

THE SPIRITUAL WARFARE OF THE CHURCH AS THE NEW MAN

Message One

The Church as the New Man Engaging in Spiritual Warfare to Defeat God's Enemy and to Bring In the Kingdom of God

Scripture Reading: Gen. 1:26, 28; Eph. 2:15; 4:24; 6:11-13; Rev. 11:15; Psa. 110:3a

- Genesis 1:26,28 And God said, Let Us **make** man in Our **image**, according to Our **likeness**; and let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be **fruitful and multiply**, and **fill** the earth and **subdue** it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.
- Ephesians 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in **ordinances**, that He might **create** the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,
- Ephesians 4:24 And put on the **new man**, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
- Ephesians 6:11-13 **Put** on the **whole armor** of God that you may be able to **stand** against the **stratagems** of the devil, For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but **against** the rulers, against the authorities, **against** the world-rulers of this darkness, **against** the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly. Therefore **take up** the whole **armor of God** that you may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, **to stand**.
- Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has **become** the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.
- Psalms 110: 3 Your people will **offer** themselves **willingly** In the day of Your warfare, In the splendor of their **consecration**. Your young men will be to You Like the dew from the womb of the dawn.

BANNERS FOR THE 2018 MEMORIAL DAY CONFERENCE

The **church** as the **new man** must **engage** in **spiritual warfare**
to **defeat** God's enemy, **fulfill** God's purpose,
and **bring** in the kingdom of God.

On the day of His **wedding**, Christ will **marry** those **who have** been
fighting the **battle** against God's enemy for years;
that is, Christ will **marry** the **overcomers**,
who have already overcome the evil one.

In the **Lord's recovery** today we are on a **battlefield**,
fighting against the satanic forces so that we may **gain** more of Christ
for the **building up** of the Body of Christ.

A person who **praises** God **transcends** everything
to **glorify** God and **display** Christ's victory;
may God gain **abundant praises**,
even the **sacrifice of praise**, from His children.

I. The church as the new man accomplishes God's eternal purpose—Eph. 1:9, 11; 2:15-16; 3:9; 4:22-24:

- A. God's intention in His creation of man was to have a corporate man to express Him and represent Him—Gen. 1:26, 28:
 1. God's **creation of man** in Genesis 1 is a **picture** of the one new man in God's new creation—Eph. 2:15; 4:24; Col. 3:10-11.
 2. The church as the new man is the corporate man in God's intention, and this new man will **fulfill** the twofold purpose of **expressing** God and **representing** Him—Gen. 1:26, 28.
- B. God created a corporate man to represent Him by having **dominion** over all things—vv. 26, 28:
 1. God's intention in giving man dominion is for him to **subdue** God's enemy, Satan, who rebelled against God, to recover the earth, and to exercise God's authority over the earth in order that the kingdom of God may come to the earth, the will of God may be done on earth, and the glory of God may be manifested on earth—vv. 26, 28; Matt. 6:10, 13b.
 2. God's intention that man would have dominion over all things will be fulfilled by the church as the new man—Eph. 2:15; Col. 3:10-11.
- C. If man has not **restored** the earth from the usurpation of Satan, he has not yet achieved God's purpose in creating him—Gen. 1:28:
 1. Dealing with Satan is for the benefit of God and satisfies God's need.
 2. **Dealing with Satan requires that we pay a price that is extremely great; self must be utterly abandoned.**
 3. In order to recover the earth from the hand of Satan, we must **be wholly and absolutely for God and His purpose**—Rom. 12:2; 8:28.
- D. The church as the corporate new man is the corporate **warrior** to **defeat** God's enemy and to **bring** in the kingdom of God—Eph. 4:24; 6:11, 13:
 1. The church as a warrior is an aspect of the church as the new man—2:15.
 2. The church as the **new man** is a warrior **fighting** against God's enemy, for the new man **fulfills** God's purpose to express God and to fight against God's enemy for God's dominion, God's kingdom—Gen. 1:26, 28; Rev. 11:15.

God's intention in giving man **dominion** is for him to subdue God's enemy, Satan, who rebelled against God, to recover the earth, and to **exercise God's authority over the earth** in order that the kingdom of God may come to the earth, the will of God may be done on earth, and the glory of God may be manifested on earth.

II. In order to know God's economy, we need to see the spiritual things behind the physical things, the spiritual world behind the physical world—Dan. 10:12-13, 20-21:

- A. It is crucial for us to see that behind the physical scene a **spiritual struggle**, a struggle **not seen with human eyes**, is taking place.
- B. In our fighting we deal not with things that appear on the surface but with the power of darkness behind these things—Eph. 2:6; 6:12; S. S. 4:8.
- C. Revelation 12 presents a great vision concerning the **war in heaven**—the warfare in the universe between God and His enemy; the vision in this chapter unveils the true situation in the universe—the view that God's enemy is fighting against Him—vv. 1-4, 7-9, 13, 17.

There is a great need for us as believers in Christ to **see beyond the physical realm**. We are not like the people in the world who see only the physical things and look at what the eyes can see in the world today....Many believers lack the vision of the **spiritual realm** and the spiritual struggle taking place behind the physical scene.

III. Spiritual warfare is necessary because Satan's will is set against God's will—Matt. 6:10; 7:21; Isa. 14:12-14:

- A. If we would know how the church as the new man can be God's warrior to engage in spiritual warfare, we need to realize that in the universe there are **three wills**—the divine will, the satanic will, and the human will—Rev. 4:11.
- B. Spiritual warfare has its source in the **conflict** between the **divine will** and the **satanic will**—Matt. 6:10:
 1. Lucifer's **pride** in his high position and beauty gave rise to an evil intention, which **became** the satanic will—Ezek. 28:12-19; Isa. 14:12-15.
 2. Before the archangel of God rose up to contradict the divine will, there was no war in the universe; the **rebellion** of Lucifer was the beginning of all the fighting that is now taking place among nations, in society, in the family, and within individuals—cf. Rev. 12:3-11; Gal. 5:17.
- C. God wants His creature *man* to deal with His fallen creature *Satan*; for this, the human will must stand with the divine will—Gen. 1:26; Matt. 26:39; 12:30; 7:21.
- D. As the church, our **fighting** is to subdue the satanic will and defeat God's enemy—Eph. 6:11-13.

The way for us to deal with God's enemy relates to **our will**; if we choose the **divine will**, Satan suffers loss, but if we take sides with the **satanic will**, Satan's will would be carried out temporarily. This is what happened throughout history: Satan enticed, deceived, and cheated many people into doing his will, and man's free will chose Satan's will over God's will.

IV. The purpose of spiritual warfare is to bring in the kingdom of God—Rev. 11:15; 12:10:

- A. Spiritual warfare is the warfare between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan—Matt. 12:26, 28.
- B. The kingdom of God will not come automatically; in order for the kingdom of God to come, there is the need of spiritual fighting—vv. 22-29.
- C. The **responsibility** of the church is to **continue** the warfare that Christ fought on the earth; the church must **continue** the victorious work that Christ has carried out against Satan—Heb. 2:14; 1 John 3:8b; Col. 2:15; Ps. 149:5-9.
- D. The kingdom of God is the exercise of the divine will and the overthrowing of the power of Satan by the power of God—Matt. 6:10.

E. Wherever the devil has been cast out and wherever the work of the enemy has been displaced by God's power, the kingdom of God is there—12:28.

What God desires is to bring in His kingdom on earth and manifest His glory on earth even as in heaven. He wants to gain a beachhead for His kingdom in the church so that He may establish a model of God's reign, and then expand His reigning sphere according to this model and through this model...Therefore, we as the **church** need to let Christ rule and reign in us and among us, and we need to cooperate with Him to **expand His kingdom**. it is through the church that God will bind Satan and destroy his power.

V. "Your people will offer themselves willingly / In the day of Your warfare, / In the splendor of their consecration"—Psa. 110:3a:

- A. In a spiritual sense, we are now in the day of Christ's warfare, and for this we need to be a **voluntary offering, a freewill offering**—Lev. 22:18; Deut. 12:6.
- B. In order to engage in spiritual warfare to **defeat** God's enemy and bring in the kingdom of God, we need an **absolute** and **thorough consecration** to the Lord; in the eyes of God, such a consecration is a matter of splendor—Psa. 110:3a.

In order to engage in spiritual warfare to defeat God's enemy and bring in the kingdom of God, we need an **absolute and thorough consecration** to the Lord; in the eyes of God, such a consecration is a matter of splendor. We may be very young, but we can consider offering our whole life to the Lord – everything, including our future, our life, our whole being, our possessions, our relationships, our plans, our hopes, our dreams, and everything about us. We want to offer ourselves willingly to the Lord to live a life for the fulfillment of His purpose, we want to participate in the new man as the corporate expression of the Triune God, and we want to participate as part of **the new man to do the work of God**.