

We Are At War (part 2)

Ephesians 6:10-20

Intro: In the months after September 11th military recruitment numbers were at their highest since the draft ended in 1973. 20 years later and they are at some of their lowest numbers ever. What changed? In the days after September 11th we were united as a nation against a common enemy with a common purpose, a unity which is no longer present (to say the least). In a similar fashion, the American church has become increasingly divided through the years as it has become less and less united in its fight against a common enemy with a common purpose.

I. A Biblical understanding of our own selves- (v. 10)

A. Our position- the reason for hope

1. What it was
 - a) In relation to the world/Satan

b) In relation to God

2. What it is

a) In relation to the world/Satan

b) In relation to God

* How was this change possible? - Ephesians 2:5-10

The preaching of the _____

The work of the _____

The belief of the _____

B. Our practice- the need for help

1. The demands of our _____ - Ephesians 4:1

2. The strength of our _____ - Ephesians 6:12

3. The reality of our _____ - Rom. 7:14-24; I John 1:7

II. A Biblical understanding of our Commander-in-Chief (v. 10-11)

- A. His _____ - Job 2
- B. His _____ - Luke 4
- C. His _____ - Ephesians 6
- D. His _____ - Revelation 19-20

Conclusion: While we are and ever will be in a constant state of spiritual battle in this world, we can fight that fight with great hope for we know the outcome. Victory in the war is guaranteed (Revelation 19:7-20:10) and victory in the individual battles is possible (1 John 5:4). Lord, help us to stand firm in the faith and fight the good fight through the strength which the Lord alone can provide.

Questions for discussion/application:

- Why is an understanding of our position in Christ vital to our confidence in the daily battles of the Christian life?
- How does an understanding of who we were before Christ help us have greater compassion for men and women who are as we were and help us focus on our true enemy, Satan?
- What three realities related to the living of the Christian life remind us that we cannot fight the war against Satan in our own power?
- How does a Biblical understanding of our “Commander-in-Chief” give us confidence and hope in the battle against Satan?