

STANDING FOR TRUTH

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JoLynn Gower

493-6151

jgower@guardingthetruth.org

LESSON TEN

VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **2 Corinthians 6:4-8**...but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, in the **word of truth**, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; *regarded* as deceivers and yet true;
- Truth: *aletheia*: certain beyond any doubt

HOW THE CHURCH FUNCTIONS

EVIL DOESN'T STOP

- Keys to surviving persecution and trials: perseverance and faith
- **Acts 17:5-9**...the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people. When they did not find them, they *began* dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have upset the world have come here also; and Jason has welcomed them, and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." They stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things. And when they had received a pledge from Jason and the others, they released them.

WHAT CAUSES DISSENSION?

- ❑ **James 4:1-3** What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; *so* you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; *so* you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.
- ❑ Are problems the result of lack of faith, or are they to be expected if you are a Christian?
- ❑ **John 16:33** "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."
- ❑ The world can't change your eternal destination, but it can attack you until you get there

BECAUSE OF SIN?

- ❑ Some problems are caused by sin; sin has consequences
- ❑ Sin causes separation from God which leads to all manner of other problems
- ❑ There is a remedy:

1 John 1:6-10 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS?

- ❑ Satan wants to keep the world in darkness; He will attack those who are shining light
- ❑ **Ephesians 6:11-12** Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.
- ❑ One of the signs of covenant was giving your robe, armor and weaponry to your covenant partner
- ❑ We are in covenant with Christ: we have his armor and weaponry but we must put it on and take it up
- ❑ **Romans 13:14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.

RECOGNIZING EVIL

- **Luke 6:22-23** "Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, **for the sake of the Son of Man**. Be glad in that day and leap *for joy*, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets.
- **1 John 4:1** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
- **2 Corinthians 11:13-15** For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness....

BLINDED MINDS

- **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- **Romans 8:5-8** For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- Not even able: *oude dounamai*: powerless

SATAN IS A LIAR

- **John 8:43-44** "Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word. You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
- He started by lying to Even in the Garden of Eden, telling her that God didn't want her to be like Him and that she wouldn't die
- He hasn't stopped lying yet
- **1 Peter 5:8** Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

KILL HIM TO STOP HIM

- **Revelation 20:10** And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- **Revelation 20:14-15** Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- One of the duties of a Kinsman Redeemer was to be the guiltless executioner of the murderer of his kinsmen
- Jesus paid the price to execute Satan, our murderer
- **John 8:44** "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning..."

THE OFFENSIVE WEAPON

- **Ephesians 6:14-17** Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH**, and **HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and having shod **YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION**, and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**.
- **Word: *rhema***: a spoken response – received from God
- Scripture memorization is key to being able to fight the battles we face; Jesus defeated Satan by using God's Word

OUR ACCUSER

- **Romans 8:32-34** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
- **Revelation 12:10-11** Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death."