

29 October 2017

The actions of a believer (Pt.3) Live in the knowledge we are at WAR.

This is our third study on this topic. We previously established that believers are to desire the company of their brethren, and forsake not the assembling together for worship. In this study we establish that believers live in the flesh whilst they war in a spiritual battle, where the enemy is unseen and seeks to destroy them.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. God's children live in the flesh whilst being a part of a spiritual battle.

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)" (2Cor 10:4, 5).

Those that sign up for the Army, Navy or Airforce do so in the knowledge that they will need training before setting foot on the battle field. Training generally includes 16 weeks for basic training (BT), plus additional training in the field of their choice, then 11 months if they decide to take on a leadership role. When a lost person receives, and believes the gospel of Christ crucified they continue to live in the flesh, but they are suddenly thrust into a battle that is spiritual, and they have no choice of being a part of the battle. They, like an Army cadet need knowledge, and that training should, early on include the fact that they are now in a spiritual battle.

2. The enemy in our battle is spiritual (therefore unseen).

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph.6: 12).

When a soldier goes to war he can see his enemy, but in the Christian's battle, his enemies are spiritual, they are principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, that control spiritual wickedness in high places. So his enemy is not of this world, and he cannot see him, and he blinds those that believe not (2Cor.4: 4).

3. Our adversary seeks whom he may destroy.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1Pet.5: 8).

Our enemy then is spiritual, unseen and now we learn that he walks about "seeking whom he may devour". So his intentions are no different to a physical enemy – destruction!

Applying the teaching to our life today.

A Presbyterian minister provided a teaching on the devil where he taught that Satan was a figurative word in the Bible rather than a real enemy of God's children.

Question to think about.

If a man gets accepted into the ministry training program to become a pastor of God's flock, and lives his life in the knowledge that there is **no** spiritual enemy of God's children, and therefore he is **not** in a war against that enemy, then what hope of learning that knowledge will believers have who sit under such a minister?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

NONE! The minister may be wearing the attire that outwardly identifies him as a minister of the cloth, a pastor of God's children, but he is a false teacher. More to the point, those who sit under such a minister are taught lies week after week, and are either deceived or not saved and have heaped "to themselves teachers, having itching ears. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2Tim.4: 3 & 4). When a believer forsakes the assembling together for worship, desires the company of the lost, they leave themselves open to **not** living in the knowledge that they are in a battle and their enemy is spiritual, and he seeks to destroy them.