

**We are at War Part 2**  
**Know Your Enemy Ephesians 6:12**  
**Sunday a.m. 7/9/2017**

**Dr. Adrian Rogers**

"We are at spiritual war! Therefore, the church is not a cruise ship with the pastor as the master of ceremonies. Indeed it is not a showboat, but a battleship. A truce will never be called."

**General Douglas MacArthur**

"In war there is no substitute for victory." We must be aware of our enemy if we would have this victory. We need to learn of our infernal foe."

■ **The Enemy is Intense**

**wrestling** – *pale*, wrestling as a sport, hand to hand combat

⊗ **This is a picture of a wrestling match of close quarters between the Christian and his demon enemies**

- ❖ Paul was familiar with the athletic events of his day
- ❖ Larger towns had a Palaestra, taken from the Greek word for wrestle
- ❖ Athletes worked out each day in boxing, wrestling and pankration

● **Boxing was violent and ended when an opponent died or quit**

- ✚ Boxers wore gloves ribbed with steel and spiked with nails.
- ✚ The steel wrapped around their gloves was serrated

● **Wrestling was also a deadly sport**

- ✚ Most wrestlers fought to the death rather than face humiliation

● **Pankration was a combination of boxing and wrestling**

- ✚ No rules! Most participants died

⊗ **These are the images that the readers of this letter visualized, “a bitter struggle and an intense conflict.”**

## ■ The Enemy is Supernatural

- Our enemy is not human

❖ Paul says that we are not fighting flesh and blood

✪ People are not our enemy, but who controls that person is our true enemy

### John Phillips

“But our real enemy lurks in the shadows of the unseen world, moving people as pawns on the chessboard of time. As long as we see people as enemies and wrestle against them, we will spend our strength in vain.”

- Our enemy is organized

**principalities** – *arche*, first in rank, Satan and fallen angels

✚ This is where the authority comes from for evil

**powers** – *exousia*, the one who carries out the power

✚ **Principalities** denotes the executive power whereas **powers** represents authority granting the power.

✪ **Principalities and powers picture “divine order, invisible rank”**

**rulers of darkness** – *kosmokrator*, one holding power over the world

✪ **Darkness is the absence of light, therefore the opposite of Christ, Who is the light of the world**

➤ **The purpose statement of Satan is spiritual wickedness in heavenly places**

✪ **Everything on earth to where Christ sits at the right hand of the Father is controlled by Satan and his demons**

**“This system is actively opposed to everything that God stands for. Satan and his demonic forces control the present evil world system.”**

## ■ The Enemy is Limited

- Satan was created by God

### **Nehemiah 9:6a (NKJV)**

You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host,

- Satan was punished by God

### **Isaiah 14:12a (NKJV)**

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!

- Satan is the adversary of God

#### In the Garden of Eden

### **Genesis 3:1 (NKJV)**

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

#### In the wilderness

### **Matthew 4:1 (NKJV)**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

- Satan controls this world

### **1 John 5:19 (NKJV)**

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

- Satan takes advantage of the believer

### **2 Corinthians 2:11 (NKJV) unforgiveness**

lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

- **Satan opposes the gospel**

#### **2 Corinthians 4:4 (NKJV)**

whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

- **Satan is the accuser of the brethren**

#### **Revelation 12:10b (NKJV)**

for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

- **Satan is the father of lies**

#### **John 8:44c (NKJV)**

When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

- **Satan is like a roaring lion**

#### **1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)**

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

- **Satan is defeated by God**

#### **Revelation 20:10 (NKJV)**

The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

### **Close**

- ✚ We know that Satan blinds the eyes of those that have not trusted Jesus as Savior
- ✚ Today, trust Christ