

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Adult Sunday School Lesson

5.22.2022

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Spiritual Weapons

## 2 Corinthians 10: 1 – 12, 17 – 18

In this week's lesson we are going to learn how to deal with spiritual warfare. What is spiritual warfare? It is the concept of fighting against the works of the devil. Sadly, often time, we feel it is fighting against those that are doing the evil works and not the source of those works. We must learn that we cannot control what others do, so our battle is not with them, but within our own hearts. For this reason, we must submit to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and not to our own thoughts, which come from the flesh and the lusts thereof. We must bring our own self-righteous thoughts into the obedience of Christ and his word. As believers, we must learn to give these conflicts over to the Lord, so that he may guide us through the Holy Spirit, to fight these battles through prayer and the word of God, not with our own human reasoning. Christ himself taught this to his disciples.

**Matthew 7: 1 – 2, 7 – 8, 11 – 12,....**judge not, that ye be not judged....for with what judgement ye judge, ye shall be judged....it shall be measured to you again....therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them....

Humanity believes that this passage of scripture is the basis for Christian faith, but that would be a misinterpretation and misunderstanding of the scripture. Even though this is a good passage of scripture to help us in building our Christian life, following after this command, which Christ himself gave unto us will not save us, therefore we should not use it for the basis of the foundation of our eternal life. It is, however, a command that should be evident in the life of all believers. It should impact every area of our lives, including our attitudes and motives concerning all whom we come in contact with. Our Christian life should be seen as the presence of all that is good in Christ Jesus, for the benefit of others, and to the glory of God.

**Ephesians 6: 12**,....for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places....

Spiritual warfare means that we should guard our hearts against the iniquity of sin. Disobedience comes when we allow the deceptiveness of the world to live in our hearts. This will turn us away from God and can cause us to separate ourselves from him. Through Christ, we will come to learn that the battle has already been won through the resurrected Christ.

**2 Corinthians 10: 1 – 6**,....now I....beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ....against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh....for though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh....for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds....casting down every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God....bringing....every thought to the obedience of Christ....when your obedience is fulfilled....

There will be those who will claim that as Christians, we will act differently toward them, when we are away from them, then we will when we are face to face with them. We are taught to follow the example of Christ, which is to be the same yesterday, today, and forever. With this in mind, we are to be both humble and bold when it comes to speaking of the truth of God's word. Our spiritual warfare is not with people, but with Satan. This is because people are nothing more than tools in the hand of whom they serve. Therefore, we confront these worldly beliefs, always ready to overcome worldly arguments, so that we may be able to give a truthful presentation of the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

**2 Corinthians 10: 3,....**though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh....

As Christians, we should not become offended when others mistake our Christlike meekness for worldly weakness, for our Christlike meekness is God's strength that is in control. Those who come into our presence, making a showing of great strength are those who seem to be more naturally impressive to the ones that are looking for that kind of outward expression due to the fact that they are in the world and looking for more of the world. Therefore, those who come into our presence showing this kind of great strength are probably false teachers using the authority of God but actually have none. As believers, we are not to wage war according to the flesh, which is driven by sinful desires. We should not see ourselves as being strong and impressive, but we should see ourselves as Christ working through us.

**2 Corinthians 10: 4,....**for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God....

The word tells us that, the devil, roams about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5: 8

If we are not careful, we may find evidence of deceptiveness in our everyday lives and spiritual walk. This comes about when we abuse the gifts given unto us by God through the indwelling Holy Spirit, and use them for personal gain. This all starts with petty arguments and quarrels over misunderstandings of the word of God. Through spiritual teachings, God will chastise those who have adopted these inappropriate behaviors, bringing them to repentance from their worldly ways, which will lead to spiritual growth. The only way to confront those that exalt themselves against the knowledge of truth is to clothe ourselves in Christ, which comes by bringing into captivity, every thought, to the obedience of God's word.

**1 Peter 3: 15,....**but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and be ready to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear....

**2 Corinthians 10: 7 – 12**,....do you look on things after the outward appearance....our authority....the Lord hath given us for edification....not for....destruction....such as we are in word....such will we be also in deed....we dare not make ourselves....with some that commend themselves....

We are not to try and frighten or intimidate others, and we are not to be secretive in our message or motives, but we are to boldly share the gospel of Jesus Christ so that others may know that we are trustworthy. We should never be any different in our spiritual conduct, but we should always communicate and conduct ourselves both through words and actions according to the will of God. Through deceptiveness and false teachings Satan will try to turn Christians from believing in the truthfulness of God's word by waging a spiritual war in their minds, which hinders their obedience to Christ. The word tells us that if it is materialistic or worldly, then it has no connection to Christ. This is usually seen through those who boast exceedingly about their spiritual authority. Spiritual authority that comes from Christ is an authority of Christlike service toward others. Christlike authority builds others up, it does not tear others down. Corrections that come through the word of God will never be harmful but will always be for the good of others and to the glory of God.

**2 Corinthians 10: 17 – 18**,....he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord....for not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth....

Spiritually misguided people, boast in themselves. The only thing that any Christian must boast about is that which Christ has done in them, that which Christ is going to do with them, and all that he will ever do in our lives.

**John 15: 5,....**for without me you can do nothing....

Nothing that we do of ourselves will have any eternal value. We are tools in the hand of God, used for his glory. We have no reason to boast in ourselves, for the Lord will commend those who trust in him and will know his blessings throughout all eternity.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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