



SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Weapons of Your Warfare: Pt. 2- Know your enemy (Pt. 1)

Pastor John Riggs

Summary:

This sermon explores the spiritual warfare Christians face, emphasizing that believers wrestle against demonic principalities and powers from a position of victory in Christ. The pastor teaches that while Satan and fallen angels are real enemies working against God's people, they have already been defeated and disarmed through Christ's work on the cross. Christians will one day judge these fallen angels and witness Satan's final destruction. The message stresses that although salvation is secure in Christ, the battle has real consequences for our sanctification and rewards in heaven. Believers must understand they fight from the high ground of Christ's victory, not from defeat, and must put on the full armor of God to stand against the enemy's schemes in these deceptive last days.

Video Breakdown:

- Chapter 1: The Manifold Wisdom of God and Our Position in Christ. 0:00 - 7:36
 - We learn that God's sovereign plan was established before the foundation of the world, and that we wrestle against spiritual forces from a position of victory in Christ, not defeat.
- Chapter 2: The Judgment Seat of Christ and Eternal Rewards. 7:36 - 17:15
 - We will stand before the Bema Seat judgment where our works will be tested by fire, and we will receive rewards for eternity, including the authority to judge angels.
- Chapter 3: The Battle Plan: Strength in the Lord and Spiritual Authority. 17:15 - 27:16
 - We must be strong in the Lord's strength and understand that Christ is seated far above all spiritual authorities, giving us power to stand against Satan's schemes.
- Chapter 4: The Identity and Fall of Satan. 27:16 - 48:07
 - We discover Satan's original identity as Lucifer, a beautiful guardian cherub who fell through pride, and learn that he disguises himself as an angel of light while working against God's people. Scripture References from the Sermon

Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. Ephesians 6:10-12 - "Finally, be strong in the Lord..." (main text)
2. 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 - Building on the foundation of Christ; works tested by fire
3. 1 Corinthians 6:2-3 - Saints will judge the world and angels
4. Revelation 2-3 - Letters to the seven churches of Asia Minor
5. Revelation 20:4 - Thrones and those given authority to judge
6. Isaiah 46 - God makes known the end from the beginning
7. Ephesians 1:3-14 - Redemption and God's eternal purpose
8. Ephesians 1:17-23 - Paul's prayer for wisdom, revelation, and understanding of God's power
9. Colossians 1:16 - All things created through Christ (thrones, dominions, rulers, authorities)
10. Ezekiel 28:11-17 - Description of the King of Tyre (Satan's fall)
11. Isaiah 14:12-14 - The fall of Lucifer
12. 2 Corinthians 11:14 - Satan disguises himself as an angel of light
13. Genesis 3 - The Garden of Eden (referenced in context)
14. Revelation 4 - Throne room scene with crowns
15. Daniel (general reference) - Daniel's prayer and the prince of Persia

Alluded to but Not Explicitly Cited:

16. Colossians 2:15 - Christ made a spectacle of principalities and powers, triumphing over them by the cross
17. Revelation 20:10 - Satan thrown into the lake of fire
18. Hebrews 9:27 - Appointed once to die and face judgment
19. Ephesians 2:10 - Created in Christ Jesus for good works
20. Luke 10:18 - "I saw Satan fall like lightning"
21. Revelation 20:11-15 - Great White Throne Judgment

Related Verses for Main Themes:

Spiritual Warfare:

- Ephesians 6:13-18 (full armor of God)
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (weapons of our warfare)
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- 1 Peter 5:8-9 (the devil prowls like a roaring lion)

Victory in Christ:

- Romans 8:37-39 (more than conquerors)
- 1 John 4:4 (greater is He who is in you)
- 1 Corinthians 15:57 (victory through our Lord Jesus Christ)

Key Points:

- Christians are in a real spiritual battle against principalities, powers, rulers, authorities, and cosmic forces of darkness, not against flesh and blood
- Jesus Christ has already defeated and disarmed Satan and his fallen angels through the cross
- Believers always wrestle from a position of victory in Christ, never from defeat
- Satan cannot steal salvation or take Christians to hell, but he can rob them of abundant life and heavenly rewards
- Christians will stand before the Bema Seat judgment where their works will be tested by fire for rewards
- Believers will judge the angels in the future
- God's manifold wisdom and sovereign plan was established before the foundation of the world
- Satan's final demise is already scheduled and certain - he will be thrown into the lake of fire
- The enemy's kingdom is highly organized but operates under a structure originally created by God
- Lucifer was a beautiful, anointed guardian cherub who fell because of pride and wanting to be like God
- Satan disguises himself as an angel of light and works through deception
- We live in the latter days characterized by rampant deception
- Christians must be strong in the Lord's strength and put on the full armor of God

NOTES:

Discussion Questions:

How does understanding that we wrestle from a position of victory rather than defeat change the way you approach spiritual battles in your daily life?

What does it mean practically that Satan can rob us of abundant life here and now even though he cannot steal our eternal salvation?

How does the concept of building with gold, silver, and precious stones versus wood, hay, and straw challenge you to evaluate what you are building upon the foundation of Christ?

In what ways does knowing that Christians will judge angels affect your perspective on the spiritual warfare happening around you right now?

How does recognizing that deception is the defining characteristic of our current age influence the way you consume information and discern truth?

What does it reveal about God's character that He not only saves us but also promises rewards for eternity based on how we live for Him?

How does understanding the organizational structure and authority levels within Satan's kingdom help you better comprehend the spiritual forces at work in world events and leadership?

Small Group Guide: Weapons of Our Warfare

Based on Ephesians 6:10-12

OPENING PRAYER

Begin by asking God to open your hearts and minds to understand the spiritual battle we're in and our position of victory in Christ.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

What comes to mind when you think of "spiritual warfare"? Has your understanding changed over time?

KEY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- **Ephesians 6:10-12** (Main passage)
- **1 Corinthians 3:11-15** (Building on the foundation)
- **Ephesians 1:17-23** (God's power at work in us)
- **Ezekiel 28:11-17** (Description of Satan's fall)

SERMON SUMMARY

This sermon emphasized that Christians are in a real spiritual battle against principalities, powers, and cosmic forces of darkness. However, we always wrestle from a position of **victory** because Christ has already defeated and disarmed Satan through the cross. While Satan cannot steal our salvation, he attempts to rob us of abundant life and heavenly rewards. Understanding our enemy and our position in Christ is crucial for effective spiritual warfare.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Understanding the Battle

1. **What does it mean that we "wrestle from a position of victory"?** How does this change your perspective on spiritual struggles you face?
2. The sermon stated that Satan is "defeated but still dangerous." How do you reconcile these two realities in your daily Christian walk?
3. **Read Ephesians 1:19-23.** What does it mean to be "strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might"? How is this different from relying on our own strength?

Eternal Consequences

4. **Discuss 1 Corinthians 3:11-15.** What is the difference between losing salvation and losing rewards? Why does this matter for how we live now?
5. The sermon mentioned that Satan "can't steal you from heaven, but he tries to inhibit you storing up treasures in heaven." What are some practical ways Satan might be doing this in your life right now?
6. How does knowing you will one day judge angels (1 Corinthians 6:2-3) affect how you view current spiritual battles?

Knowing Your Enemy

7. **Read Ezekiel 28:11-17 and Isaiah 14:12-14.** What surprised you about the description of Satan before his fall? Why is it important to understand who he really is rather than cultural caricatures?
8. The sermon emphasized that deception is "the ruling theme of our day." Where do you see deception most prevalent in our culture? In your own life?
9. **2 Corinthians 11:14** says Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. What are some modern examples of this? How can we discern truth from deception?

The Manifold Wisdom of God

10. What does it mean that God's "manifold wisdom" is being revealed through the church to principalities and powers? How does this elevate the importance of the local church?
11. **Read Ephesians 1:3-14** (mentioned as the pastor's favorite passage). What truths about God's eternal plan give you confidence in facing spiritual warfare?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ **We are in a real battle**, but Christ has already won the victory through His death and resurrection.
- ✓ **Satan is defeated and disarmed**, but still works to steal our abundant life and heavenly rewards.
- ✓ **We always wrestle from the high ground of victory** in Christ, never from a position of defeat.
- ✓ **Our enemy is highly organized** and works through deception, but God's wisdom exceeds all his schemes.
- ✓ **Believers will judge the angels** and reign with Christ—our future is secure and glorious.
- ✓ **Know your enemy**: Satan is not a cartoon character but a fallen cherub of great beauty and intelligence who rebelled against God.
- ✓ **Deception is the defining characteristic of our times**—we must be grounded in God's Word to discern truth.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one or more of the following to practice this week:

1. **Daily Declaration**: Each morning, read Ephesians 1:3-14 and declare your position in Christ before facing the day's battles.
2. **Treasure Inventory**: Evaluate your daily activities—are you building with "gold, silver, and precious stones" or "wood, hay, and straw"? Make one specific change to invest in eternal rewards.
3. **Deception Detector**: Identify one area where you may be believing a lie (about yourself, God, others, or circumstances). Replace it with biblical truth by memorizing a relevant Scripture.
4. **Armor Check**: Read Ephesians 6:10-18 and identify which piece of spiritual armor you most need to "put on" this week. How will you do that practically?

5. **Prayer Warrior:** Commit to praying for your church this week, recognizing that through the church, God's manifold wisdom is being displayed to spiritual powers.
6. **Know Your Enemy:** Study one of the passages about Satan (Ezekiel 28, Isaiah 14, Revelation 12) to better understand who you're fighting against and why he's already defeated.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Pray together as a group for:

- Eyes to see spiritual realities and not be deceived
- Strength to stand firm in Christ's victory, not our own power
- Wisdom to build with eternal materials, not temporal ones
- Protection from the schemes of the enemy
- Greater revelation of God's manifold wisdom
- Boldness to live as victorious believers
- Those who don't yet know Christ and are still under Satan's dominion

PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK

Next week's sermon will focus on "**Holding the High Ground.**"

Read ahead: Ephesians 6:10-18 and consider what it means to maintain your position of victory in Christ during spiritual battles.

CLOSING THOUGHT

"We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against rulers, against authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness. But we wrestle from the high ground—we are victorious in Christ Jesus. We are not defeated, and we never will be."

How will you live this week as someone who is already victorious?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Reread Revelation 2-3 (the letters to the seven churches) noting themes of endurance, conquering, and faithfulness
- Study the spiritual armor in Ephesians 6:14-18 in preparation for the upcoming message
- Consider reading a book on spiritual warfare from a biblical perspective

5-Day Devotional: Wrestling from Victory

Day 1: God's Perfect Plan from the Beginning

Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Devotional: Before the foundation of the world, God established His perfect plan for your redemption. You are not an afterthought or a backup plan—you were chosen, predestined, and sealed by the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of your inheritance. The manifold wisdom of God is so spectacular that even angels long to look into these mysteries. Today, let this truth settle deep in your heart: your salvation was secured before time began. Satan cannot steal what Christ has already won. Stand firm knowing that the God who makes known the end from the beginning has already written your victory. You are not fighting for victory; you are fighting from victory in Christ Jesus.

Day 2: Understanding Your True Enemy

Reading: Ephesians 6:10-12; 2 Corinthians 11:14

Devotional: Your struggle is not against people—coworkers, family members, or political leaders. Behind the scenes, a very real spiritual battle rages in the heavenly realms. Satan, once Lucifer, the anointed cherub who walked among the fiery stones before God's throne, fell through pride and now disguises himself as an angel of light. He operates through deception, schemes, and accusations. But here is the critical truth: he is a defeated enemy. Christ disarmed him at the cross and made a public spectacle of his defeat. When you face spiritual opposition today, remember you are not wrestling against flesh and blood. Put on God's armor, stand in His strength, and recognize the real enemy while extending grace to people.

Day 3: The Strength of His Might

Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Devotional: Paul prayed that believers would know the immeasurable greatness of God's power toward those who believe—the same power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion. This is not a distant, theoretical power. This is the strength available to you today. You cannot fight spiritual battles in your own strength, but you can be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Jesus sits enthroned above every principality and power you will ever face. When you feel weak, overwhelmed, or outmatched, remember whose strength you carry. Ask God for wisdom, revelation, and enlightened eyes to see the hope of your calling and the riches of His glorious inheritance in you.

Day 4: Building on the Foundation

Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

Devotional: Your salvation is secure—that foundation is Jesus Christ and cannot be shaken. But what are you building upon that foundation? Are you using gold, silver, and precious stones, or wood, hay, and straw? Satan cannot steal your eternal life, but he can rob you of abundant life now and rewards in eternity. Every choice, every act of obedience, every moment of faithfulness matters. One day you will stand before the judgment seat of Christ, and your works will be tested by fire. This is not about earning salvation—that is a gift—but about stewardship of the life you have been given. Live intentionally. Store up treasures in heaven. Build with materials that will survive the fire and bring glory to God.

Day 5: Judging Angels and Reigning with Christ

Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:2-3; Revelation 20:4-6

Devotional: This truth should transform how you view your current struggles: you will judge the angels. The very principalities and powers that have opposed you, tempted you, and sought to destroy your witness will one day stand before you as you sit on thrones with Christ. The demise of Satan and his fallen angels is already scheduled on God's eternal calendar. Their appointment is set, and they will not escape. You will witness their final judgment and reign with Christ for a thousand years. This is your future—not defeat, not barely surviving, but reigning in victory. When the day of evil comes, stand firm knowing that you wrestle from the high ground. Your enemy's fate is sealed; your victory is guaranteed in Christ Jesus.

NOTES:

Sermon Transcript:

right now that we're doing called Weapons of Our Warfare.

And last week, we spent just a little bit of our time, in fact, the majority of our time, unpacking what we learned when the Apostle Paul shared about the manifold wisdom of God and how through the church, the manifold wisdom of God is being revealed to the principalities and the powers.

In other words, that these angelic beings

who long to look into these things are absolutely just beyond the ability to not glorify God when they look at his manifold wisdom.

And what we did is we went all the way back and we learned that before the foundation of the world, our sovereign God is not on plan B or C. And that God is so sovereign and so incredible in his manifold wisdom that

The word manifold, they're simply meant like the spectrum of the colors.

Like you can take and mix colors and probably have an endless different amount of colors.

That's the wisdom of God.

That there is no limit to his wisdom.

And that God is operating his perfect plan that he set forth in his own mind from the foundation of the world, before the foundation of the world.

And that the angels themselves are watching these things happen.

And so we're learning about this warfare that we are in, but in order for us to understand what the apostle Paul is really teaching these believers in Ephesus and to us today, we went back and began to look through Ephesians because to understand what Paul's saying in chapter 6, we need to understand what Paul has already taught in chapters 1 through chapter 5.

And it's going to give us a much better understanding about what it means for us to be in this battle or this wrestling match that we are in.

So this morning, please follow along with me.

We're going to read just a few verses here, starting in verse 10.

And then we're going to get into this message this morning as we really build upon what we learned last week.

We are in a real battle.

But what we must understand is Jesus Christ has totally disarmed and defeated the Satan and the fallen angels that serve Satan and his kingdom.

He has already defeated him.

There is coming a day where we as Christians will witness this demise of Satan.

We will see this ourselves.

In fact, as we're going to learn here today, I don't know if you know this or not, but we are going to even judge the angels.

We are.

We are.

That's a mind bender.

I know that.

But we are.

And what I want for you to get from this is to begin to understand, as we mentioned and we've already learned, that yes, Christian, we are in a real war and a real battle.

And there are real ramifications of it.

But our enemy has already been defeated.

And he has been disarmed.

Disarmed.

And so what Satan can do in our life is limited, but also we can allow certain things to happen.

And so once we understand our position, we always wrestle against the enemy now, Christian, from a position of victory.

Always, why?

Because we are in Christ, victorious.

We are always wrestling against
against the enemy who Christ has disarmed.

We are wrestling against this principality and power and all these things, but we always wrestle from a position of victory.

We have two more messages in this series.

Next week, we'll be talking about holding the high ground.

And then the next week after that, we'll be talking about the armor and the sword.

And what this really means.

It's incredible.

I'm so excited to share this with you.

Here we go.

Starting in verse 10.

In chapter 6.

Follow along with me.

And you can take notes.

Write these things down.

I know this will be a huge blessing to you.

Paul says, wrapping up this letter.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

That's trickery.

That's deceitfulness.

That's what he does.

They're schemes that we will stand against as he brings them to us.

And these schemes are of the devil, in verse 12, for we do not wrestle against flesh and blood.

We don't wrestle against humans, flesh and blood.

We're not really wrestling against them.

We're wrestling what's behind them and what is running all of these things that are against the things of God.

But we are wrestling against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, and also against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places.

And so here the Apostle Paul makes it very, very clear that these Christians in Ephesus are truly in a real struggle, in a real battle, and we are in a wrestling match, if you will, against the principalities and the powers and the authorities and the cosmic powers over this dark age.

We are engaged in this battle.

But the Apostle Paul makes it very, very clear as you read Ephesians 1 all the way here now to Ephesians chapter 6 that we are wrestling from a position of victory.

Now having said that and having learned that together as Christians, we have a great responsibility in this wrestling.

In other words, it's not just as if we can just say, well, none of this matters because Jesus Christ has already won the battle.

That is true.

He has won the victory.

In other words, Satan no longer can accuse you and I of sin.

He cannot do that because Christ died for and atoned for our sin.

So we have been set free not only from the penalty of sin, which he could use against us, we're also set free from the power of sin.

That's what Christ has done for us in salvation.

Now, this is very important, Christian, that you understand this.

Number one, our salvation is secure in Christ Jesus.

That has already been done away and dealt with.

When Jesus said it is finished, it was finished because his work of atonement had accomplished that which God set forth for it to do before the foundation of the world.

It accomplished it all.

But our sanctification and the process of growing to being more like Christ, that is a process we'll be in until we die.

This battle has real life consequences, Christian.

I want you to understand this.

This is why we must understand the battle we're in because it has real life ramifications.

Real life ramifications and consequences.

Satan can't steal you from heaven because that's already been secured in Christ.

In fact, the Holy Spirit was given to you, Paul says, in Ephesians chapter 1, as a deposit that guarantees your inheritance in Christ Jesus.

That's already been dealt with.

Now, he can't steal you from heaven, but he tries to inhibit you storing up treasures in heaven.

He already knows what is coming.

He knows this.

The death blow was dealt to him on the cross of Calvary.

The death blow was.

And when he thought he had really won the victory here and kept God from being able to do what he had wholly planned for redemption, in the end, Christ what?

Made a spectacle of him and triumphed over him, it says in Colossians, by the cross.

That's what he did.

Satan cannot rob you of eternal life, but he can rob you of abundant life here and now.

There's a difference.

Satan can't take the Christian to hell with him.

That's where he's going, the lake of fire, ultimately, as we'll see in Revelation 20.

But what he wants you to do is to smell like you've been there on the day that your work is tested.

Listen to what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3, 11-15.

Write this down or turn there with me in your Bibles.

And this is what Paul is sharing here.

Speaking about building upon the foundation who is Christ Jesus.

He is the foundation, but we are building upon the foundation.

We aren't saved by works, we're saved unto works that God has already prepared in advance for us to do.

God didn't have to do this, but God in his sovereign wisdom has chosen to do it this way.

That Christian, you will for eternity have rewards that you will enjoy for eternity.

Amen.

We are going to rule and we are going to reign with Christ Jesus.

You understand that.

The Bible is very clear on that.

There are rewards that you and I will enjoy for absolute eternity.

God didn't have to give us any more than he already gave us in salvation because we already merited hell because of our sin.

But grace and mercy and love of God merited us through Christ Jesus and faith in him, the righteousness of Christ.

That's why in heaven, when you see John in heaven in the throne room in Revelation chapter 4, you see those around the throne, these people now who have been redeemed, taking off their crown.

What is that crown?

That is called the victor crown.

That's the Stephanos crown.

That's a crown that is given to those who have won.

Let me say this.

The reason it's significant that you take the crown off that you received is because there's one who won that crown for you, and his name is Jesus Christ.

He is the victory.

He is our victory, and we are in him.

So in 1 Corinthians 3, 11-15, we read these words by the Apostle Paul to the church and believers in Corinth.

Paul says, for no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if anyone builds on the foundation, and now he's going to talk about what we're using as material, building on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

There are materials that we're building, or if you will, that our life in Christ is being built on, top of the foundation of Christ, and we are part of the building going on here.

He says, with gold, silver, or precious stones, he uses these three, and then he shifts almost to those things that are almost of no value, from the great value to the no value here, or wood, hay, or straw.

In other words, we have options and opportunities how we build upon the foundation of Jesus Christ.

This is how we live, how we walk, how we use our gifts that God has given us, what we did with Jesus Christ, how we have lived and done what God has called us to do as the body of Christ here on earth.

We'll all give an account, for the Bible says that everyone will stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Christian, you don't stand before the great white throne judgment of Christ.

You will stand before the Bema seat judgment of Jesus Christ, which is entirely different.

You won't stand before the great white throne judgment because Christ Jesus bore your judgment of God for your sin on the cross of Calvary.

And by faith you have been saved.

What an incredible gift it is.

But in verse 13,

Each one's work will be manifest.

In other words, it'll be made known.

It'll be clear what our building products were, what the materials were that we built upon Christ for the day, the judgment day, the beam of seat judgment of Christ as believers are standing before Christ.

And we are now giving an account for what we did with this incredible gift of salvation that we have freely been given in Christ.

That day will disclose it because it will be revealed by fire.

And the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.

If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.

There's rewards that God will give us.

If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though himself will be saved.

This individual did not lose their salvation.

Why?

Because you can't lose what you didn't merit or earn.

You can't lose what someone else won and provided.

It's impossible.

Christ purchased you for God.

He redeemed you.

And by faith, you have trusted upon Christ and the work of Christ on Calvary.

the death, the burial, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It is secure.

But there will be believers who have made heaven, but the work in which they built upon Christ will be burnt up, so to speak.

They'll make heaven, but the rewards won't be there.

You say, well, John, it's just good enough that I make heaven.

It is good enough that we make heaven.

But God even is so rich in his mercy and grace that he is actually going to allow us what we've done here with Christ to be rewarded for it.

That's incredible.

Unbelievable.

So you will be saved, it says, but only as through the fire.

So Satan, defeated as he is, still is working against us.

the people of God, because he hates the people of God.

His demise is final, church.

He can't get out of it.

He knows the day of reckoning and finality is coming, and so do all the fallen angels who followed him at his fall.

It's already set.

They just don't know when.

That's why they work so diligently against you, Christian.

That's why they hate Israel.

That's why Satan hates Israel.

And that's why he hates the church, as we've also learned throughout Scripture.

And he's working against us the best he can.

These angelic beings, fallen angels, also called, as Paul mentions here in this section, he calls them rulers, authorities, cosmic powers, spiritual forces, or angels.

spiritual forces of evil over this present darkness, they have a future appointment that they will not miss.

Just like there's two appointments all men will keep, that is, once to die and face the judgment of God, these fallen beings that were created by Christ Jesus at the very beginning when he created them

Those who have rebelled against God and followed Satan, Lucifer, if you will, is what he was and who he was before he fell.

Now his name is Satan, the devil, the accuser of the brethren and many other names.

These angels have an appointment that they will not miss.

And it will be their final judgment and destruction.

That's incredible, isn't it?

They have their day in court.

Before the judge and before the jury.

And this is why it's so significant.

You must understand this.

This is a mind bender.

Paul references this in 1 Corinthians chapter 6.

The context here is solving grievances among believers, taking other believers to court and going before a judge that is not a believer and trying to settle a dispute between two Christians.

They go to the general system of law to settle a dispute between Christians.

And Paul says, why in the world are you doing this?

Can you not within your own church solve a dispute between believers?

Don't you have the authority and ability to do that?

And Paul makes the note here, the reason you do, as he says, do you not know, in verse 2 and 3 of chapter 6 in 1 Corinthians, he says, do you not know that the saints will judge the world?

And then in verse 3, not only that, do you not know that we are to judge the angels as well?

So we are in a great battle.

We are in a very, very, very hard and difficult wrestling match, but we wrestle from the high ground, always.

We wrestle from a place of victory in Jesus Christ.

And you and I, not understanding all the principalities and powers and rulers around us that have come against us throughout life, that have tormented and who have

led astray and tried to deceive and those that have offered all kinds of thoughts through your mind and addiction and all those things you Christian are going to judge the angels that's incredible you will be seated on thrones as they're brought before the great judge and as a jury you will see those who have wreaked havoc on you in your lifetime here on earth you will judge the angels that's incredible

In Revelation chapter 2 and 3, we read the letters to the seven churches of Asia Minor.

The church has always, Christian, always been engaged in this conflict.

This is nothing new.

wrestling against rulers and authorities, cosmic powers over this present darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Here's some of the words that we read from the letters to the seven churches in Revelation chapter 2 and Revelation chapter 3.

We know these seven churches were literal churches, yes, but they are also symbolic of the church age in general.

Listen to some of these words, Christian.

This should bring you some encouragement.

You always wrestle against the enemy from the position of victory.

Never forget that.

Never forget it.

Here's the words we read through these seven churches.

I'm just gonna pick out a handful.

We see the word tribulation.

We see the word patient endurance.

Those...

who are of the synagogue of Satan, it's always been this way, those who call themselves Jews but are really of the synagogue of Satan, they're told, do not fear.

We see the word suffering, the word the devil comes into play in several places in these churches, the word testing.

Be faithful to the one who conquers or the one who endures.

There's an encouragement here.

Conquering, enduring, there's encouragement in this passage.

I know, Jesus says, you dwell where Satan's throne is to one of the churches.

You hold fast my name and did not deny my name.

I know your works, I know your love.

I know your faith and I know your service.

Jesus Christ knows all things.

He's omniscient.

He is God, by the way.

This woman Jezebel is brought up.

That Jezebel was teaching and seducing my servants who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan.

Amen.

The one who conquers again and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations.

That's a promise.

And he will rule them with a rod of iron under Christ who is the great judge and ruler of all.

The one who conquers again.

Jesus said...

And as I also conquered and sat down with my father on his throne, he who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

When you read through the seven churches, the seven letters to the seven churches, you're going to find great encouragement and warning in those sections of Scripture.

In Revelation chapter 20 verse four, just prior to what we read here in 24, we know that we've had Christ has come back and the saints have come with him and all those nations that have gathered around Israel here and Christ comes with the sword out of his mouth and he wipes out all those who have come against Israel and the remaining remnant that is left there.

And this will be happening during the tribulation period but right before the millennial kingdom that you and I will reign with Christ in.

It says right before this we see the false prophet and we also see what?

The Antichrist.

They are going to be captured and they are going to be thrown into the lake of fire.

We will see this.

This will be their demise.

And then we see this next in verse 4.

Satan is going to be bound and captured.

He will be locked away in what the Bible says the bottomless pit for 1,000 years in order that he will deceive the nations no longer for 1,000 years.

And then it says, I saw thrones.

Thrones, not a throne.

I saw thrones, plural thrones.

And then we read, and seated on them were those to whom authority to judge was committed.

That's amazing.

Now let's get on to the battle plan.

We are going to judge the angels.

We will be a part of that.

And Satan himself, as we will learn, is going to be thrown away into the lake of fire.

He will be, and he will be tormented.

He will be at the end of his demise.

Christian, you need to understand that.

Last week we learned about what?

The manifold wisdom of God.

We read out of Isaiah chapter 46.

What does God say?

I make known the end from the beginning.

Why would I choose Revelation as one book that I would want with me if I only had an option of a few?

The reason being is because in the book of Revelation, what do we learn about our enemy?

The demise.

The demise.

Christian, you must know the demise of your enemy has already, from the foundation of the world, been scheduled by God's clock.

It's going to happen.

There's no way out of it.

You and I will not wrestle against these principalities, powers, rulers, and cosmic powers in the heavenlies.

We don't wrestle against them from defeat because God has already told us the end from the beginning.

That's why we need these things.

Because when you come to the day when Satan comes or these angelic powers, the demons come against you on the day of evil, you know from where you stand and from where you battle.

You know.

Not in defeat.

Not at all.

But in victory.

We wrestle from that position.

Christ is already won.

We will wrestle and we will battle until Christ comes.

Know that's a fact.

Number two, we're told here by Paul in Ephesians chapter six.

Here we go, we're gonna get into this this morning.

So hang on, we got a lot to cover in a short period of time.

Be strong in who?

The Lord.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

in the strength of his might.

You say, well, John, what does that actually mean?

Well, let me show you what it says earlier in the book of Ephesians.

Go with me to Ephesians chapter one.

Go to verse 19.

Let me show you a little bit because Paul is praying for these Ephesians after he shares with him what is probably my most favorite section of scripture in all the Bible.

That's Ephesians chapter one, verses three through 14.

I love this section of scripture.

It is the most powerful, beautiful picture of our redemption and God's purpose before the foundation of the world to call us, to predestine us, to have this total plan has been in place.

It's amazing.

If you read Ephesians chapter one, verses three through 14 every single morning, it will change your day, I promise you.

Because you will be changed by reading the truth of God's word.

You are not defeated, Christian.

You are victorious.

You will never lose this in the end.

It's already been dealt with.

You must know that.

When we come here to chapter one, further down in here, about verse 19, Paul has been praying now for these Ephesian believers.

And he's praying some things that are very, very, very important for them.

And this is what he prays.

Let's go to verse 17.

He says, I give thanks.

I'm praying for you continually.

And these are the things he prays for.

Number one, that God, of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom.

I've said this over and over, especially the last two years as I've taught a lot of eschatology.

End time things.

The one defining word of our day and time, Christian, is deceit.

Deception is rampant today.

It is everywhere today.

And this is why we must know these things because Satan is the deceiver.

You cannot find truth out there hardly anymore.

Deception is the ruling theme of our day, and it's going to go from bad to worse.

Those who are deceiving and those who are being deceived, but Christian, you and I must never be deceived because we have the truth of God and his word.

We must know these things in this day and this time.

We are living in the latter part of the latter part of the latter part of the last days, Christian.

Please hear me.

Don't be deceived.

We must know this.

So he prays that they would have the spirit of wisdom and of revelation.

That's that we have revelation of the word of God and the knowledge of who he is.

To have the eyes of our hearts enlightened that we actually have the understanding of the word of God.

That we can understand the days in which we're living in.

That we know how to live and walk circumspectly in the days that we are now living in.

How do we live with wisdom and how can we walk circumspectly?

How can we make the most of these days?

We do that by the knowledge and wisdom and all of those things that we've gained in Christ Jesus and his word.

Then he says this, the reason for this is that you would know.

That word know means to know in practice and in reality.

We know it.

To know what is the hope to which you have been called.

That's important, you must know that.

What are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints?

What is the immeasurable greatness?

You can't measure the greatness of God and his power toward us who believe.

Wow.

According to the working of his great might, whose power and whose might?

God's power and God's might.

Amen?

That's how we resist Satan.

We have power and authority that God has given us and has worked in us and will work in us.

This power and might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places as we're going to learn.

This is important that the word heavenly places is here because the war also happens in the heavenlies as we're going to learn.

Jesus has been seated in verse 21.

You need to know this, Christian, far above all rule, because we're wrestling against rulers.

But Jesus, our Savior, in whom we are in, he's seated above all them.

All authority, all power, and dominion.

That's all, folks.

We learned this last week.

And above every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come.

And God has put all things under the feet of Christ.

Is that not amazing?

And gave him as head over all things, the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all.

It's very, very important that we understand these things.

Then he tells us we are to be strong in the Lord and in his strength.

Number three, we are to put on the full armor of God.

We're going to get into that in two weeks about what is this.

Don't leave any of it off.

Put it on.

We're going to learn that.

It's incredible.

Number four, stand against the schemes of the devil.

Satan's kingdom, guys, is a highly organized kingdom of which he gets no credit for.

Why is that?

The reason he gets no credit for that is because the model and structure under which he operates, he actually was part of at one time.

God is the originator of all things.

Colossians 1.16 says this, For by Him, Christ that is, all things were created in heaven and on the earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities, all were created through Him and for Him.

Satan creates nothing.

He's a created being.

He's a created being.

Let's learn a little bit about who he is here before we really get into the structure of our battle plan.

Y'all ready?

Open your Bibles to Ezekiel chapter 28 in the Old Testament.

We're gonna look at a few sections of scripture here that will help you have a little better understanding here to who he is and to what he is and what he's up to.

Ezekiel chapter 28, 11 through 17.

Now prior to this section of scripture we're gonna read about someone called the Prince of Tyre.

The Prince of Tyre.

What you learn as you study in the book of Daniel some very interesting things about principalities and powers and rulers and authorities.

What you learn is as Daniel is praying there and he has set his heart to God, three weeks have gone by and finally an angel comes as a messenger angel from God to give insight to Daniel.

And this is what he says.

From the moment that you began to pray, I was sent with the answer.

But I have been detained for three weeks by who?

The prince of Persia.

Who was ruling at the time that Daniel was in prayer during this time?

What empire?

The Medo-Persian empire was ruling.

The prince of Persia is actually a demonic, if you will, fallen angel that has power and authority at a certain level.

And the angel had come from heaven to bring Daniel the message and insight into his prayers.

And he was detained there in the heavenlies for three weeks.

And then he says this, "'But, Michael, your,' who?

''Prince, your prince.'''

He came and he fought and set me free so that I could come and get this message to you.

There are literal wars that go on in the principalities in the heavenlies, guys.

I guarantee you if you had the ability to see into another dimension in this room even today, there are principalities and powers that are in this room right now.

Guaranteed.

And these levels of authority and rule, we are three-dimensional beings, but physics say, well, that there's at least seven dimensions.

Well, I don't know if there's seven dimensions or not, but there is more than three dimensions, but you cannot see past that unless God was to open your eyes to see it.

We see that happen in Scripture, where they were able to see all the angels around them that were fighting for them.

There is an element of a real spiritual war that's going on.

It's really, it's battle, and it's going on all around us.

And so what we learn here, there is a prince over Tyre, and then we're gonna move to the king.

So behind leaders, especially the wicked and evil leaders, guess who was behind Hitler?

A principality was behind Hitler.

He was evil, he was wicked.

And what were they trying to do, destroy who?

The Jews, who are the Jews?

God's chosen race and God's chosen people of whom he would bring who?

The Redeemer.

Who was behind Hitler and his wickedness and his evil ways?

A principality, power, and authority was behind that.

As we see even in our own time, and I'll say this and probably get in big trouble over this and I don't really care.

Our government is corrupt.

Corrupt.

How can you trust a government that lies every time it opens its mouth?

It's deceptive and rotten to the absolute core.

Who's behind those wicked men and women who are ruling and who are having authority over the people in this country?

I'll tell you.

It's a principality and a power, and it is those of the kingdom of darkness.

That's what's going on, Christian.

Why do we know this?

The Bible teaches us these things.

This is what's happening.

But we are, by God's grace, the brake system to this church.

Your job that you've been called by God to do is an incredible purpose.

Oh, it's amazing.

It's unbelievable.

And so what we learn here that this prince, then we read about the king of Tyre.

Behind this prince is someone who is higher, the king of Tyre.

The prince of Tyre, we know when we read it in Ezekiel chapter 38, is a man.

The descriptions are all of a man.

When you get to the king of Tyre, you're going to find out this is no man we're looking at here.

This is a created being.

Remember in Revelation chapter 2 and 3, we read over and over, and one of the churches, in fact, I've been there.

We've been there just a few years ago to Pergamum.

And Pergamum is where the throne of Satan was.

In fact, Jesus said in Scripture, I saw who?

Satan fall like who?

Or like what?

Let me say that.

He said, I saw Satan fall like lightning.

And then you go to Pergamum.

And there on the top of the Acropolis in Pergama is what we have as the very throne of Satan.

And guess who was worshipped there?

Guess what God has worshipped there and was worshipped there in Pergama?

Zeus.

Zeus.

What is the symbol for Zeus?

Lightning.

Why do you think that is?

There's a reason for that.

There's a reason the lightning bolt is used to describe Zeus.

Because Jesus, the God of all creation, in his own words says, I saw Satan fall like lightning.

And this is real.

Where is that same thing today?

Guess where?

It was all taken apart piece by piece.

And you can go see it today in Berlin.

You sure can.

You can see it in Berlin.

Absolutely incredible.

So moving along here quick, let's get through this.

I'm going to have to stop.

We may not get through this in two more messages, guys.

I apologize.

I know some of you have to leave.

I know you can go ahead and go, but I'm going to just get through this part first.

Okay, here we go.

In Ezekiel chapter 28, we're going to learn a little bit more about who Satan was and who he is.

Listen to what it says.

Moreover, the word of the Lord came to me, son of man, raise a lament over.

Now he's talking about the king of Tyre.

And say to him, thus says the Lord God.

Now listen, this is the description that God gave to Ezekiel to say over the king of Tyre.

Listen.

You were the signet of perfection.

Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

Now, I've seen a lot of men.

I are one.

That's no description of any man I've ever seen.

You ladies may think your husband's the signet of perfection.

Mine does, but no, I'm just teasing.

I'm just kidding.

Oh, my goodness.

That's funny.

Yeah.

I would like to say she thinks I'm full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

Nope, that's not the case either.

Oh, man.

So anyway, then verse 13.

Sorry, we've got to get back on track.

Listen to where he was.

You were in Eden, the garden of God.

Every precious stone was your covering.

There's a reason for this.

See, everything that God made was made and it was good.

Good.

Now he's covered with all kinds of precious stones.

We have sardius, topaz, the diamond, beryl, onyx, jasper, sapphire, emerald, carbuncle.

These are the names of all these beautiful stones.

And crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings.

I don't sound like any man I've ever seen.

On the day that you were not born, created,

They were prepared.

You were an anointed cherub, guardian cherub.

God says in this oracle, I placed you.

You were on the holy mountain of God.

In the midst of the stones of fire, before the throne, you walked in.

Verse 2.

Verse 3.

You corrupted, you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of what?

Your splendor.

I cast you to the ground.

I exposed you before kings and to feast on you with their eyes.

What we have here is a picture of what we're gonna learn about in Isaiah 14 just quickly.

Of this created cherub, a guardian cherub that God created and set and made for a purpose.

Remember, all things were made by God and for God and for his purpose.

You understand that.

And Satan, this individual, this cherub, this king of Tyre, here who was actually once in the Garden of Eden, we know where that story goes in Genesis chapter 3.

But nonetheless, he was before the mountain or the throne of God and walked among the fiery stones.

And the reason he had such spectacular beauty was because if you've ever read about the splendor and the actual glory of Almighty God, when it came off of this individual, it must have just been like an unbelievable rainbow that came off of him.

Satan does not have a pitchfork, and he's not red with horns.

That's why people who are part of the illumination underground and above ground, some have seen Satan, but you know why they worship him?

He doesn't look like that.

He looks absolutely incredible.

In fact, any time a man ever encountered an angel in the Bible, they were always on their face to worship that individual.

Don't do that.

Get up off your feet, man.

I am here as a servant just like you.

Not Satan.

He wants to be worshipped.

Listen to what he says in Isaiah 14.

This will tell you one more thing.

And I'm sorry, guys, we'll have to close for the day.

In Isaiah chapter 14, if you would turn there and write this down, 12 through 14, we're going to see one more picture of who Satan is.

As long as the enemy can keep you thinking that he is a little devil with horns and a tail and a pitchfork, he can do a lot of wool pulling.

He's not.

He's not at all.

That's what Halloween makes him to be, but that's not who he is.

In Isaiah chapter 14, 12 through 14, listen to this.

The fall of Lucifer.

Lucifer.

Now there are those that are going to tell you that Lucifer is not Satan.

But he is.

Here we go.

How you have fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning.

How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations.

For you have said in your heart,

I will ascend into heaven.

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.

I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the furthest side of the north.

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.

I will be like the Most High.

Lucifer, a shining one, star of the morning,

Fallen from heaven, cast from heaven.

Satan was one of the archangels of God that fell and was cut down to the ground.

For you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven.

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.

I will sit on the mount of the congregation to the furthest side of the north.

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.

I will be like the most high.

One last verse and we'll close.

2 Corinthians 11, 14 says this, and no wonder even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

The word there simply is the word that means to change in fashion and appearance.

To change the outward appearance, to change something, to transfigure, to adapt.

He comes across as the angel of light, but what he is is absolute wickedness and darkness.

We do not wrestle against flesh and blood.

Next week, we're going to learn about who we really wrestle against.

Let's close in prayer this morning.

Thank you all for being here today.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you so much that we are in Christ this morning for those of us who by faith have trusted and believed upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

Father, we thank you so much for your incredible word today.

And Lord, we are living in a very deceptive time in our world, Lord, and the enemy is hard at work, and so are all those who either serve him or are even in flesh and blood that are worshiping and serving him and those that are working for him to accomplish his task.

Lord, we know you've already told us the end from the beginning.

The days in which we're living in, Father, we see and we understand and we know are working toward your end.

And the manifold wisdom of God is still being revealed through your church.

God, we know what's coming.

We know what's happening.

And Lord, we are on the high ground.

Lord, we are victorious in Christ Jesus.

For my brothers and sisters this morning, as we leave this place,

I pray, God, that you would help them to understand that they are victorious in Christ.

That we are wrestling against an enemy, yes, who is still working and still moving and still operating in this dark world.

We, God, are victorious and we wrestle against all of those things from the place and position of the high ground of victory in Christ Jesus.

We are not defeated, God, and we never ever will be.

Thank you for that truth.

We love you.

Be with us this week.

If there's anyone here this morning that has never trusted in Christ, Lord Jesus, I pray that you'll reveal that to them.

that they'd come to know the Savior and the God of all creation, and their life would forever be changed.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

As always, every week, guys, listen before you go.

If you need to pray, right in here in the lodge, we have people there to pray with you.

The rest of you, please, just quietly leave, and we will see you all next week.

God bless you guys.