The Schemes of Satan — Delivery Transcript

Ephesians 6:10–20 (ESV) · Wes Terry · Sunday, October 25, 2020 · *Winning The Invisible War*

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Alright, if you would take your Bible and open it up to the book of Ephesians, we're in Ephesians chapter 6, starting in verse 10, as we wrap up this journey through the book of Ephesians. We're now in the last section. And it's a section on spiritual warfare. So the name of our series is Winning the Invisible War. And I want to try to situate this section in the larger context of Ephesians. If you think of it kind of like building a house, in chapters 1 and 2, Paul lays the foundation, the gospel foundation of what it means to live in a world of disorder and sin, but that in God's great love for us he sent Christ and He paid the penalty for our sin, and that through repentance and faith we can be saved by God's grace unto good works.

And he develops that even more so in chapter 3, closing with this prayer that we as believers come to a deep knowledge of God's love for us, just how big and wide and tall and long. And then he shifts in chapter 4 and starts saying, if this is true of you in Christ, if that foundation has been laid, this is what the house ought to look like. This is the practical implications of how you ought to live. And he starts developing very concrete practical ways of what the Christian life looks like.

And that's really what we've spent our time on in these past few series since the pandemic has hit, because we wanted to know how are we to look different in our culture, especially given the climate that we live in today. But Paul doesn't stop there. He gets to chapter 6, verse 10, after talking about practical things of marriage and parenting and the workplace and your lifestyle. And he says, finally, there's one more thing you need to know, and that is that you are in a war. That these evil days that you have, these bad days that turn into bad weeks, and then like 2020 turns into an extremely bad year, that those aren't just caused by purely material causes, but that there is something supernatural underneath the surface.

And if you don't know that, then you won't be effective in living the Christian life. It would be like having a set of blueprints and having all the materials that you needed to build the house. And then you go to the place where the house is going to be built, but the person who sent you never told you, oh, by the way, it's in a geographical location where there's this violent warfare going on. You'd be upset with that person, because if you knew there was war going on in the place that you were trying to live and build, then you would build differently.

And that's the case that we're looking at in the book of Ephesians. For the Apostle Paul, it doesn't matter if you know everything you're supposed to know. It doesn't matter if you have everything that you're supposed to have. You will not be effective in living the Christian life unless you realize that the Christian life is war, that you battle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers of this present darkness. And so he tells them, not only is this war going on for your life, but here's a way that you can fight the war that you're in and not only fight, but fight to win.

And that's what this series has been about. So if you will join me in Ephesians 6 verse 10, we're going to read the first three verses of this section and we're going to focus in on one particular line as we continue this series. He says in verse 10, finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

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 firm. Now last week, if you were with us, we gave an overview of this entire passage, but what I want to do this week is to hone in on one particular line in that section that we just read, and that is this phrase that we're standing against the schemes of the devil. So today we're going to spend most of our time on trying to understand what exactly does it mean that we're standing against the schemes of the devil.

And the reason I wanted to dedicate a whole message to this is because by and large in the Christian culture and just in our culture in general, in America, in the West, because we've inherited things like the Enlightenment and Darwinian evolution and things like that. We are pretty materialistic and naturalistic in our thinking. Even as Christian people, we've been shaped by those cultural influences in large measure because of exactly what Paul is talking about today. There is a gap, I really believe, between people's experience of evil, the visibility of evil in our culture, and the resources that people have to understand that evil and to deal with it.

I'm a big fan of apocalyptic movies and the post-apocalyptic genre of cinema, so things like the Walking Dead or movies with Satan and demons. I'm into that stuff and I remember watching just recently a series on Hulu. I think the name of the series was Helstrom. But it's

basically about Satan and demons and the main characters in this story, their father was possessed by a demon and so they had these powers, these powers they didn't really understand that came from this demonic realm, and the mother had been possessed for a very long time.

And it's an interesting movie, but what I found fascinating is that because this is Western culture, and it certainly wasn't a Christian genre of literature, their understanding of the demonic realm was purely materialistic. The demonic wasn't Satan and demons as understood from scripture from a theistic worldview. They had the church and they had priests and nuns and stuff like that, but they were almost like these fuddy-duddies that had no real resources to deal with the demonic power because it was a purely material force from another universe that preyed on human misery and things like that.

And it boiled it down into purely material causes. And the basic theory behind the film was that if you have the proper environment, a good mom and a good dad and a loving environment, then you can basically keep yourself from experiencing these kinds of things in your life. And the answer to that is that's just simply not true. That your environment certainly matters, but that there is something underneath the surface beyond that transcends the material naturalistic realm. It's something supernatural. And certain evils, if you think about it, there are certain evils in our culture that simply cannot be explained through purely natural causes.

There has to be something supernatural underneath the surface. And you don't have to think very long or hard. I mean, not within my lifetime, but, well, some of these certainly within my lifetime, but some of the biggest things that people point to are the Holocaust and World War II and how could not only Hitler come to power and do some of the things that he did and wiping out a whole race of human beings just because of their nationality, but how did the German people put up with it and allow somebody like that to come to power and maybe they individually didn't participate in the killing of the Jews, but they sat by and they allowed it to happen.

How does that happen in a culture? Or in the American experience, how people could not only possess slaves and dehumanize people just because of the color of their skin, but that even if they didn't possess slaves, they kind of sat idly by and winked and nodded and even the church, even in our own denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention, there were arguments made trying to apologize for slavery and even using scriptures to justify why it was somehow okay. How can that happen in the church in a quote-unquote Christian nation founded on biblical principles, if there's not something supernatural underneath the surface that has created this mass blindness and this mass delusion that creates that kind of atmosphere?

There has to be something supernatural at work. Or even in our culture right now, I think about things like abortion, which I think we'll come twenty, thirty years from now and look back on this issue with the same kind of disdain that we look at slavery because it's the same principles at play. We've devalued the image of God in a human being simply because of their stage of development or because they're not seen in the same way that other people are seen. And it's one thing if you are a woman who's had an abortion because you've bought into the lies that have been perpetrated in our culture that it's just a fetus and it's not a human being.

But how do you explain the doctors and how do you explain this cultural milieu where it's somehow acceptable that there is this literal genocide happening right in front of us. There's got to be something supernatural, a supernatural evil underneath the surface that has infected ideologies and systems and cultural institutions that has got us to where we are. And it feels like even if you try and fight against it, it's a lost cause. Certain evils just cannot be explained without some kind of supernatural element. And that's what Paul is trying to show these Christians there in Ephesus.

It doesn't matter if you know how to live the Christian life. If you don't live the Christian life as if you're in a war, you're going to lose. And the thing that we're fighting against isn't Satan in particular. It's not as if we go head to head with this individual named the devil. But Ephesians 6:11[1] says that we stand against Satan's schemes. There's another place in 2 Corinthians where Paul mentions the same kind of idea. The church had practiced church discipline on this individual who was sleeping with his mother-in-law.[2] And that's frowned upon in the church.

You can get kicked out of the church for that kind of thing. But even though they had kicked him out of the church and he had repented of his sin, they were refusing to let him back in. So Satan had taken what was a good thing that the church did, trying to protect the purity of the church, and then had created a resentful, unforgiving, non-gracious spirit within the church, and Paul writes to them and says, you've got to let this brother back in. You've got to forgive him. You've got to restore him.

He says in verses 10 and 11, anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ. Look at this, so that you would not be outwitted by Satan. In other words, Satan's in the church trying to convince church people to think certain ways and do certain things, and we need to remember that so that we are not ignorant of his designs. And so we're not fighting against Satan in particular. We're fighting against his designs, his schemes.

It comes from a Greek word where we get our word methods. You can think of them as strategies. The devil has strategies that he implements at a macro scale and a micro scale in everything that he does in this world. His MO, his strategy is to tear apart what God wants to

keep together. He wants to tear apart what God wants to keep together. You could say he wants to disintegrate everything that God wants to integrate. So the gospel wants to unite all peoples and nations and races. You see this in Acts chapter 13 where there is this beautiful picture of a multicultural denomination and congregation, and Satan wants to rip apart that kind of unity.

He wants to take the unity of the church and rip it apart through gossip and dissension. He wants to take the unity of your family and rip it apart through lies and deception and sin against other people. He can do this because of your personal sin against others. He can do this because people have sinned against you and you get angry about it and bitter and unforgiving, and that's one of the schemes that the devil uses to rip apart what God wants to keep together. And so Paul tells them be on guard.

You need to know this. And he says that this satanic attack, this spiritual warfare, plays itself out at two different levels. In your notes, I say the schemes of Satan work in our world at a macro level. But they also work at a micro level. They work in the visible realm and they also work in the invisible realm. And you can see this if you read that little part that talks about rulers and authorities. But then he shifts to cosmic powers over the present darkness and spiritual forces of evil. So it raises the question, usually when the Bible talks about rulers and authorities, it's talking about actual rulers like Caesar Augustus or the President of the United States.

And people say, well, are you saying that Satan can actually infect or possess cultural institutions and literal people. And I think that the answer is yes. Now he doesn't only do that, but he does that as well as the invisible realm. One of the reasons I say this is because there's an interesting passage in Daniel chapter 10, where Daniel is in the lions' den, or actually he's about to be thrown in the lions' den,[3] and he's praying, and an angel comes to Daniel and basically encourages him, but the angel says the reason that I wasn't able to come to you as fast as I was able to come to you is because the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days.

But Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the king of Persia. He says a little bit later, I believe it's verse 20, that as soon as he was done with Daniel, he was going to go back and fight against the king of Persia. That's a literal physical king. And so there is a sense in which Satan oversees this physical realm and can integrate himself or at minimum he integrates his schemes of tearing apart what God wants to put together, he integrates himself into the actual physical cultural institutions of our day.

Another example of this is when Jesus is in the desert, he's being tempted, and Satan says, if you will but bow to me and worship me, then I will give you all the kingdoms of the world. The Bible calls Satan the prince of the power of the air. He is the god of this world. And this world is his world. And that's why John says, don't love the world or the things that are in

the world because anyone who has a love of the world can't have a love of the Father that is within him.

So you just need to know that the world in which we live, it's not our world, it's not our home. We can try and reverse the curse and try to reclaim certain grounds and territories for the kingdom of God and the glory of God, and ultimately the Lord will come and he will reclaim the whole earth. But until that day comes, we fight against rulers and authorities that are under the sway of the schemes of the devil. I mentioned last week that in warfare you have different theaters of war. You have the air war with the Air Force, you have the ground war with the army, you have the water Force with the Marines and the Coast Guard and the same is true spiritually.

You have physical, cultural institutions. You think about our political parties. Something Pastor David said this last week in a video he put out, he said, you got to be careful that you don't claim any one political party as a Christian political party. Because they've both got ways in which they've been compromised by the schemes of the devil. And we could spend all morning articulating the various different ways that's true, but you just need to know he's infected those types of mediums. He's infected the arts. He's infected entertainment. He's infected the news media, whether it's news on the television or news in your newspaper.

He's in those planes. He has ground forces that are advancing his schemes at those different levels. And one of the newer ones that I think that sometimes we don't think about is social media. That social media can be a wonderful thing used for the glory of God to advance God's purposes and it has in large measure. But the verdict is not out yet on what exactly social media is doing to our brains. I watched a documentary the other day about how the profit incentives of these social media companies cause them to basically manipulate us in such a way that we spend all of our time on those mediums and that it feeds our anger, feeds our rage, feeds the thing that's going to keep us engaged and because that's the profit incentive, it just takes us deeper and deeper into the rabbit hole.

And do not fool yourself that that medium is not somehow being used by Satan and demons to advance his schemes of tearing apart what God wants to keep together. I've certainly seen it tear things apart in the local church. I've lost friends over a post on social media or views that you may have that get articulated on social media and get misrepresented or misunderstood. Same is true with text messaging. All I'm saying is it's at work at a macro level and a micro level. It's coming from the front, from the back, from the left, from the right, and do not be deceived.

He's at work in the world in all of these different ways, even at work in the church. And so we have got to be on guard. It's at work at a micro level and a macro level. The last thing I want to mention about this is that the schemes of Satan work because Satan is like a master strategist. He's a master strategist, and what he does is he takes notes of what does and

doesn't work and then he invests the greatest amount of energy in the most effective lines of attack.

He knows you. He knows me. If you were to think of Satan as a general in an army and you were to sneak into his office, you might find a file cabinet in that office with a file folder that had your name on it. And in that file folder he would have descriptions of your strengths and your weaknesses and the various different lines of attack that he had used in the past, which ones were effective, which ones were not effective. And then maybe plans for the future of how to attack you in such a way where you'll be the most compromised and it'll produce the most devastation.

I think of books like The Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis. Kind of weird, eerie book to read, but it really gives you insight into how the devil works. He might have a file on you that says the subject is prone to discouragement, especially when they're physically or emotionally tired. So keep him super busy. Keep him overcommitted even if it's overcommitted volunteering in the church. If you can keep him physically tired, then you'll keep him emotionally and spiritually discouraged. He's got a temper, he's one to hold a grudge, so put him in situations where a loudmouth type A bully type of person is going to offend him and then he'll hold the grudge forever.

You just need to know that. If Satan had a file on you, let's say that he did. Then what would your file read? Given who you are, your personality, your quirks, your background history. He knows exactly how to get you. And he strikes at the most opportune moment with the perfect weapons at the perfect time to produce the greatest amount of devastation. And Paul's saying, wake up, you need to know it. There are no neutral moments. There are no neutral locations. You are at war; therefore you need to live differently.

Satan has methods, he has schemes and strategies, and they're good ones because he knows what he's doing. Now, what I want to do with the rest of our time is try to list out some various different ways that our enemy does this. And last week we looked at Paul's discussion about the armor of God and what the armor of God is. And so what I want to try to do is to take the reverse of the armor of God to try to show you the schemes of the devil. Because if God would say to us, you need to have these defensive weapons available or you need to have these defensive tools available to you, it would make sense that those are our defensive tools because it's the offensive strategy of the devil to use them.

And so if you go through the armor of God, you see things like the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shoes shod with the gospel of peace, the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation. And so what I want to put in place of those things, if you look at your notes, the first thing he uses is lies and deception. He uses temptation to sin. That's why we need the breastplate of righteousness. Because he uses temptation to sin. He uses

discouragement and opposition, which is why we need shoes prepared with the gospel of peace.

He uses doubt and whispers lines of unbelief when we need our shield of faith. And then he uses condemnation and shame, which is why we need the helmet of salvation. Now we don't have a lot of time to go through each and every one of these, but let's take the first one as an example. He uses lies and deception, which is why we need the belt of truth. Satan's first appearance in the Garden of Eden is an appearance with a lie. He comes to Adam and Eve, and he doesn't outright lie necessarily.

What he does is he deceives. He twists the truth just a little bit. And he says to them, did God really say that you cannot eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and that you couldn't even touch it? Now God never said you couldn't even touch it. He added to the word of God.[4] And then he made an outright lie after that. He said, God knows that if you eat of this tree, then you will become like him. That was an outright lie. And then he says, you'll have knowledge of good and evil.

Well, they were going to have knowledge of good and evil because they were going to sin against God, but they weren't going to become like God when they did that. They were actually going to become like Satan, knowing that they had sinned, therefore knowing evil. And he misleads them and they sin because of the lie. This is Satan's most effective strategy in spiritual warfare. The Lord Jesus says of Satan that he's the father of lies. It's what he does best. And in your notes, I point out that I think the two most powerful lies that the devil uses in our life are lies about God and lies about mankind, lies about people.

And you see this in the Garden of Eden, Genesis chapter 3. He'll try to convince you God's not holy. He's not worthy of worship. He does not exist. He cannot be trusted. He's not very good. He's not very wise. He will try to lie about people, that people are not sinful, or people are not as sinful as the Bible says that they are, or that you're not as sinful as the Bible says that you are. He will try and get us to devalue the image of God in people. So not only are people sinful, but the Bible also says that we are valuable because we are created in God's image.

We possess inherent value and worth because of that fact. And if you think about it, some of the most horrendous evils in our culture, in our past and in our present and will be in our future, are because of those two lies. Particularly the image of God. This is at the root of why things like racism exist. People devalue other human beings created in the image of God because they don't find the value in the fact that they are created in God's image, but they find value in the fact that, well, I'm white and they're not.

Or I'm this color and they're not that color. Because people of this color have these kinds of attributes and characteristics and those are somehow superior than these other

characteristics that are possessed by these other cultures. At the root of racism is a failure to acknowledge the inherent value of human beings because they're created in God's image. This issue is what is behind certain political discussions around abortion and immigration, justice issues about police brutality. And think about the George Floyd issue, the Ahmaud Arbery issue. Even if those were not necessarily about race, that's debatable, the fact that certain people aren't deserving of certain kinds of treatment.

Because of their position or because they're not necessarily the ones that are in authority. That stems from a lie from the enemy that devalues the image of God in them. And we could go on and on. You look at World War II, you look at Hitler. There are lies that are at work in our culture that blind us to the reality about Satan's schemes. It's in our politics, it's in the church. I can think of friendships that I've had in the church that have been lost, not because of something that I said in particular, but because of what someone took from what I said.

And I remember there was one time where we were really having a spat and when the person and I finally got back together to kind of hash it out. He said, what really made me angry is because you said, and he listed what I said, and I thought to myself, I don't think I ever said that. And even if I did say that, I certainly did not mean by that what he received from it. And so if Satan can't lie to you outright, he'll twist the truth just enough to get you really worked up and upset.

The same is true about truths about God. If you're going to pursue knowledge of God, you're going to develop a theological education, you're going to pursue knowledge of God. If he can't get you to believe lies about the Lord, he'll at least twist it just a little bit so that it over accentuates or under accentuates the truth and he gets you messed up. And so we need to ask ourselves, is there any arena of my life where I have fallen prey to the lies of the devil? It's a good question to ask.

The other ones, we don't have time to go through them in detail, but when it comes to temptation to sin. The enemy knows the perfect recipe to get you to fall. He knows the perfect recipe. I joke with Audra. I say it's a joke; It's not really a joke. I'm most susceptible to sinning on Sunday nights. And I don't know why. Some of it is you go from a spiritual high to a kind of a spiritual low. I don't just preach on Sunday mornings. I'll do a whole afternoon of counseling.

And I'm so emotionally and spiritually depleted after that day that I'm most spiritually compromised. I'm most likely to do something stupid. And Satan knows that. And he knows that about you. When you're most physically tired, when you're most agitated, it's those people, it's those environments. And so what he'll do is when he's ready to strike, he will get you extra tired, extra weary, extra hungry, you're hangry, as they like to say. And he'll put those people in your life to do those kinds of things, and then boom, you're out. So you need to know that about the enemy.

His temptations are not, he's not going to tempt me with things that I don't struggle with. He's going to tempt me with the things that I do struggle with, the people that I do have frustrations with and so I've got to be on guard. This is why it's so important that every arena of your life is surrendered to the Lordship of Christ because whatever arena of your life is not submitted to the Lordship of Christ, that's the arena that your enemy is going to attack. The next one is discouragement, and in particular discouragement from sharing the gospel.

I put in your notes, anxiety and fear are the two things that keep us from advancing the good news of the kingdom. It's anxiety that keeps you from giving generously to things like the world missions offering or even to the church in general, which you give to the church to advance the mission. It's fear of rejection that keeps you from sharing the gospel with your mom or dad or grandma or grandpa or even your own children. It is anxiety that, what if I go on a mission trip or if I become a missionary, what if God sends me to, you know, Timbuktu, and my life's in danger?

It's anxiety and it's fear that keeps us from living on mission for the Lord. And we need to ask ourselves the question, is there any arena of my life where the schemes of the evil one are keeping me from advancing God's purposes? And then the last weapons Satan likes to use are doubt and condemnation. He uses doubt when we're struggling in our faith, and he uses condemnation and shame when we feel undeserving of God's grace. When you're in the valley low, when you're suffering, when you're in the hospital room, it is at those moments that you have those little whispers of, is God really good?

Can I really trust him? It's when you're hurting that the enemy comes to you and he shouts in your pains. The Lord shouts in your pains as well, but so also does the enemy. It's when you're really feeling undeserving of God's grace that the enemy will come and he will remind you, you are a sinner. You are unworthy. You are no good. You are a failure as a mom. You're a failure as a dad. Nobody could ever love you. You'll never get over this. You'll always be an addict. You'll always be a loser.

And the problem with that kind of message is some of it is true. If the gospel's true, we are far worse off than we could ever imagine. But what the devil likes to do is he likes to preach the first verse of the gospel and he never gets to the refrain. He never gets to the chorus, that God loves us so much more than we could ever imagine. Shane & Shane have a song I really like called “Embracing Accusation.” It says the devil's preaching over me, the song of the redeemed.

I'm cursed and gone astray. And you can get locked into that. And it's not just conviction and guilt that is a good thing from the Lord, but it's condemnation. It's shame and you need to be reminded, Romans 8:1, that there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. There have been many times when I'm about to get up to preach and I'm sitting on the front row feeling those feelings of condemnation and shame, and you got to preach

the gospel to yourself. Which leads me to the last thing I want to say when it comes to Satan's schemes.

If you think about the armor of God that Paul lists out, every single element of the armor is really another way of saying the same basic truth. And that same basic truth is believe the gospel. If you think about it this way, Paul is saying you need to put the gospel on your head with the helmet of salvation, you need to put the gospel on your feet, shod with the gospel of peace; you need to put the gospel on your chest with the breastplate of righteousness, you need to put the gospel on your waist, tying everything together with the belt of truth.

You need to put the gospel on your hands with the shield of faith; you need to put the gospel in your other hand with the sword of the Spirit. Believe the gospel. And so in your notes, the best way to stand against the schemes of the devil is to be strong in the Lord, to be strong in the truth of his gospel. And that's what Paul says. You know, notice in this text, Paul never says battle against the devil. He never says that. He says stand against the schemes. He says, be strong in the Lord.

That's the weapon. So this idea of people going out and being demon hunters and you got a problem in your marriage and so you get the holy water out and you start, you know, sprinkling holy water on your spouse thinking it'll fix them. That's silly. You don't come and say, I cast out in the name of Jesus this, that, or the other thing. You know, I just don't know how much of that I necessarily buy, but what I do buy is that there is power in the gospel, it is the power of God unto salvation.

So if you want healing in your marriage, if you want to resist the devil and the schemes of the devil in your marriage and in your family, then ground your family in the truth of the gospel. That's why Paul, when he talks about marriage, says it's just like the gospel. This mystery is profound, and I'm saying that it refers to Christ and the church. So to the degree that you'll ground your life in the truth that I'm far worse off than I could have ever imagined, but I'm far more loved in Christ than I could have ever dared hope.

That God is holy, I'm sinful, Christ loved me and paid for my sin, and I need to receive him, not just receive him for salvation, but receive him and submit to him and his plan in all of my ways, then you will experience freedom from demonic oppression. Now I don't really buy the fact that a Christian can be possessed by a demon, but I do believe that whatever arena of your life that is not surrendered to the lordship of Christ, that's the arena where you're going to experience demonic oppression. So if you're not honoring God in your sexuality, that's where you're going to experience attack.

If you're not honoring God with your finances, that's where you're going to experience attack. If there's issues with your sexuality, that's where you're going to experience demonic attack. Any arena of your life that isn't surrendered to the Lord, it's not being made strong in

the Lord, those are the arenas you need to be careful. And if you could open your eyes and see the spiritual battle that's raging all around you and the schemes of the devil that are at work to undermine and jeopardize your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ you would not nearly be as flippant and careless as you may be when it comes to the sin in your life.

It wouldn't be a casual thing to sin against the Lord and to harbor secret sin like anger, bitterness or unforgiveness, if you knew what that was doing in your soul and you knew how it was being used by your enemy to destroy your faith, then you would be quick to repent, which is why the Lord says repent and believe. And so this morning as we close, I want to just challenge you to think about those arenas. Am I buying the devil's lies? Am I falling prey to temptation? Are there arenas of my life where I'm not surrendered to the lordship of Christ?

And to repent and to be strong in the Lord Jesus Christ. And as we respond as Taylor leads us in this song, if there's a way that we can pray for you or help strengthen you in the truth of the gospel in certain arenas of your life, if you want to get some help, then reach out to us and let us know. If you're watching this and you're not a Christian and you want to have a discussion about what it means to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, then reach out to us.

Text us at our church phone number, 325-692-2360. You can comment on our Facebook, you can direct message us, do whatever you need to do to reach out. But stand strong in the Lord Jesus Christ, resist the schemes of the devil, and start to put yourself in a position where you're not losing the invisible war, but you instead are fighting to win. Let's pray together. Father, we thank you for this time and this passage and this just simple phrase that we stand against the schemes of the devil. And we don't want to be hocus pocus or try to find the devil under every rock, but we also don't want to be ignorant of his schemes.

We don't want to be unaware of what he's doing in our culture, in our church, and in our lives personally. And so we're asking for your wisdom. Give us eyes to see what it is that we're not able to see. Help us to walk in light of your truth and to have the courage to resist the lies, to resist the temptation, to resist the devil. Even as we remind ourselves, you've promised if we'll resist him, then he'll flee from us. And that there is no temptation given to us that is so strong that we cannot find a way of escape.

And so help us to see that way and to be strong in the Lord. And we pray it in Jesus' name. Amen.

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1. Transcript note: spoken as "Ephesians 10"; the line about standing against the schemes of the devil is Ephesians 6:11. Source: Ephesians 6:11 (ESV). ↩

2. Transcript note: spoken as "his mother-in-law"; the sin Paul addressed was that "a man has his father's wife." Source: 1 Corinthians 5:1 (ESV). ↩
3. Transcript note: spoken as Daniel 10 taking place in the lions' den; the lions' den is Daniel 6, while Daniel 10 has Daniel mourning and fasting by the Tigris in the third year of Cyrus. Source: Daniel 6:16–23; 10:1–4 (ESV). ↩
4. Transcript note: spoken as the serpent adding "touch it" to God's word; the serpent asked, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?", and it was the woman who answered, "neither shall you touch it." Source: Genesis 2:16–17; 3:1–3 (ESV). ↩