

The Battle Within

Introduction

Romans 7:22-25

1. Every one of us have fought battles of one kind or another.
 - A. We battle against sickness and disease.
 - B. Many have engaged in battle in athletic and sporting events.
2. Paul talks about the greatest battle of all - the war of good against evil, righteousness against sin.
 - A. This is a serious battle because our eternal destiny will depend upon the outcome.
 - B. Let us consider this battle!

The Battleground

1. Man is the battleground where the war is taking place - a dual made between the flesh and the spirit.
2. The battle is between the fleshly (outer man) and the spiritual (inner man).

Satan's Part

1. Satan tempts each of us to sin through the flesh.
2. The three avenues of temptation that Satan uses are: The Lust of the Flesh; The Lust of the Eyes; and The Pride of Life.
3. Satan tempts us to sin in all three ways as seen in the case of Eve and Christ.
 - A. Eve.
Genesis 3:1-6
 - B. Jesus.
Matthew 4:1-11

Christ's Part

1. Christ is speaking to our inner man through the Word of God.
2. God promises that the temptation that Satan puts in front of us will not be greater than we can bear.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

- A. He will provide a way for our escape or a way to overcome the temptation.
 - 1) It's up to us to take that way!

Some Present Day Battles

1. Church attendance.

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, **but exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does **not need to be ashamed**, rightly dividing **the word of truth**.

- A. **Christ gives us a command to attend the services of the church - while Satan through temptation entices one to stay away.**

2. Giving as we have been prospered on the first day of the week. **1 Corinthians 16:1-2**

2 Corinthians 9:7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

- A. **Satan uses temptation for us to give a little to the Lord and spend much more on ourselves.**

3. To obey the gospel.

Hebrews 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

- A. **Christ encourages those lost to obey the gospel, while Satan will use every temptation to keep one from it.**

The Outcome

1. We can yield to the temptation of Satan through the weakness of our flesh - and sin.

James 1:13-16 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

2. We can obey the commands of the Lord and live righteously.

Ephesians 3:16-17 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

3. The outcome of this battle will depend on the decision of the individual.

A. Those who are fleshly minded --- DEATH!

B. Those who are spiritually minded --- ETERNAL LIFE!

Romans 8:5-6 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Conclusion

- 1. Are you striving to be a soldier of the Lord?**
- 2. Are you fighting the good fight of Faith in Christ Jesus?**
- 3. Don't let Satan's continuous temptations keep you from obeying the Word of God.**
 - A. Show Satan that this is one battle he will not win!**

