

Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church Sunday School  
Winter, 2020  
Spiritual Warfare

Week 1: January 12th: Overview.

**1. Class Description:** Read Ephesians 6:10-20. Pinch yourself. It hurts because real flesh and blood are involved. War between flesh and blood is gruesome because real people really die. Think about that for a moment. Now, consider the fact that Paul says spiritual warfare is NOT against flesh and blood. Paul's point: as serious as flesh and blood warfare is, *spiritual warfare is that much more serious!* We cannot see our Enemy, but he is REAL. In fact, he aims, not just at our physical bodies, but at our very souls. You and I wrestle "against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12). These forces, from which true believers are freed at conversion, actively seek our destruction, including wooing us back into their arms. When is the last time you gave serious consideration to this dynamic in your spiritual life? In our church? Pray that we will discern true warfare as Christians and that we will therefore put on the full (Gospel!) armor of God so that we take our stand against the Evil One.

**2. Ephesians**

**A. Prison letter of Paul to Asia Minor:** Extols Christ and his church; revisits and advances message of Colossians ("the cosmic Christ").

**B. Themes:** 1. Church. 2. Spiritual Warfare. In fact, the church *amidst* spiritual warfare! Paul, an apostle for Christ, is imprisoned for Christ's sake (3:1; 6:20) as he writes under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to build up the church (cf. background to planting Ephesian church in Acts 19-20)

**C. "Before" of Our Individual Spiritual Condition— "Dead in Trespasses and Sins" (2:1,5)**

- i. Totality of Christ's lordship/kingship (cf. 1:19-22; cf. vv.9-10)
- ii. Totality of Satan's opposing lordship—"the prince of the power of the air" (2:1-2; cf. 6:11-12,16)
- iii. Cross-reference Colossians 1:18-20; cf. 1:12-14
- iv. Transition from Ephesians 1 to chapter 2. Paul zooms in on our spiritual condition.
  - a. Who? All of us!
  - b. In what way? Active deadness in pursuit of Satan

v. First-order tension!

- a. Election (1:4-5,11)
- b. Children of wrath (2:3); cf. 2:12

**D. “After” of our Individual Spiritual Condition— “Alive Together with Christ” (vv.5,6)**

- i. Christ’s resurrection and our resurrection
  - a. Christ’s resurrection and ascension to heaven (1:20)
  - b. Our present resurrection with Christ (2:5-6)
- ii. Results? (Ephesians 2:10)

**E. *But God* (2:4). Now, *But Satan* (6:10-20). Satan not happy about what has taken place!!**

- i. We do **not** belong to Satan! (6:11)
- ii. Though defeated, Satan prowls, even against the church (6:11,16)
- iii. Our strength comes **ONLY** in the Lord and his Gospel (6:10; cf. armor 6:11,13-17)
- iv. We now battle against the spiritual forces which once held us captive (6:12). Do you think this way about your former manner of life?
- v. The battle is won in our knees (for ourselves and for others)! (6:18)
- vi. The battle is won with the sword of the Spirit , the word of God (6:17)
- vii. Prayer. Word. Spirit.
- viii. How to sensitize ourselves to spiritual nature of this warfare: individual, family, church, etc.

**F. Conclusion:** Twenty Four Hours a Day. Seven Days a Week. 365 Days a Year. Warfare. Hear the swords clashing. But we fight from a position of already achieved victory in the Lord Jesus Christ.

William Gurnall quote.