

'WALK WORTHY' - -3/9/25 (#18)

PASTOR LEE

Eph 6: 12- - 'For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world.....'

- Our experiences and everything around us is spiritual! There are angels....there are demons...and they are engaged in battle....with us in the middle! The struggles in our lives reflect that.....this 'evil world system' impacts all of our experiences and relationships (at home...on-the-job, etc).
- Backing up, our Church is Bible-based...Scripture is God-inspired....every Word true and collectively sufficient for us to get through life and realize salvation. Pastor Lee notes that Paul (whose life was instantly transformed by God) was a major writer of the New Testament. For these past months, we've been studying one of his writings...a letter to the people of Ephesus...and a writing, then, intended to be read as a whole in one sitting.
- Recapping its essence: Paul repeatedly speaks, at the Letter's beginning, of being 'in Him' (Jesus)....a state which would be transformative, just like it was for Paul after his encounter with Jesus....from Christian persecutor to disciple. He further says, in context, so if you are 'in Jesus', I encourage you to 'Walk Worthy'.
- He further goes on V 5:18....explaining how: "...be filled with the Spirit of God (Holy Spirit)...".....and be empowered by it.....giving you the spiritual wherewithal to live your life with love and and Godly obedience even in the face of this dark spiritual world we live in. (eg....loving your wife, respecting your husband, obeying parents, submission and respect amongst employees and superiors). He furthers his point:

Eph 6: 10- - 'Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might'.

- This strength is more than sufficient because, fast forwarding, we know that in the whole of the 'spiritual battle' between light/goodness and darkness/evil, JESUS WINS!!!!
- Here's what we know: When Mankind (Adam/Eve) fell to sin, it passed to us all....while we would like things to be right, *we are separated from God*. Out of love for us, God sends His Son 'on a rescue mission' to save us. Satan, the epitome of sin...lying, stealing, killing...did everything in his power to negate Jesus.
- But Jesus lives the perfect, sinless life...and even submits Himself to death on the Cross... for ALL of us....because ALL of us are sinners.....all of us, effectively, crucified Him.
- Three day later....He comes out of the grave....victorious over death and sin)....reinforcing beyond any doubt that He was God.
- Refer to Col 2:15we no longer have to be owned by this dark/sinful world....through Jesus, we have triumphed over sin, death, hell and the wrath of God.
- Satan- -CS Lewis' take: "*There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They, themselves, are equally pleased by both errors.*" So whether regarding them as a myth/cartoonish ...or...so overly

- consumed by them,you either are- -in the first instance- - not dealing with reality, or- -in the second- - you are putting Satan ahead of Jesus totally contrasting our mission to put Christ first in our lives.
- Satan was defeated at the Cross...so mad about it... He is ultimately destined to the Lake of Fire (he knows it)...and, in hate, wants to take a max number of us with him.
 - We are so blessed...JESUS LOVES US SO MUCH! We long for that connection but sin separates us from Him! The closer you get to God, the more you experience that love.....at the same time, the more Satan will try to separate you.....spiritual warfare.....its real!
 - This theme of a 'cosmic battle' is repeated throughout the rest of the Ephesians whole Letter. See Chapter 2: V-1-3- - - :
 - (V-1) We once walked...before putting faith/trust in Jesus, in a 'world-first' way and were separated from God by sin...cursed...broken.. producing more sin, death, etc. So WE NEED JESUS!. Recognizing that, we need to 'WALK WORTHY' in Christ....even (and especially) in this broken world.
 - (V-2) "Prince and power of the air" refers to Satan....at work in so many who are subjugated to him. We have options: 1. Your Father is God...or....your father is the devil.
 - How do you chose to make your Father God?....by putting your faith/trust in Jesus. Option 2 may make you feel good now....but you will suffer in this life and for eternity.
 - (V-3) Re: "passions of the flesh".....we all have a physical body...beginning in your mind, sinful desires of the flesh enter into us. See Romans 7:21-25 in which Paul describes the sinful tension with which even he struggled and recognized that the only answer, was through Jesus. In present lives, though, and in faith and with every good intent, the dark world forces(Satan, demons) will try to mess with your mind.
 - Satan, demons, etc. are real but also remember this is a broken world...sinful thoughts will come into every's mind....but.... you must, as a child of God, immediately repent and shun them. In this regard, remember, temptation is not a sin if we turn away. And- -if we don't- *-we must take accountability for our sins.....no excuses.*
 - 1 Peter 5: 8-9 refers to Satan as 'prowling like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" He tells us to resist...stand firm in faith...while knowing all of humankind is experiencing the same struggle. But, again, if you chose Jesus, you win!

Read Eph 11-18

- So, the devil seeks to kill, steal, destroy you! SATAN IS REAL AND HE IS YOUR ENEMY (not the 'others' to whom you cast blame). Remember also, Satan is NOT equal to God....he is created...limited...and, ultimately defeated! Accordingly, PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD....so as to stand in battle against the devil, spiritual powers and his dark world.
- BELT OF TRUTH- - (see John 8:44; John 14:6)- -all of life is all about Jesus);
- BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS - - Don't give in to sin...Jesus took it on Himself....his righteousness covers you! (See 2 Cor 10:5...."Take every thought captive to obey Christ!)

- **SHOES FOR YOUR FEET-** -“That’s the peace we receive through our trust in Jesus Christ. His Gospel.....the ‘Good News’ ...thats what brings Peace!
- **SHIELD OF FAITH-** - Without faith in God, it is impossible to please Him. The object of your faith is NOT in yourself, it is in Jesus.
- **HELMET OF SALVATION-** - It’s meant to protect your mind from all that is untrue. (See Is 26:3.....”perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You.”)
- **SWORD OF THE SPIRIT-** - The Word of God...our Bible! Pastor Lee encourages us to consistently read/study it.....and rely upon it! Learn to use and speak it. As the ‘battle’ wages in you, the ATTACHED are just a few of his ‘go-to’ verses that can be very helpful.
- Lastly and an essential to all of the above: “.....’Pray at all times in the Spirit....”and....” keep alert with all perseverance....”
- **RESIST THE DEVIL AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU** (James 4:7. Make your stance against him firm!
- **NOTE:** There is no reference to Satan in the first (no sin) or last two chapters of the Bible.

Rev. 20:10 “...and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the Lake of Fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- **We win! So keep alert.....pray in the Spirit....resist the enemy....be strong in the Lord!**

Rev 21: 4- - He will wipe away every tear from their eyes , and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

WE WIN!

**** THANKS BE TO GOD FOR JESUS ****