

"Fight the Good Fight"

Doug Seed

Session 1

The Fight

II Timothy 4:7 - At the end of his life, the Apostle Paul said, by revelation, "I have fought a good fight." We Christians are in a good fight. This implies there are lesser fights - ones not worth getting into.

The Nature of the Fight

II Corinthians 1:2-4 - the Bible reveals many things: it is the Word of life. But the greatest truth it reveals is God Himself. He is gracious & the God of peace. He is our Father and the Father of Jesus Christ
v.3 - the God of mercies and of all comfort
v.4 - He is active in our lives to comfort us.

II Corinthians 4: 1-6 - the god of this world blinds the minds of those who are lost by keeping them from believing the Word of God.

At the heart of the fight is: What Words do you believe?

II Corinthians 10:3-5 - The battlefield is the mind. It is not a fleshly (or senses) fight- it is spiritual. Our enemy has strongholds.

Ephesians 6:11, 12 - "wiles" - methods, techniques. The god of this world rules the darkness of this world.

II Corinthians 11:3 - the same "wiles" the serpent used on Eve, he uses today to try and seduce God's people. Again, the battle is in the mind concerning what words do you believe.

The Fall

Genesis 3:1 - "serpent" - first reference to the Adversary in the Bible.
"subtle" - means crafty, artful, wily, designing. Implies mysterious, hard to solve, detect or understand

"hath God said?" - he questions the Word of God.

Compare verses 2&3 to Genesis 2:16 - omits "freely"

Eve adds "neither shall ye touch it" and changes "surely" to "lest" meaning perhaps or maybe.

God said "Thou shalt surely die." The serpent says "Ye shall not surely die."

Adam and Eve believed the words of the devil instead of the Word of God and catastrophe resulted.

Consequences of the Fall

Genesis 3:7-24: fear, shame, condemnation, alienation from God, sickness, lack, subject to physical death, banishment from paradise.

Romans 5:12 - sin and death

Ephesians 2: 1, 2; Psalms 51:5 - Adam's descendants born dead spiritually.

Luke 4:6; I Corinthians 4:4 - dominion over the earth transferred to Satan.

Session 2

The Stand

Matthew 3: 17 - "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."

4: 1-11 - "If thou be the son of God..." The devil questions what God has said.

"devil" from Greek **dia** - "across" **ballein** - "to throw"

It means slanderer or accuser. He throws crafty words across our paths to try and trip us up.

v.6, - the devil quotes Scripture! He uses it wrongly. Jesus Christ responds with "It is written."

It Is Written

The Word of God must be rightly-divided and rightly applied to be the true Word.

Romans 5:19 - Adam's disobedience contrasted with Jesus Christ's obedience.

The Fall of Lucifer

The Goodness of God -

Genesis 1:4,10,13,18,21,25,31.

Psalms 25:8; 34:8; 73:1; 86:5; 100:5; 106:1; 107:1;

119:68; 135:3; 136:1; 145:9

Malachi 3:6

James 1:17

I John 1:5

God is Always Good - He Never Changes!

Genesis 1:1,2:

The Earth was not originally created "without form" - **tohu** - "ruined"

nor "void" - **bohu** - empty. Jeremiah 4:23. Isaiah 45:18 -

"He created it not in vain - **tohu** - ruined. "He formed it to be inhabited."

The Fossil Records.

- "was" - **hayah** - means "became" as in Genesis 2:7; 3:22.

The Earth was not originally ruined and empty: it became that way.

The Bible speaks of three heavens and three earths:

II Peter 3:5-7, 12, 13 - verse 6 speaks of the first earth; verse 7 of the second earth, (Genesis 1:2b and following) - NOW! Verse 13 - the third heaven and earth in the future. II Corinthians 12: 1-5.

Who is the serpent? By Genesis 3:1, he is already fallen. He offers the woman knowledge of evil and is promoting disobedience to God's word.

An Example of Scripture Buildup

Revelation 12:9 - The old serpent is the great dragon, the devil, Satan, who deceives the world and was cast out from heaven. Verse 4 tells us that one third of the angels of heaven were cast out with him. They make up the evil spirit word today.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Ezekiel 28:11-19: He was originally perfect, beautiful, and full of wisdom until iniquity was found in him. He sinned, and so was cast out. His sin was his heart being lifted up (against God), thus corrupted.

11 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. 13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. 16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty; thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground; I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. 18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. 19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

Isaiah 14:12-15: The word "Lucifer" means "shining one." He was the son of the morning, fallen from heaven. His sin: trying to usurp the throne of God. Note the repeated use of the words "**I will**":

12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God: **I will** sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Session 3

Names of the Devil

- "serpent" - Genesis 3:1, - crafty, wily
- Revelation 12:9 - "the great dragon" - warfare in spiritual realm
 - "the old serpent"
 - "the Devil" - the accuser
 - Satan - hater, adversary, opposer, enemy
- John 10:10 - the thief' - works through stealth to steal
- I Peter 5:8 - your adversary - "a roaring lion" - strikes fear to immobilize his prey so he can pounce
- Matthew 4:3 - the tempter - to try and persuade one to sin
- John 8:44 - father - in relation to his seed the father of lies - lies originate from him
- Mark 3:22 - prince of devils - head, chief of other devils
- Ephesians 2:2 - prince of the power of the air - Leadership over other spirits
- John 12:31 - prince of this world - ruler of the earth
- II Corinthians 4:4 - god of this world
- Revelation 12:10 - the accuser - one who speaks down
- Galatians 1:4 - we live in a "present, evil world"
- Romans 12:2 - be not conformed to this world

The One True God

- The God, who created the heavens and the earth: **Elohim**
 - ❖ Genesis 1:1; Jeremiah 32:17, 27.
- The God who is the author of the Bible:
 - ❖ Numbers 23:19;; II Timothy 3:16
- He is All Good - Genesis 1
- He is gracious - II Chr.30:9
- He is Love - I John. 4:8
- He is full of mercy - Ps. 145:8
- He is Light - I John 1:5
- Our God is Almighty, **El-Shaddai**
 - ❖ Genesis 17:1, Exodus 6:3
- The One True God is **Jehovah**, in relationship to His people
- **Jehovah** - **Jireh** - **Jehovah** will see and provide - Genesis 22:13, 14
- **Jehovah** - **Rapha** - **Jehovah** will heal - Exodus 15:26
- **Jehovah** - **Nissi** - **Jehovah** is my canopy. He is over us; protecting us - Exodus 15:26
- **Jehovah** - **Shalom** - **Jehovah** is our peace - Judges 6:24
- **Jehovah** - **Raah** - **Jehovah** is my Shepard - Psalm 23:1
- **Jehovah** - **Tsidkenu** - **Jehovah** our righteousness - Jeremiah 23::6
- **Jehovah** - **Shammah** - **Jehovah** is present to bless - Ezekiel48:35
- **Jehovah** - **Mekaddishkem** - **Jehovah** our Sanctifier - Exodus 31:13
- **Jehovah** - **Zebaoth** - **Jehovah** of Hosts (the head of it) Samuel 1:3
- **Jehovah** - **Elyon** - **Jehovah** the Most High - God of all gods - Psalm 7:17
- Our God is the one who authored the plan of redemption and sent His son Jesus Christ to fulfill it. John 3:16, Romans 8:32
- He is the God who raises the dead - II Co. 1:9

Session 4

Dealing with the Adversary

56 uses of "spirit," *pneuma*, in the New Testament classified as evil, or devil, spirits.

1. Some spirits are devils
2. They cause harm always, sometimes in a multitude of ways.
3. They possess, or control, one part of a person's mind or body.
4. Can be specialized and, at times, have names.
5. A person can have multiple devil spirits.
6. Spirits can speak, using the vocal mechanism of the person they possess.
7. Can be the basis of the curious arts, soothsaying, sorcery and witchcraft.

Christ's authority Over Evil Spirits

Mark 1:21-28, 32-34 - the casting out of the devil spirits is new with Jesus Christ.

I Samuel 16:23 - not the casting out of a spirit, as that is not the only way they leave.

Luke 4:33-37, 40-41

This Authority Delegated

Matthew 10:8 - to the twelve

Luke 10:1-3, 17 - to the seventy

Mark 16:17 - to those born from above, i.e. us

In The Name of Jesus Christ

Ephesians 1:19-21 - far above

Philippians 2:8-10 - given a name above every other, that at his name, every knee must bow.

Discerning of Spirits

I Co. 12:10 - a manifestation of the spirit - received by revelation

II Corinthians 5:7 - not analysis, but discerning whether there is a spirit involved. (Includes good spirits)

Matthew 12:43-45 If evil, whether you may cast them out

Acts 16:16-18 - after many days hearing the Word, believing was built so she could keep them out and stay delivered.

Acts 19:13-16 - they took upon themselves - not by revelation. This brought disastrous results.

Victory Over the Adversary

Build the Word of God to Keep Them Out

Colossians 3:16, 17 we are sons of God. We can use the name of Jesus Christ

James 4:7 Resist the devil and he will flee.

I Peter 5:7-9 Be sober vigilant, resist steadfastly

Colossians 1:12, 13 we have been delivered from the power of darkness.

Romans 8:1, 15-17, 31-39 there is no condemnation; if God be for us, who can be against us?

I John 4:4 Greater is the Christ in you than the devil and his spirits.

Ephesians 6:10-18 the whole armor of God equips us to win the fight

Session 5

Our Prayer Lives

- I Timothy 2:1-4: "first of all" - it is priority
 "Intercessions" - prayer on behalf of another; to go between.
 v.2 how to help our country
- II Thessalonians 3:1, 2: "finally" - pray
 Intercession is for good things to happen.
 Intercession is against bad thing so they don't happen.
- In between "first" and "finally" pray:
 I Thessalonians 5: 17 - "without ceasing"
 Philippians 4:6 - "in everything"
 Ephesians 6:18 - "always," "for all saints"
 I Timothy 2:1- "for all men"
 Philippians 1:3 - "upon every remembrance"

Stand in the Gap, Make up the Hedge

- Ezekiel 13:4, 5 - instead of protecting God's people, these prophets were "foxes," preying on them.
- Ezekiel 22:30 - God seeks people who will intercede for others in prayer.
- Examples of men who interceded:
Psalm 99:6 - Moses, Aaron & Samuel
Psalm 106:21-23
- Exodus 32:9-14 - the children of Israel make a golden calf.
- Jeremiah 15: 1
- John 10:0 - Jesus Christ, the door to the sheepfold

How about today?

- Romans 8:26-28 - speaking in tongues is prayer in the spirit. We do not understand what we are saying, so we cannot mess it up!
- Ephesians 6:18 - prayer is a huge part of the whole armor of God.

Session 6

Speak the Word of God

II Corinthians 5:18-20 - God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. The ministry is a ministry of the Word. We are "instead" of Christ.

Luke 11:33 - Hid it under a bushel? NO! Let it shine!

Philippians 2:15, 16 - We shine as lights when we hold forth the Word.

Romans 10:14, 15 - you have beautiful feet!

Mark 8:36 - the worth of a soul.

Paul's Example

Acts 17:2, 3 - his manner of life (Luke 4:16 "custom" = manner)

Philippians 1:12-18 v.13 - "palace" - the Praetorian Guard

Philippians 3:3-14

I Corinthians 9:16-18

Why Hasn't Christ Come Back Yet?

II Peter 3:4, 8-10

Session 7

The Influence of the Church

II Thessalonians 2:1-7:

v.3 - "a falling away first" = the departure - refers to "our gathering together unto him" (v.1)

v.6, 7 - "wlttholdeth" & "letteth" are the same word, meaning "restrains"

The orchestrated evil of the Adversary is restrained from taking place by the presence of the Church.

Session 8

The Believer's Rewards

II Timothy 4:6-8

Romans 11:6 - grace vs. works

Romans 14: 10-12 - "judgment seat" = bema - awards stand

II Corinthians 5: 10 - closely associated with the gathering together is each believer appearing before the bema

I Corinthians 3:6-4:5 - those "bad" works will be burned up.

v.17 - "him"- this work

4:2 - bottom line for rewards - faithfulness,

4:5 - then shall every man (every Christian) have praise of God

I Corinthians 15:57, 58

Romans 16:20 - "shortly"

Even so come quickly Lord Jesus!