

Angry with the World

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction: Eph. 5:15-17

A. This is a fallen world - Gen. 3:16-19, 23; Ecc. 2:23; Isa. 24:5-6; Rom. 8:20-23

B. Even the secular world understands this, from the ancient days to the present

1. "O Roman people be ashamed; be ashamed of your lives. Almost no cities are free of evil dens, are altogether free of impurities, except the cities in which the barbarians have begun to live. Let nobody think otherwise, the vices of our bad lives have alone conquered us. The Goths lie, but are chaste, the Franks lie, but are but are generous, the Saxons are savage in cruelty, but are admirable in chastity, what hope can there be for we Romans when the barbarians are more pure than we?" (Salvian)

2. "Evil is in this world. Evil that cannot be reasoned with; it is reprobate, incorrigible, determined, un-appeasable, violent, murderous, and unrelenting. (R. Alan Woods, Israeli journalist)

3. "Sometimes evil doesn't need an excuse. Sometimes evil just is."
(Nenia Campbell, author)

I. THE ADVERSARY IS POWERFUL

A. What are we up against? War larger than this universe - Eph. 6:12; 1Peter 5:8

B. The Adversary is brilliant - Gen. 3:1; Luke 4:13

C. In this war between good and evil, we will become casualties if we are preoccupied with problems other than the areas where Satan is hitting us the hardest where we are the most vulnerable.

D. We need to discipline ourselves to take a very serious approach to this world's challenges - 1Peter 1:13; Matt. 10:16

II. GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL

A. We must acknowledge the amount of damage Satan has done to this world.

1. Phil. 2:15; John 14:30, 16:11; 2Cor. 4:4

B. But Satan's dominion is an usurped dominion - John 12:31; 2Peter 2:4

1. When the Adversary reminds us of our sinful past, we would do well to remind him of his grim future.

C. God has overcome Satan, He is on His throne, and this world has never been anything but His. "This Is My Father's World: O let me ne'er forget, that though the wrong seems off so strong, God is the Ruler yet." (M. D. Babcock)

1. The Lord will accomplish His purposes - Esther 4:13-14; Dan. 2:44

2. God has granted His Son all power - Matt. 28:18; Rev. 19:16

3. Our Savior has triumphed over evil - Heb. 2:14-15

4. The deciding battle has already been fought; the outcome of the struggle has been determined. For us, the only thing in doubt is to which side we will have bound ourselves when the end comes.

D. God is fully able to deliver us from the Adversary - Acts 26:17-18; Rom. 16:20

E. We must trust this power - John 16:33; 1John 4:4

F. Whatever difficulties this world may impose on us, God is in control

1. Eph. 3:20; Phil. 4:13; 2Tim. 1:12

III. WE NEED RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION

- A. In view of what we know about God, what should be our attitude toward the problems Satan uses to hinder us in this world?
- B. We need to stop viewing ourselves as just getting by. In Christ we are conquerors - Rom. 8:35-39; Rev. 21:1-7
 - 1. Our personal weaknesses are not obstacles to what God can accomplish through us - 2Cor. 12:9-10; 1Cor. 15:58
- C. We need to adopt the viewpoint of a warrior, to answer the Lord's call to arms
 - 1. 2Tim. 2:3, 4:7; 1Tim. 1:18
- D. It is important to be clear about who the enemy really is. Often we treat those bound by sin as if they were our enemies, even against brethren - Gal. 5:15
 - 1. We need to learn to distinguish the enemy from victims of the enemy
 - a. 2Tim. 2:14, 24-26; Acts 10:38
 - 2. Victims of the Adversary need to be rescued not despised
 - a. James 5:19-20; Jude 22-23
- E. It is important to be vigilant and strong - 1Cor. 16:13; Joshua 1:9; 1Sam. 4:9
 - 1. Eph. 6:10; 2Tim. 1:7; Rev. 2:10
- H. We are not helpless victims who must despairingly, hopelessly surrender to the Adversary's tactics. We can go on the offensive and crush our enemy.
 - 1. John 10:29; 1Cor. 10:13; 1John 5:18-20
- I. Never give the Adversary an opening - Eph. 4:27; 1Tim. 5:14
 - 1. The enemy can be resisted - James 4:7; 1Peter 5:9; Gen. 4:7; Luke 4:8
- J. We need to be righteously angry with Satan for what he has done.
 - 1. In most places Satan has had it all his way for too long - Num. 25:7-11
 - 2. We must resolve that his work will not go unopposed where we live for one day longer.

IV. SURVIVING THIS WORLD

- A. We must care about what is going on. We cannot afford to be complacent.
 - 1. 1Cor. 10:12 - We cannot be apathetic or indifferent about what transpires in the world around us
- B. We must definitively choose a side. God will not fight with us in our battles if we compromise our convictions and accommodate the enemy
 - 1. John 4:23-24, 17:14-17
- C. We must refuse to give up. It will never be enough to have the right attitude for a while and then compromise - Heb. 3:6; Gal. 6:9; 2Cor. 4:16-18; Heb. 12:1-2

Conclusion:

- A. Jesus did not pray that His disciples be taken out of the world, but that they be protected from the work of Satan in this world - John 17:15
- B. Great opportunities are often attended by great adversity - 1Cor. 16:9
- C. The King is coming! - Rev. 19:11-16