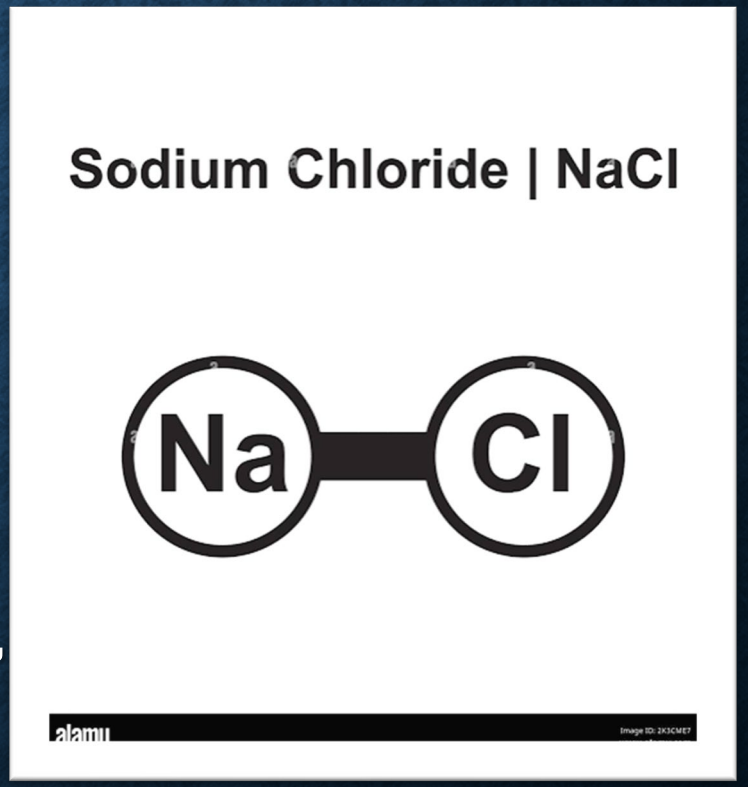
THE BATTLE

Part 2

The schemes of the enemy

RECAP

- We were created to be in communion with God and His people.
  - “They will know that you are my disciples by your love for one another”. (John13:35)
  - Salt (Essential Mineral) = Sodium(reactive metal) +Chorine (poisonous gas)
- Sin and the devil aim to come against this communion, desiring to see the creation separate from its creator by sowing division via corruption, lies, accusations, persecutions and traps.



THE CURSE OF SIN

- Our birth is into sin.
  - Born selfish and destined for destruction.
- The world is broken.
  - Storms, disease, and natural disasters.

ROMANS 1:28-32

- 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. 29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

SCHEMES OF THE ENEMY

- Satan has no power to create, he is not omnipresent, not all knowing and he lacks the ability to see the future.
- Satan knows the word of God, he learns our weaknesses through observation and practice at working for generations to deceive us. He is an expert in taunting, deceiving and lying.
- Satan is an opportunist, not a tactical genius.
- The bible depicts him as a snake, disguising himself even as an angel of light. (Termites)

THE BATTLEGROUND OF THE MIND/HEART (THOUGHTS, MOTIVES, EMOTIONS)

Unforgiveness
Bitterness
Envy
Pride
Speculation
Fear
Worry
Doubt
Lust

Condemnation
Confusion
Hopelessness
Passiveness
Love of Money
Greed
Selfishness
Procrastination
Depression
Disappointment
Shame

SCHEMES OF THE ENEMY

- Through other people (how about media?)
  - Jesus betrayed by Judas and the other disciples
  - Peter speaks for Satan and Jesus rebukes him
  - Paul abandoned by Demas as he "fell in love with this present world"

SCHEMES OF ENEMY

- Life circumstances that may make us susceptible to attack:
  - Times of change or transition
  - Marriage struggle
  - Death of a loved one
  - Loss of a job
  - Unwell children
  - Great success
  - Life resolution
  - Betrayal of family or friend
  - Exhaustion

EXAMPLES OF ATTACK THAT DOES NOT END IN DEFEAT

- Circumstances
  - Jesus tempted after 40 days fasting alone.
  - Jesus prays so hard he weeps tears contemplating his impending suffering.
  - Stephen prays as it rains baseball sized rocks.
  - Paul cast evil spirit out of slave girl ends up beaten and chained in prison

THE BATTLE

- We want to be in the battle, the only other option is surrender.
- Are we aware of the battle and where the enemy is attempting to create strongholds in our lives?

Ephesians 4:23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil.