

Weapons Of Our Warfare

2Co 10:3 For though we walk **in the flesh**, we **do not war** after the flesh: *(Emp. Added)*

- in the flesh- We all live **in** the world but, as Christians, are not to live as those outside the body of Christ who live according to the standards **of** the world around us.

1Jn 2:15 Love not the world (*don't be a socialite, one of the in-crowd*), neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love (*Gk.26- affection or benevolence [kindness, compassion]*) of the Father (*God's love is sacrificial*) is not in him. 16 For **all** that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away (*It is temporal!*), and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever. *(Emp. Added)*

- do not war after the flesh- Because our battle is spiritual we are not to use such tactics as vengeance, slander, harsh destructive criticism or any other form of “weapons of mass degradation” in our war on sin. Why?

2Co 10:4 (For the **weapons of our warfare** are **not** carnal*, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) *(Emp. Added)*

**Mar 13:31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but My words shall not pass away.*

- So why then would Jesus tell His soon to be apostles to purchase a sword (*Lk 22:36*)? Is this one of those “imaginary” contradictions that non-believers go after to point out another “invented” inconsistency?

Luk 22:36 Then said He unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take *it*, and likewise *his* scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.

- I don't believe Peter intended to cut off Malchus' ear only.

Joh 18:11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which My Father hath given Me, shall I not drink it?

- Jesus didn't tell His disciples to purchase swords to protect Him because He accepted His role in the saving of mankind. (*Mat 26:39 ...nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt.*) Those physical weapons were to prepare them for future use when they would be travelling “unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Act 1:8) and were for their protection against the wild animals they would encounter as they went. Not that they wouldn't be protected by God from these beasts either as He later would protect Paul. Some of the responsibility to protect even our own selves has to fall on us. God protected **them** because of their roles in spreading the Gospel.

1Co 15:32 If after the manner of men I have **fought with beasts** at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die. *(Emp. Added)*

- after the manner of men- Paul would literally have fought against the beasts of the amphitheater, not as a gladiator but, as a Christian who knew he had a purpose for living.

Why would he go through all that if there wasn't to be a resurrection? Why not just party it up? It was Paul's destiny to suffer as he went about spreading the Gospel to the Gentiles.

Act 9:15 But the Lord said unto him (*Ananias*), Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for My name's sake.

2Ti 4:17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; **that** by me the preaching might be fully known, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear: and I was **delivered out of the mouth of the lion.** (*Emp. Added*) (*Just as Daniel was told by Darius.*)

Dan 6:16 ... Thy God Whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee.

- To be carnal then, would mean to be temporary. Our weapons used in this spiritual battle that will last until Jesus comes are powerful! How powerful? Our weapons originated and continue to be supplied from God and are that strong that they can put to rest any argument that goes against His word. And our weapons go against worldly wisdom.

1Co 4:21 What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and *in* the spirit of meekness?

Mat 5:39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil (*don't put up with it!*): **but** whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. (*Emp. Added*)

- Having inherited the earth (*Mat 5:5*) we have a responsibility to defend the truth against "the fiery darts of the wicked" (*Eph 6:16*). When it comes to things that are trivial, as my dad used to say "the **bigger** man (*not of physical size but of moral stature*) walks away from a fight". To offer the other cheek when dealing in the temporal, trivial matters of life, just demonstrates the power of the one who is the stronger when it comes to moral character. It doesn't mean we can't protect our families or other friends from being hurt either. Who would ever think God would demand for us to sit back and watch such when we are able to do something to stop it? Jesus was not some "flower child" from the sixties!

*Luk 6:27 But I say unto you which hear, ***Love** (*will last longer than faith and hope-1 Cor 13:13*) your enemies, do good to them which hate you, 28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. 29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the *one* cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy robe forbid not *to take thy* coat also. 30 Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask *them* not again. 31 **And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.** (*Emp. Added*)

*A very powerful force!

2Co 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth

itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

“The purpose of Christianity is to throw out all human thinking and place God in complete control. Every part of the Christian is to be subject to God's uses and intents (plans).”
Gary Hampton

Whole armor of God

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong **in** the Lord, and in the **power** of **His** might.

- Our strength can only be found “in the Lord”. How do we get **in** the Lord?

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

- the power of His might- Has to do with being strong in the Gospel.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of **the Gospel of Christ**: for it is the **power of God** unto salvation... *(One thing God **cannot** do is save anyone apart from following Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection. Anyone outside the body of Christ will not be saved on the day of judgment.) (Emp. Added)*

- John understood this when he delivered the Revelation to the churches of Asia. He revealed to them what would then be the coming persecution from the Romans on the church, a.k.a., “the temple of God” and “the holy city”. We understand that the concept of this passage fits all ages concerning the saved verses the unsaved.

Rev 11:1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and **measure the temple of God**, and the **altar**, and **them that worship therein**. 2 But the court which is **without the temple** leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty *and* two months. *(Emp. Added)*

- Usually when measuring anything there has to be a standard by which to size things. The same blueprint when measured by two or more different standards will not produce the same building! The standard by which the church is measured is the word of God, the Bible. If the church doesn't measure up to the blueprint found in the pages therein, she is considered just another denomination outside of Christ! And those outside the church don't measure up to the standards found in God's word, the Bible.

Joh 12:48 He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

The temple.

1Co 3:16 Know ye not that ye *(speaking to the church)* are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Eph 4:16 From whom the **whole body** fitly joined together and compacted **by that which every joint supplieth**, according to the effectual working in the **measure of every part**, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. *(Emp. Added)*

- Along with the church as a whole being put to the standard, each individual Christian is, and will be, judged according to their part in supporting the whole.

The altar (*of burnt incense*).

Rev 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

- Even our prayers are to be measured according to the standard set by God and delivered by those who “spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” (2 Pet 1:21)

Eph 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father **in the name** (*Gk.3686- authority*) **of** our Lord Jesus Christ; (*Emp. Added*)

Php 4:6 Be careful (*Gk.3309- to be anxious about*) for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication **with** thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (*Emp. Added*)

Jas 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume (*Gk.1159- waste*) *it* upon your lusts (*Gk.2237- sensual desires*).

Them that worship therein.

Joh 4:23 ... the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship *Him* in spirit and in truth.

- Even our worship has a certain standard by which we can judge its validity. Besides “true worship” there is also “vain worship”.

Mar 7:6 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth Me with *their* lips, but their heart (*Gk.2588- mind [set]*) is far from Me. 7 Howbeit **in vain do they worship Me**, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men (*substituting God's word with man's ideas*). 8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men... (*Emp. Added*)

- Before a soldier has the right to any weapon in the military he has to first be enlisted **in** the military. The same goes for the church. Before anyone can don the whole armor of God they first have to be enlisted **in** God's army by being immersed into His Son. As the Roman soldier had to take an oath of allegiance to the emperor, so our allegiance is to serve God above all others in obedience to His word.

Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the **whole armour of God**, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (*Emp. Added*)

- having done all, to stand- Just as any soldier who is worthy of his enlistment, we as Christians are to continue the battle for the souls of others even after having already done our best. Paul serves as such an example.

2Co 11:23 ... in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. 24 Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one. 25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 *In* journeying often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; 27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. 28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, **the care of all the churches**. *So why go through all of that Paul? (Emp. Added)*

2Co 4:14 Knowing that He which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you. 15 For all things *are* for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. 16 For which cause we faint not; but though our **outward man perish** (*physical*), yet **the inward man** (*spiritual*) **is renewed** (*Gk.341- renovate*) day by day. (*Emp. Added*) (*How is the inward man renewed daily?*)

1Jn 1:7 But if we **walk** (*live*) **in the light** (*the Bible [lamp unto my feet- Ps 119:105]*), as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son **cleanseth us from all sin**. (*Emp. Added*)

- Baptism begins that cleansing through Christ's blood which continues it. But only as we are renovated daily by living according to His word.

2Co 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment (*2 Pet 3:8*), worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight (*Gk.922- abundance*) of glory;

- The struggles we go through are temporal but as soldiers of the cross they should only strengthen our resolve to continue on in the battle against evil.

Our primary weapon. (*If S.O.S. stands for "save our souls" then S.O.S. gives the means by which to do that, "the Sword Of the Spirit".*)

Eph 6:17 ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

- A Roman soldier carried a javelin and on his right hip he carried a two foot sword in a leather scabbard and on his left side he carried a short dagger (*The Destruction of Jerusalem- Ray Murray Jr.*). After tossing his javelin, he had his primary weapon to rely on. With both offensive and defensive capabilities, we are to be able to use our swords for both; to take the message of the Gospel to those who haven't heard it and to deflect the deceptions of those who don't believe it. Notice David before going out to slay Goliath...

1Sa 17:39 And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for (*Heb.3588- but*) he had not proved (*Heb.5254- test*) it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved *them*. And David put them off him.

- David could not go out to fight Goliath with the weapon and armor of Saul because he had not been disciplined to it through testing. Neither can we fight spiritual warfare with dull, unused, untested or "unproven" swords and armor of God!

Have you been enlisted in God's army?

Joel 2:11 And the LORD shall utter His voice before His army: for His camp *is* very great: for *He* is strong that executes His word: for the day of the LORD *is* great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

- God has given the order. The "camp of the saints" (*Rev 20:9*), which is His church, though fewer in number than the forces of evil, will be as victorious as Gideon was against the Midianites.

Jdg 7:2 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that *are* with thee *are* **too many** for Me to give the Midianites into their hands... (*Emp. Added*)

Jdg 7:12 And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley **like grasshoppers for multitude**; and their camels *were* **without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude**. (*Emp. Added*)

Jdg 7:22 And the **three hundred** blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: ... (*Emp. Added*)

- God has never defeated evil through sheer number but through His wisdom. As we spread His word through the great commission (*Mat 28:19-20*) there will be many who will not accept it but the few that do will be saved. If you haven't accepted His call to enter His victorious army, someday it will be too late. Do you really want to suffer the same fate that the enemies of God will?

Rev 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Rev 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Have you heard?

Romans 10:14 ..."how shall they believe in Him **Whom they have not heard?**" (*Emp. Added*)

Do you believe?

Heb 11:6 ..."for he that commeth to God **must believe that He is...**" (*Emp. Added*)

Have you repented?

Act 3:19 ..."Repent ... be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..." (*Emp. Added*)

Have you lived in such a way as to acknowledge Christ as the Son of God?

Mat 10:32 "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father Who is in Heaven."

Have your sins been washed away?

1 Pet 3:21 "...baptism doth **also** now save us..." (*Emp. Added*)

If you've done all these things, have you remained faithful?

Romans 6:4 "...we also should walk in newness of life."

Are you living according to the standard, the Bible?

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride (*church*) say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

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