

How to Withstand Satan and This Evil World

Fred R. Coulter—October 19, 2013

Very interesting: dhimmitude being in the HealthCare bill and all Muslims are exempt because they think insurance is gambling.

{Transcriber's note: the following website has an article on the word dhimmitude:
http://urbanlegends.about.com/od/government/a/muslims_exempt_health_insurance_mandate.htm
also it can be found at: en.Wikipedia.org}

'Then we have another very interesting thing here. I've got some things I'll just give you the headline of rather than go through each one. If you want to go online, look this up, do a Google search on it: Ten Things to Expect from ObamaCare in 2014. I'll let you do all the searching rather than go through it for you because there are a lot of surprises that they are working up for us.

Also there's a great deal more persecution against Christians. I mentioned last week that chaplains aren't able to use the name of Christ. It's the schools that are doing it. It says Congress shall make no law, but the schools think they are greater than Congress and they make all kinds of laws. They came up to a worldly Christian girl who was wearing a cross and told her to take it off or leave the school because it might offend someone. They'll get around to us a little more.

Also, the Army has just declared a Christian group a 'hate group.' That is the American Family Association has been designated as a 'hate group.' So you see how the oppression is going to come.

You go back in the history a little bit—I've mentioned this before concerning 1893 and *Rome's Challenge to the Protestants*. By the way, it's in the Bible in the appendix. Be sure and read it through very carefully and you will see what they said about the Protestants. They don't follow the Bible and they are going to come against them in a time you least expect. I think that has happened, plus it's also happened to them as well. There's going to be that Christian persecution.

Here's another one that says: Anti-Christian Faith Sentiment Growing at Break-Neck Speed—this is from CBN (Christian Broadcasting Network).

What is God's answer for all of that? *We stand for the Truth!* When we have to let them know, we'll let them know what the Truth is. The other answer to a lot of that is what we have in the way of Church at Home. We can educate everybody with the Word of God at home.

Remember, if you sign up for ObamaCare you have absolutely no privacy of anything,

anywhere, at any time. It is all public information and the government can use it at their will.

Remember what happened in California? They declared that the boys and the girls could declare their gender identification and to go into whichever restroom that they want to. Now there's coming up challenges of that because of the harassment and surely there will be a rape. Then people are going to say, 'What have we done.' All this is part of getting rid of Christianity, getting rid of Truth, and getting rid of those who are against Satan's agenda. Let's just put it that way. Satan has many helpers at many levels doing many, many things. So, these are going to come.

Here is another situation that is interesting: For many Jews in the U.S. religion is not tied to belief. That's coming into the Christian religion as well as in the world. I've got some other things I'm going to bring about that on Church at Home and also they have changed the Bible with the so-called 'gay' Bible. We are getting to a point where there a more and more of these things coming.

Sooner or later the weight of it is going to break through. They have nearly successfully destroyed the family, destroyed education, destroyed the government. It's being destroyed, making it non-workable so that a dictator can take over, if we don't have one already.

Those few who are trying to do right are labeled obstructionists and enemies of the state and they don't know what they are talking about while they are printing money and spending us into complete oblivion. The goal obviously is to do that.

What are we going to do? A man wrote me and he said, 'I hope and pray that you and your family are all doing well. I certainly appreciate the things being done in the sermons. I would like to make a suggestion to do a sermon or sermons on the *armor of God* expounding all the tools we need to defeat Satan.' So we're going to cover part of that today because we are into those things today even more than ever before.

In preparation for this sermon last night I did a channel surfing like I suggest all of you do. Of course, we're getting close to Halloween, so here comes more occultism, more demonism, and more of these things.

There may be some kind of formula that God works concerning Satan and the demons. I don't know exactly how that goes, but let's see that the more—I think we can virtually say this for

true—that people leave God, the more that Satan is given entrance. Zech. 13 is talking about when God sets up the renewal of Jerusalem, preparing for them coming back out of Babylon. Then, of course, likewise when Christ returns:

Zechariah 13:1: “In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David, and to the people of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and for uncleanness. And it shall be in that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘I will cut off the names of ^{#1}**the idols** out of the land, and they shall be remembered no more... [I want you to key in on idols here] ...And also I will cause the ^{#2}**lying prophets** and the unclean spirits to pass out of the land.” How do we get these unclean spirits, because there’s more and more of it very obviously evident in the world? We know that:

1. it is leaving God
2. we have idolatry
3. we have false prophets

This brings us to some things that we need to have the understanding and discernment through the Word of God.

1-John 4:1: “Beloved, do not believe every spirit...” Yet, today they are seeking more and more demonic spirits. You even have more and more programs on television depicting a thrilling, exciting thing to go into these particular things of darkness and evil, and conjuring up ghosts and spirits.

They like to come around and be ‘religious.’ “...but test the spirits...” (v 1). We have a greater challenge today than any other generation going back about 50 years-plus up to our time. We have a greater challenge of things that can come into our mind that can be transmitted to us than at any other time in history. So we need to **be on guard!**

“...whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (v 1). What does this tell us? False prophets have a *false spirit!* How do you discern between the two? One of the things, especially with Halloween; isn’t it interesting that the first occult holiday of the year is *Halloween*, the celebration of death.

Isaiah 8:19: “And when they shall say to you...” This is what they are saying, preaching, practicing, putting on television, books, magazines, CDs, handheld devices. That’s nothing to say about the overwhelming invasion of sex at every level.

“... ‘Seek unto them that have familiar spirits and to wizards who peep and mutter’... [then they answer this way]: ...—*but* should not a people seek unto their God?...” (v 19). That’s what we’re trying to do, failing to realize that ‘the god of this world’ is Satan the devil.

“...*Should* the dead *be sought* on behalf of the living?... [so we can know what went on] (here’s the dividing point; the test): ...To the Law... [the Law of God, all of it] ...and to the testimony!....” (vs 19-20). The testimony includes all of the prophets because the prophets gave witness or testimony and warning from God. That also refers to the New Testament as well.

That is the test; the reason is: “...If they do not speak according to this Word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them” (v 20). We need to understand and realize that.

We have virtually the same message in 1-John 4. I think we are seeing the end result of what is happening to Protestantism because they have failed to heed the warnings. That’s what’s so important about *Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants*. They make it very, very good.

Isn’t it something that the Protestants used to say that Rome and Catholicism is ‘our spiritual enemy.’ Then over this challenge at the World Fair when the Protestants wanted to close the Fair on Sunday, the Seventh Day Adventists sued. That was the only known major Sabbath-keeping group at that time. They won!

So, Cardinal Gibbon wrote *Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants* and the challenge was this: ‘If you say you go by the Bible alone, why don’t you go by the Bible Sabbath because that is the only day that you find commanded in the entire Bible, regardless of your conniving. Furthermore, it’s a Catholic day. From that time there has been a curve downward of Protestantism. The beginning of that decline happened when they forced—I forget the exact year—that the Supreme Court of the United States of 1892_[transcriber’s correction], declared that the United States is a Christian nation.

If they were Christian, they should have repented and begin keeping the Sabbaths of God, begin the Holy Days of God, begin understanding the Bible, but they did not. So, what was brought upon them, everything to remove God step-by-step, incrementally, from the government, schools, our lives, education, and everything that we have. They even got all books about the Bible expelled from the school. Today it’s come so far that you can bring a Koran to the classroom, but you better not bring a Bible. That’s how far the deception has come.

When it gets down to Jesus Christ, 1-John 4:2: “By this *test* you *can* know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in *the flesh* is from God.” That means human flesh like our human flesh as defined in the Bible. Most of them do not believe that. The general belief is a form of Docetism is that Christ the Savior came from

heaven and possessed the man Jesus. So therefore, it was impossible for Jesus to sin and therefore, when Jesus died, then the Christ went back to heaven. That's the sum of the description of what it's talking about here.

Verse 5: "They are of the world; because of this, they speak of the world, and the world listens to them. We are of God; the one who knows God listens to us... [How do you know God? *If you love Him and keep His commandments!*] ...the one who is not of God does not listen to us. By this means we know the Spirit of the Truth and the spirit of the deception" (vs 5-6).

Now let's see what else Satan does. Here is what we need to be aware of today more than ever before. This is why we need to have our minds cleansed every day:

Ephesians 2:1: "Now, you were dead in trespasses and sins." *The wages of sin is death.* We have a sinful nature and everything that we do without the Spirit of God, even though it may be good on the surface, is not a thing that will bring eternal life.

Verse 2: "In which you walked in times past according to the course of this world, according to the prince of power of the air, the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience." That's where we see the world today. Everything even more and more, even those who profess a 'Christianity.' Sixty percent of the young people are living together, not being married and are in sexual relations, yet, they go to the Protestant churches and they are welcomed. It has come full circle.

Notice, here's what it appeals to, v 3: "Among whom also we all once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed by the flesh and by the mind, and were by nature *the* children of wrath, even as the rest *of the world.*" God calls us out of that.

Let's see how we need to stay steadfast with God and not let any of these things get into us, not let any of these things come and bother us. We have a greater fight today than they did back in the days when the Church was formed. Let's see what it is that we are to do.

Let's first of all look at the warnings. This is why when the Protestants have said you don't need to follow the Old Testament, then they miss all the warnings. There are a lot of them in there but they are all based on two things:

1. telling God what to do
2. forgetting what God told them to do

That's why we have the Sabbath every week. What is the first word in the fourth commandment?

Remember! Because it's so easy to forget, if you get wrapped up in all of these things that are part of the world—the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, the pride of life, and everything that is built around the world and what Satan has put out there for people to do. How many of them center around all the activities on the Sabbath?

Let's see what God wants. In the book of Deuteronomy you have a lot of things that apply to the New Testament, the New Covenant, and all of that. Let's remember what Peter said. Peter said, 'As there were false teachers among Israel, there shall be false teachers among you, coming in even denying Christ.' We've seen that happen, haven't we? *Yes, we have.*

Here is the first key. Along with *remember*, it is *don't forget*. Moses wrote, Deuteronomy 4:1: "And now, O Israel, hearken to the statutes and to the judgments which I teach you, in order to do them, so that you may live and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers gives to you."

In reading the Old Testament one thing I have really gathered out of it. ***No one tells God what to do*** and whatever God says, ***He means and we are to do.***

He says here to counteract that, v 2: "You shall not add to the word which I command you; neither shall you take away from it, so that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." Put in your notes there, 1-John 2:3-6, showing that for the New Covenant we are also to keep the commandments of God. 'Anyone who says they know God and doesn't keep His commandments is a liar.'

They had a personal experience that we never had, v 3: "Your eyes have seen what the LORD did because of Baal Peor. For the LORD your God destroyed from among you all the men that followed Baal Peor. And you who held fast to the LORD your God *are* alive, every one of you, this day" (vs 3-4). So remember: ***hold fast!***

Verse 5: "Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you should do so in the land where you go to possess it. And you shall keep and do *them*, for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people.' For what nation is so great..." (vs 5-7).

What we need to do is think in terms of the promises of Abraham given to the children of Israel in these last days. I find it quite interesting, when you look at the sequence of things that happened in

history, before God gave the blessings to Ephraim and Manasseh—and then the rest of the tribes in Europe as well—the first thing He did was break the yoke of the Catholic Church.

Then for the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh he raised up William Tyndale to translate the Bible. He gave them the Bible first so they would have the Word of God. Here is the key: *everyone who has a Bible*, especially today, *have had God's witness personally delivered to them in their own house!* You don't have to go down to a mountain and see some display on a mountain. He wants it to be that we will be a righteous nation. Look what we have done to it. In order to fulfill His promise, He sent His Word first.

Verse 9: "Only take heed to yourself..." The next thing we need to do is *watch ourselves*. Who has control over your mind? *You do!* You are to choose. You are to take heed to yourself.

"...and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. But teach them to your children, and your children's children" (v 9). That's quite a thing—isn't it? Notice all the admonitions in here.

We see a repeat of this in v 23, just a little different: "Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which He made with you..." Let's take that one step further into the covenant we have made with God and God has made with us through Christ. Remember, *a covenant is something that if you break, it costs your life!*

Verse 9: "Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which He made with you, and make you a graven image, a likeness of anything which the LORD your God has forbidden you." What comes with idols? *Unclean spirits!* That's why in the New Testament we are told 'flee idolatry.'

Verse 24: "For the LORD your God *is* a consuming fire, a jealous God."

Verse 26: "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day that you shall soon utterly perish from off the land which are crossing over Jordan to possess. You shall not prolong *your* days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed." That is if they go against God. We've also experienced that in the Church.

Deut. 6 is a very important chapter because this also shows us something very important concerning law. Law and commandments by themselves are an *expression* of love; *they do not create love*. Love comes from the heart; love comes from God.

That's why Jesus gave the answer, 'Which is the first and great commandment? Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul, all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. On these two *hang* all the Law and the Prophets.' It's not the other way around.

You must first love God and then you can keep His commandments. That will constitute love as motivated with God's Spirit. You can't come over here and try and keep commandments without God. You end up with something like Judaism. What did Jesus say to the Pharisees? He says, 'I know you. You do not have the love of God in you. For had you believed Moses, you would have believed Me.'

Let's read it here what God says, Deuteronomy 6:1: "Now, these *are* the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God commanded to teach you so that you might do *them* in the land where you go to possess it." That's after chapter five with the Ten Commandments.

Verse 2: "That you might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you, and your son, and your son's son, all the days of your life, and so that your days may be prolonged."

Here's another key on how to fight against Satan, v 3: "Hear therefore... [the Word of God; the admonition of God; the teaching of God] ...O Israel, and be diligent to *observe* it..." We can't take it half-heartedly. We can't take it by being cool. We can't take it by being lukewarm.

"...so that it may be well with you, and that you may greatly multiply, as the LORD God of our fathers has promised you, in the land that flows with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel. Our one God is *the* LORD, *the* LORD. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be in your heart" (vs - 6). That's how they are in our heart: *by loving God!* There are other admonitions in here about forgetting God.

Let's come to the New Testament and we will see pretty much the same thing. What are the three words that define what God wants us to do? *Obey My voice!* We have the voice of God recorded here. Let's amplify that a little bit with what Jesus was teaching.

Luke 6:43: "For there is not a good tree that is producing corrupt fruit; nor *is there* a corrupt tree that is producing good fruit." Think what all of this mass demonic television and satanic television is going to produce. It's going to produce:

- more sin
- more iniquity
- more murders
- kidnappings
- sex problems
- disease
- death
- drugs and everything else that goes with it

Can that produce something good? What they are missing in all the politics and all the things that the politicians want to do, ‘Oh, do this and we’ll prosper.’ *No! Return to God first and then do it!* Then we’ll prosper. If you don’t return to God, all that you’re going to try and do it may work for a little while, but sooner or later the burden of sin is going to destroy it and drag it down.

Verse 44: “For every tree is known by its own fruit; for they do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather a bunch of grapes from a bramble. The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good; and the wicked man out of the wicked treasure of his heart brings forth that which *is* wicked; for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks” (vs 44-45).

Let me just do a little sidebar here for you. Go online and look up the 20 sayings of our President about the Muslim religion, and then the 20 sayings about the Christian religion. I’ll let you do the research on that. It will be astounding! Likewise with the other politicians. Another way of putting it: ***you can never accomplish the righteousness of God with the means of satanic religion!*** Never work!

Verse 46: “And why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ but *you* do not practice what I say?” That’s why we have Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This is not very much different from what Moses said. It’s identical.

Verse 47: “‘Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and practices them, I will show you what he is like.’” It’s very interesting. The Greek word there ‘poieo’ means to *be doing on a continuous basis*, which is *practice*.

Let’s just stop and think for a minute concerning us. If as individuals we quit keeping the Sabbath, how long would we remember God? *We’d be absorbed into the world and become like them!* That’s why we have Sabbath every week. That’s why God says, ‘Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy.’ God says, ‘If you practice that...’ If this is your way of living.

Verse 48: “He is like a man building a house, who dug deep...” Isn’t it interesting that Jesus is called a carpenter, but He’s more like a contractor in

building buildings because that involves stones and timber and concrete. They had concrete back then as well.

“...and laid *the* foundation on the rock; and a flood came, and the torrent beat against that house, but could not shake it, because it was founded on the rock” (v 48). This tells us being a Christian and following Christ is not going to be an easy proposition.

He told us there in Matt. 7 that ‘narrow is the gate and difficult is the way that leads to life. But broad is the gate that leads to destruction and many go there.’ When you have what is known as ‘costless Christianity,’ the simple formula that the Protestants and evangelists go through today: they don’t have to do anything. What does God require? He requires:

- repentance
 - baptism
- which is a covenant of death. You bury the old self
- the receiving of the Holy Spirit of God
 - walking in the way of God
 - to trust Him through all the difficult things that come along

If you are true and faithful and loving God, you’re not going to be shaken from it. “...it was founded on the rock.”

Verse 49: “But the one who has heard *My words* and has not practiced *them* is like a man who built a house on *top of* the ground, without a foundation; and *when* the torrent beat against it, it fell at once, and the ruin of that house was great.”

Let’s come back here to the book of Jude. We’re to remember the words of Christ, and we’ll see that He sent the Holy Spirit. But we’re also to remember something else. Jude wrote this epistle because there were men creeping in stealthily and were perverting the grace of God into licentiousness. So, after showing all the difficulties and problems, giving examples of God’s severe judgment, then he tells us:

Jude 17: “But you, beloved, remember the words that were spoken before by the apostles of Our Lord Jesus Christ.” That includes everything that we have in the New Testament. We’ve got the Old Testament, combined with the New Testament and that constitutes the Word of God of what we are to do. Then God gives us His Spirit so we can keep His way spiritually, motivated from within.

I want you to read through all of Psa. 119, where it says, ‘I do not forget...’ over and over again:

- I do not forget Your law
- I do not forget Your statutes
- I do not forget Your judgments

- I do not forget Your commandments
- I love Your law
- I love Your commandments
- I love the Truth
- all Your commandments are Truth
- all Your Law is Truth
- all Your precepts are true from the beginning

That is a fantastic Psalm showing that with the Spirit of God, and if we apply it with the Spirit of God, how great God's way is. Then add to that—*remember the words of the apostles.*

It is a spiritual thing that takes place. Let's see what the Spirit of God is to do for us, John 14:26: "But *when the Comforter comes, even the Holy Spirit, which the Father will send in My name, that one shall teach you all things, and shall bring to your remembrance everything that I have told you.*" The Holy Spirit is going to work with us to teach us.

I did a series some time back on *How to use the Holy Spirit*. We're going to do a little refining with it and then we'll make it available for everyone. It's four sermons: *How to Use the Holy Spirit*. That's what we need to realize that we need to do here.

John 15:20: "**Remember the word that I spoke to you...** [just what we were talking about earlier.] ...a servant is not greater than his master...." in any way.

Sidebar: Remember where Jesus said, 'Do not think that I have come to destroy the Law or the Prophets,' or abolish it. The Greek negation of that is a double negation, which is this: there are two Greek words which mean 'no' or 'not.' The one is 'ouk' or shortened to 'ou.' The other one is 'me.' 'Ouk' means that *it is not something that shall be done* or should be done, the impossibility of it. 'Me' has the meaning of *don't let this thought come into your mind*; don't have an idea that it's going to occur. Used in Matt. 5:17, it is this way: 'ou me.' When it's used in that double emphasis and those two words are used together it means *emphatically it is not going to be done and don't even have an idea that it will be!*

Verse 20: "Remember the word that I spoke to you..." That's in John 13 with the foot-washing. What did He say? 'The servant is not greater than his master and the messenger is not greater than the one who sent him.' Meaning, *don't take my words and add to them or subtract them*, because you're putting yourself in God's place.

(go to the next track)

Let's look at the world, very similar to what David saw in Ps. 5. This tells you what we need to watch out for:

- how we need to keep our guard up
- how we need to understand the things that are coming
- how we need to ask God to help us in everything

Why did Jesus say that we could pray directly to the Father? *Because the Father Himself loves you!*

Whatever difficulty comes, do not be consumed by that difficulty. Trust in God. We're going to have to be doing that more and more and trust in God to be led by the Holy Spirit of God. That's why I want to get this booklet and this short series out so that we can know how God is going to deal with us and to always remember: the Father Himself—the greatest Being in the universe—loves each one of us in particularly.

Jim and I were talking about that the other day. What a fantastic thing that God has done, when you consider, as I've asked you to do many times, take a pen and make a point on a piece of paper. That's how big you were when you started. Everything that you are as a human being now is a result of that.

Just think perhaps what we are learning here—and I think very similar to it—is that we're not much bigger than that little speck *spiritually speaking*, and the vast difference that it's going to be when we're resurrected as spirit beings and then being with God the Father and Jesus Christ. That is going to be absolutely mind-blowing!

Psalm 5:1: "Give ear to my words, O LORD: consider my meditation." The meditation is your thoughts. That's why we need to have *the washing of the water by the Word* daily to cleanse our thoughts and our minds because we are bombarded with so many things. We are in the absolutely worst generation that has been to this point.

Verse 2: "Hearken to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for to You do I pray. My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning I will direct my prayer to You, and I will look up" (vs 2-3). How do we survive against the forces of Satan in this world? *Pray every day!* Start out in the morning, end the day the same way. Be as Paul said to pray constantly, unceasingly, throughout the day periodically.

Verse 4: "For You are not a God that has pleasure in wickedness; nor shall evil dwell with You. The boasters shall not stand in Your sight. You hate all workers of iniquity" (vs 4-5). He hates their deeds.

You stop and think about what God is going to do to this earth when Christ returns. It is going to be something else! Says there in the book of Haggai

He's going to shake the heavens! shake the earth! shake the sea! like it says there in Revelation. Imagine what this world is going to be like, all because of sin. ***Just because sinners are not punished immediately doesn't mean that God is not taking account!*** Says in another Psalm, 'You set them in slippery ways,' and it will catch up with them. When do you slip and slide? *When you least expect it!*

Verse 6: "You shall destroy those who speak lies... [may that blessing come on all politicians at the right time] ...the LORD abhors the bloody and deceitful man." Let God take care of it. That's the whole thing here. ***Do not let any of the problems of the world come into your life so much that you get distracted and upset with it!***

What can I do? *Nothing! God has to handle it!* Don't go through all of the mental battles and emotional battles and all of this sort of thing with it.

Verse 7: "But I, in the abundance of Your loving kindness, I will come into Your house..." David could do that because he had in his house a special room where there was a small tabernacle. In that tabernacle David placed the Ark of the Covenant. David had a special relationship with God because of that. Remember this: our prayers come up before God the Father through Jesus Christ—every single day. We are—in a sense, spiritually—when we pray, coming into His house. There will be a day when we will enter the house of God literally after the resurrection.

"...I will bow down in your fear toward Your Holy temple. Lead me, O LORD..." (vs 7-8). What leads us? *The Holy Spirit leads us (Rom. 8:14)!* We are the children of God when the Holy Spirit leads us. Don't let your temper get taken away or your anger taken away, or resentment taken away. Let God's Spirit lead you.

"...in Your righteousness because of my enemies... [Who are the enemies? *Satan the devil and the demons!* They follow along. Wherever evil is promulgated there they are.] ...make Your way straight before my face" (v 8). That's how you keep yourself out of trouble. You follow the way of God. What did Jesus say? *'Straight is the gate and narrow is the way!'*

Verse 9: "For there is no truth in their mouth..." Think about that! You do your own channel surf. However many channels you have. If you have the dish or satellite, you've got 600 channels on it. Go through all 600 and ask how many are productive, how many are filled with lies and fairy tales and Satanism and all of that sort of thing. Then you will understand how evil that it really is.

When movies first came out, children were taught, 'That's of the devil.' How can that be? *I submit to you it doesn't come all at once!* Look at the beginning of Walt Disney, Mickey Mouse on the Riverboat. Toot-toot. Look at it now. Harry Potter, the Witch of Endor, witchcraft, demonism. How does Satan start? *Very innocent!* How does he end up? *Totally destructive!* Look at the movies.

I'll tell one on Dolores. Because so many of the programs and movies are really, really bad, she loves the cowboy channel. At least there are good guys and bad guys and there's right and wrong defined correctly. That's one of her favorite channels. She doesn't watch sports, I watch some sports, at least it's pitting against a goal or something. But when it's all over and done, all of the vanity, all of the hoop-la, all of that, the greatest lesson in sports is this: *you have got to persevere to win.*

Even the Apostle Paul said that in 1-Cor. 9. But all of the vanity and all the hoop-la and I'm the greatest this and that and so forth, forget it. Not so!

Verse 9: "...their inward part is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue." Sounds like I just read the qualifications for politicians and preachers.

Verse 10: "Hold them guilty, O God; let them fall by their own counsels... [that's how to pray for your enemies] ...cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions, for they have rebelled against You."

Here's how we survive in this terrible, evil, demonic world, v 11: "But let all who put their trust in You rejoice... [Trust God! Never, *ever, ever* doubt the Word of God!] ...let them always shout for joy because You defend them... [add in there Psa. 91] ...And let those who love Your name exult... [that means be exceedingly joyful in You] ...For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield" (vs 11-12). ***That shield is the Word of God!***

Let's see how we can defend ourselves. You're not going to defend yourselves because you vote for a certain person. They may have a policy better than another one and if you vote remember this: *Also vote for those who really cut taxes and for those who are the least evil.* There are some who are trying to do the right thing. They likewise give witness to us.

I think perhaps one of the most righteous one in Congress is a woman—Michelle Bachmann. One of her speeches she was talking about what is wrong with America and what we need to do. She said in the book of Kings, Solomon gave the prayer that *'if your people will turn to You [God] and toward this*

place and confess their sins, You [God] will forgive them. She actually said that in one of her speeches. That's why she's President today; she's so righteous. **No!** *That sort of thing is not tolerated in the political world!*

Here's what we need to do, Ephesians 6:10: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in *the* Lord..." How are you strong in the Lord? Through:

- prayer
- study
- meditation
- constantly doing the things of God

That has to be through His Spirit, not because there's any goodness in us. I'll tell you one thing that we learn the older we get, we really understand how desperately evil and wicked that human nature is. Do a thought check every once in a while during the day. How is this thought compared to the Word of God?

Even on something that you think you're really right in doing. Satan likes to come along and put a thought in your mind, 'You're really right there. You ought to hold a grudge against that person.' *Yeah, I ought to hold a grudge against that person because they were really wrong and I'm really right.* Satan is there, 'Yes!'

- What does God say? *Forgive!*

That's hard to do!

- What does He say? *Forgive!*
- What does He say? *Don't let the sun go down on your wrath!*

"...be strong in *the* Lord, and in the might of His strength" (v 10). That's through the Spirit of God, through the Word of God.

Verse 11: "Put on the whole armor of God... [we talked about the shield] ...so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Who is he after? *Anyone he can devour!* That's why Paul wrote, 'The one who names the name of Christ let him depart from unrighteousness.'

For all of those of you who think I pick on the Protestants, I'm going to really give a sermon as to why God has been merciful to them and they should have been picked on a whole lot sooner, a whole lot longer. They may be, in some cases, *for* Jesus, but other than that what are they for?

Verse 12: "Because we are not wrestling against flesh and blood... [our spiritual battle] ...but against principalities *and* against powers, against the world rulers of the darkness of this age..." Remember that every time you get frustrated when you watch the nightly news and things are not going well. No use being frustrated. Are you going to change them? If you're so frustrated, turn it off.

Turn it on next week and you'll find the same thing. You're not going to miss anything.

You have music, radio, television, handheld media devices, wherever you go. You go into the store, especially during the holiday season, and what is always hard? *Those Christmas carols!* Why do they do that? *So they can keep everyone in frequency, in tune, deceived to spend their money, go in debt,* and they think they're doing good to God. *No, you're not!* You're making yourself in debt and you're enriching the merchants. The one you give the gift to may be very happy with it for a while, but that's the legacy of Christmas. Have all these things coming against us.

"...against the spiritual *power* of wickedness in high places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God so that you may be able to resist in the evil day..." (vs 12-13). What we find out is today every day is an evil day, not just *the* evil day, but every day. So, we need to be strong in the Lord.

"...and having worked out all things, to stand" (v 13). What do you work out? What are the things that you work out? Let me give you just a little formula here. This is one we have gone over before. It is a four-step formula:

1. ***stand in grace***
2. ***walk in faith***
3. ***believe in hope***
4. ***live in love***

That's what you need to remember. When all these things come upon you and you start feeling this pressure and you start feeling this tension or you start feeling your emotions coming to the fore and anger and things like that, *stop!* Do like they do in the sports events. Blow yourself a mental whistle and stop!

Verse 14: "Stand therefore, having your loins girded about with Truth..." You must

- *study* the Truth
- *know* the Truth
- *love* the Truth
 - ✓ the Word of God is the Truth
 - ✓ Christ is the Truth
 - ✓ the Father is the Truth

"...and wearing the breastplate of righteousness" (v 14). All your vital parts are exposed so you have to have the strength of the breastplate of righteousness. What is righteousness? *Your standing with God, the commandments of God, everything about God!*

Verse 15: "And having your feet shod with *the* preparation of the Gospel of Peace." We're to continue to preach the Gospel, continue to feed the flock, continue to do what we need to do.

Verse 16: “Besides all *these*, take up the shield of the faith, with which you will have the power to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.” That’s likened to little missiles being shot off at you.

Verse 17: “And put on the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit... [it starts out with the Spirit and it ends up with the Spirit] ...which is the Word of God.”

What does God do to make this possible for us to accomplish it? *He puts His laws, His Truth, His way written in our hearts and in our minds so that we can get rid of it!* Ask God to cleanse our minds from it, and to not let the world come in against us. That’s how we are to do it. There’s a lot that needs to be done.

Then on the other hand, we need to stand for the Truth in the way of doctrine, in the way of teaching, and all of that. Look at everything that God has given us to do and all of those things will help us in the days that come.

Verse 18: “Praying at all times...” If you come across a difficult situation during the day or a thought comes into your mind during the day, rebuke it, ask God to forgive you. That’s getting rid of the temptation. Those thoughts are temptations. They haven’t yet conceived into full sin, but those temptations come so that it can appeal to your lust, but don’t be drawn away. That’s why you have to pray at all times.

“...with all prayer and supplication in *the* Spirit... [in this very thing, of everything concerning fighting Satan the devil]: ...and in this very thing being watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” (v 18). That is for all of us combined together. So that really helps us a great deal to understand.

Come back to Psalm 20 and we’ll add this to what we have covered concerning those four things that we need to remember:

1. *stand in grace*
2. *walk in faith*
3. *believe in hope*
4. *live in love*

Here’s a great Psalm to always keep in mind. It’s interesting, when you have the word ‘may,’ that means there are conditions, Psalm 20:1: “May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble...”

- That’s provided you *pray!*
- That’s provided you *believe God!*
- That’s provided you *trust God!*

“...the name of the God of Jacob set you on high, May He send you help from the sanctuary, and strengthen you out of Zion” (vs 1-2). How does that come? *Through God’s Spirit, through His angels!* Many times we need God to intervene for us and His angels protect us. Sometimes those things happen we don’t even know they occurred.

Verse 3: “May He remember all your offerings and accept your burnt sacrifice. Selah.” Today that is through prayer, praise, loving God. Those are our offerings. Our sacrifices are we don’t get all tangled up in the world and we are faithful to God in our financial affairs, as well.

Verse 4: “May He grant you according to your own heart and fulfill all your plans. We will shout for joy in your victory, and in the name of our God we will set up banners. May the LORD fulfill all your prayers. Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed...” (vs 4-6). Each one of you are anointed if you have the Spirit of God.

“...He will answer him from His Holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. They are brought down and fallen, but we have risen and stand upright. Save, O LORD; let the King hear us when we call” (vs 6-9). That’s quite a Psalm. You can take that Psalm and you can plug it in with Psalms 91.

Sometimes it’s so easy to get bogged down in our own difficulties and problems that come upon us. Here is how we put all of this together to fight this exceedingly wicked world around us:

2-Peter 1:1: “Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained *the* same precious faith as ours... [the same faith as the apostles] ...by *the* righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” Everything that we do, everything that we have has been given to us from God. ***We have nothing we didn’t receive!***

Verse 2: “Grace and peace be multiplied to you... [That’s what we want. Stand in grace. Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart.] ...be multiplied to you in *the* knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. According as His Divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and Godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by His own glory and virtue; through which He has given to us the greatest and *most* precious promises...” (vs 2-4).

When you get all bogged down in the struggles of the mundane things that are going on—this is why we need the Sabbath. This is why we need prayer and study because what God has for us is so great.

“...that through these you may become partakers of *the* Divine nature... [the mind of Christ is the Divine nature] ...having escaped the corruption *that is* in *the* world through lust” (v 4). Yes, that’s what it is.

In the different sermons that I give from time to time many of them I will come to Eph. 3 because I think this is one of the most inspired, uplifting chapters of the entire Bible. Paul wrote this when he was in prison. You could say he should have been at his lowest. Take this for an example. When you go through a trial or difficulty and it has brought you low, look to God and let Him raise you up.

Notice Paul’s presentation here, Ephesians 3:14: “For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That He may grant you... [He did not say ‘me,’ he said *you*. Every single one of those God has called.] ...according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power by His Spirit in the inner man” (vs 14-16). That is how you resist the world and you do not let the world come in and collapse in upon you.

Verse 17: “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith.... [yes, let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts] ...*And* that being rooted and grounded in love... [that will pull you back from all the pulls of the flesh if you exercise it properly] ...you may be fully able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the breadth and length and depth and height” (vs 17-18). That is of God’s plan. Everything that we are looking at physical down here is all going to go away. What is going to remain is that which God is building and working and developing within us.

Verse 19: “And to know the love of Christ, which surpasses *human* knowledge; so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” How great is that! The Divine nature!

Then after he gets done saying all of these great and fantastic things that are going to happen to us, then here is what I look at as a very long amen:

Verse 20: “Now, to Him Who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that is working in us, To Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all generations, *even* into the ages of eternity. Amen” (vs 20-21). Isn’t that something.

So this is why we need to be strengthened in God. This is how we can work against the world and all the forces that come against us. This is how we can change and grow and overcome and become what God wants us to become so that He can say at the end, ‘*Well done, good and faithful servant.*’

Scriptural References:

- 1) Zechariah 13:1-2
- 2) 1-John 4:1
- 3) Isaiah 8:19-20
- 4) 1-John 4:2, 5-6
- 5) Ephesians 2:1-3
- 6) Deuteronomy 4:1-7, 9, 23-24, 26
- 7) Deuteronomy 6:1-6
- 8) Luke 6:43-49
- 9) Jude 17
- 10) John 14:26
- 11) John 15:20
- 12) Psalm 5:1-12
- 13) Ephesians 6:10-18
- 14) Psalm 20:1-9
- 15) 2-Peter 1:1-4
- 16) Ephesians 3:14-21

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 1-John 2:3-6
- Matthew 7
- Psalm 119
- Matthew 5:17
- John 13
- Romans 8:14
- 1-Corinthians 9
- Psalm 91

Also referenced:

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