Christ. The world is a mess.. all that they are seeking to do is turning to ashes.

Will you step out in faith and obey God!

Here's how it works..

10th Commandment: The Bible says, thou shalt not covet.. so we are tempted to get in debt for things we want and we see others have... Why not trust God and say, I will obey God in this matter, I will obey him and submit my wants to his will.

The tempter will work in your vain imaginations, and say, you deserve this.. you should treat yourself.. live it up.. while you can..

But by faith you should say, I will obey his command and see how God works in my obedience..

So it is with all the commands..

(9th Commandment...)

You are tempted to deceive and lie to get your way..

By faith you should decide.. to avoid any deception and take your chances for loss.. to honor God.. and watch how God blesses your obedience..

(8th Commandment)

You're tempted to take something that does not belong to you.. When that temptation comes we should remember the command of God.. thou shalt not steal and then by faith subject that impulse and thought to the word of God.

This is the spiritual battle that rages..

II Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

How do you revenge disobedience.. you do so by obeying the commands of God. Before a person obeys the commands he must destroy the wrong ideas in his thinking that justify in his mind his disobedience.