

Your Adversary the Devil Pt. 3

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[0 : 0 0] And thank you, everybody else, for singing out on the second and third. Kind of ended that song service on a good note. Because up to that point, it was starting to feel like we were a Mennonite cult or something.

Singing, you know, I'm kidding. I don't mind singing without the music every now and then. But if that was what it was every time, it should be a little tougher, wouldn't it? So we're thankful for having it.

Find in your Bible, let's go to Ephesians 6. It's of no coincidence that the first song we sang was Stand Up for Jesus. And it probably wasn't screaming at you, but it sure was screaming at me.

And so find Ephesians 6 and then with another hand, catch 1 Peter 5. And we'll just read the two verses that we've been discussing and preaching the last few times together.

1 Peter 5, Ephesians 6. And again, we'll begin in 1 Peter 5, verses 8 and 9.

[1 : 0 9] Where Peter warns, Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

Whom resists steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. Now, this began last Wednesday night. It turned into something similar but different on Sunday and here tonight.

Perhaps, if possible, we'll try to wrap it up with some practical thoughts about this. The idea we've been noticing is that we have an adversary. He's the devil.

He's likened to a roaring lion. He said that he's seeking whom he may devour. And we're warned, then we're cautioned.

We need to be sober. We need to be vigilant. We need to pay attention. And we need to have our eyes up and walk circumspectly. And not be so distracted with things in this life that we're not paying attention to the working and to the one that's seeking to devour us and to destroy us.

[2 : 1 8] And so last Wednesday, I won't reiterate all those thoughts, but we kind of went through some things where he can use distractions against us. Or seeing that he's got his eye on relationships that we have.

And it's described in a few passages and even in a church where he's capable of getting involved and doing damage. And then Sunday, we looked at a few, I guess I called them evidences that he is at work and that he is, got his foot in the door, so to speak.

And showed you some things through the disciples of Christ. Two cases in Peter's life where Satan was involved and one with Judas Iscariot where he found a way in. And so we'll warn you about that.

And now today, I want to kind of conclude, if possible, here with what Peter tells us to do. Not just be sober and be vigilant, but then he tells us in verse 9 to resist.

Resist, steadfast in the faith. James says the same thing. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. And I warned you that the devil's real. And also reminded you that he's very successful in what he tries to do and does.

[3 : 28] He's likened in the Bible to a subtle serpent, one that you don't see coming. He blends in and so well. And then he's likened to a roaring lion, the king of beasts. And probably everything in between.

Now, in Ephesians 6, Paul is going to give us some, I want to call this, he'll give us the means by which that we can effectively stand. And you're going to see that word all over the place in this passage.

And resist the roaring lion that's seeking. Paul's going to tell us that we need some armor. Some armor in order to withstand such an enemy.

Because resisting the devil does not come, it's not part of our makeup. It's just unnatural for us.

It's not part of our capability to resist the devil. We need to avail ourselves to certain things of God in order to resist such a being and such an enemy.

[4 : 29] Resisting him, I don't think it really falls within our capabilities. So we need to avail ourselves to what God has given us. He's much wiser than us.

You have to acknowledge that. And if you don't acknowledge that, if you really think this like, oh, the devil and all that, I don't worry about it. Then you're missing something. And you're not being sober. Or vigilant.

Or even paying attention. You're deluded about your real, the Bible calls him your enemy. Calls him your adversary. And warns us that he's after us. He's called the accuser of the brethren.

He's doing something. And just to brush it off like it's no big deal or it's not real, then you're blind. And that's not good. He's much wiser than you.

Picture, it's probably better to say a computer program. But I was thinking of playing chess against a professional chess player. One that just hits the timer without even thinking.

[5 : 27] And if I was to sit down against a professional chess player, I would make a move. And in their mind, they see all the moves from there forward.

It's like in their mind, it's like, this is how it's going to end up. And if I make this move, they know what to counter with and how this is going to end up. They know the whole board.

And I mean, in chess, I don't know the stats, but it's an insane amount of moves and possibilities that a game can beat. But a computer has them all locked down.

So when you play against a computer and if it's set to kill, then you don't have a chance. You're done. And that's what I see with the devil. That's what I think of with the adversary, the devil.

He's so much wiser than we are. And if he sees you take a little look that way, oh, he knows the steps, the subtle, the right little moves to set something in motion that's going to take you out.

[6 : 28] He's not somebody you get to play with and win. He's subtle. So you don't see him coming. You don't realize that he's actually helping me down this road. He's deceiving.

So he's lying to you the whole time. So you don't even see that this is not good. This is wrong. You'll believe a lie like Eve did in the very beginning without a background and parents and a world that taught her how to sin.

She believed his lie just like that. He's good. He's crafty. He's beguiling. And he has, realize it, 6,000 years of experience in destroying men, even the best of men.

And while that might not be that big a deal because he caused the very first couple to fall, he maybe doesn't need 6,000 years of experience. On top of that, the point is, you're no foe for him.

If you try to go up against somebody who's, just take a young man and go up against an older, wise man who's got years of worldly experience and try to, I mean, the young man would have no wisdom and no understanding to draw from experience.

[7 : 38] The older man of 80 years would just have a ton of it. Well, let's look at 6,000 years and realize that we don't even belong in the same cage with the devil. It's not, I mean, it's not even a fight.

He, on top of that, just to try to get you to see this, he knows the big picture. Meaning, he's been in the third heaven as the anointed cherub that covereth the throne of God and the glory of God.

He's been in the presence of God, literally, in the presence of God, seen it all, understands thoroughly the creation of God and the intention of God.

And he's been on earth. And he's been everywhere in between. He's walked to and fro in the earth. He's seen all the workings and the nations and the coming and going of man.

And he sees the big picture. We're stuck on earth. We're of the earth, earthy. We're actually formulated from the earth, from the dirt. So he's high above us.

[8 : 37] He's been out there beyond the stars. And he comes down here and he sees us stuck down here and just looking at the things that we participate in, the life that we live.

And he knows how to get us to fall. He knows how to just, just with something little, he's good. And so what I want you to understand is you're told to resist a being and to withstand a being that is far out of your league.

We're not even in the same realm, and I mean that literally. So how are we going to do this? How can we, how can we do this at all? Well, Ephesians chapter 6.

This gives us some practical teaching on how to resist the devil. This is not some cute Sunday school lesson where you put the, in my day it was the flannel graph up on the board.

I don't know about you all. I'm assuming some of you have been down that road. I'm sure now it's a computer generated dance video or something. But now he's given us the, this visualization here and illustration, but it's real instruction for us.

[9 : 47] Real instruction for believers when we encounter the devil. Notice verse 10. And notice the very first word of verse 10. Every word of God is pure.

That word means something is there for a reason. Finally, my brethren, finally, it's, it's, it bears mention before we can move on that Paul is building off of five plus chapters of material in this book when he says, finally.

And he's gotten, laid down some doctrine about your position in Christ and about your eternal security and then about the, the new creature in Christ and practical, your walk with Jesus Christ.

And having laid all of that foundation and built through all of that instruction, he gets to this and says, finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord.

And in the power of his might. Now I, I, this is, this is the point tonight right there in verse 10. And I'm saying a point right away at the beginning because I don't want you to miss it.

[10 : 52] Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. It's easy for us to pass right over that because we know what's coming. The armor of God, the helmet of salvation, sword of spirit.

We know what's coming, the visualization, the illustration. We, and we just skim right past the point of Ephesians chapter six here in this resisting and standing.

It's being strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. It's a very important statement. It's about, you're about to enter into a spiritual warfare with an adversary like no other.

He's not flesh and blood, verse 12. That's not who you wrestle against. So don't miss this. This is the teaching tonight. The rest of it's just an illustration of this teaching.

The teaching is to stand against him, to resist him. You've got to be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Now, back in the Old Testament, we know a lot about battles.

[11 : 53] We know a lot about warriors and strong men, mighty men of valor. We know somebody like Joshua who followed Moses. He was his successor. And God said to Joshua so many times, be strong and of a good courage.

And he's told to go in there and fight the battles of the Lord and wipe out the enemy. There's another chant. Oh, who is it? It's Joab and Abishai.

Yes. So they're going to fight the Assyrians and they're going to fight the Ammonites. And Joab's like, if they're too strong for you, I'll help you. If they're too strong for me, then you come help me.

And he says, be of good courage and let us play the men for the people of our God, for our people and the cities of our God. You know what they're telling each other to do? To be courageous, be strong, be valiant.

We're going to put the sword in our hand and go fight. And that's a warfare and understandable thing all through the scripture of this combat. But that is not at all what Paul is talking to us about.

[13 : 03] I don't want us to get distracted by the armor and by the articles and myths that are warfare and that are resisting the devil is to be done by being strong in the Lord and in the power of his mind.

It's a different battle completely. And so just by way of making a really plain statement, in order to resist the devil, church, we need the Lord.

We need the Lord. We need to be strong in the Lord. It's not like telling the soldier to be strong and be valiant and take courage and go fight and just do it to the death.

No, he's telling you to be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. He's not worried about the helmet and shield and sword as much as we kind of get sidetracked in the passage.

I think the main point is this thought of this and I want to draw it out for you tonight. So in order to resist the devil, we need the Lord. And if that's the case, then where can we get him?

[14 : 11] How can we summon him to fight for us when we're under attack? Will we lift up our eyes under the hills from whence cometh our help? No, the answer is we already have him.

If we're born again, we have him. Look with me back in Ephesians chapter 3. Ephesians chapter 3, verse 16.

This is something Paul prayed in verse 14. That he bowed his knees unto the Father and he says in verse 16 that he would grant you, talking about these believers, according to the riches of his glory, to be, notice this, strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man.

Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. He says here that he's praying that they'd be strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man. You need to make a note of that in your mind here tonight.

In the inner man is where you're strengthened with might. This is not outward strength, obviously. This is not a battle that you carry a sword to.

[15 : 23] This is not even a personal effort or a resolve that I'm going to do my best. This has nothing to do with you at all, to be honest with you. Look at it scripturally.

Paul says that he puts no confidence in the flesh. Nothing at all. So what is his confidence in then? It's in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul said, I'm crucified with Christ.

Nevertheless, I live. Yet not I. No confidence in me, in my flesh, in my ability. But Christ liveth in me. If you study in a couple of these places, Paul talks about working and serving the Lord.

He says it's according to his working which worketh in me mightily. He said it is God which worketh in you, both to will and to do of his good pleasure. That shows God's doing the work.

And when it comes to the fighting, it's going to be God that's doing the fighting. You're going to be strengthened on the inside by his spirit in the inner man. Look at Ephesians chapter 4. Ephesians chapter 4 verse 24.

[16 : 28] Notice the wording. It's important. And that ye put on the new man. Now in 22 you put off the old man. In verse 24 you put on the new man which after God is created.

And notice it righteousness. That'll come up in a minute. And true holiness. You're to put on the new man. Isn't that, I mean I don't know how else you would say it.

But isn't it a little peculiar the wording or the description. You're putting one on, putting one off. I mean it's like clothing. Our articles of clothing. You take off the old clothes. You put on the new.

It's kind of an idea. Something we can understand. But he tells us to put on the new man. Now look back at chapter 6 again of Ephesians. And notice what he tells us to do.

Verse 10. Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God. It's the same two words.

[17 : 29] Put on the new man. Put on the whole armor of God. The reason it's the same word is because it's the same thing. It's a picture of the new man.

It's not about putting something on your head. And putting something around your waist. It's putting on the new man. Which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Keep your place here but take a look back at Romans. Chapter 13. The Bible tells you to put on some things.

And look at Romans 13 verse 14. And look at this one. Romans 13 verse 14. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ.

And make not provision for the flesh to fulfill the lust thereof. There's the old man. Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ. So putting on the new man.

[18 : 33] Or putting on Christ. Or putting on the whole armor of God. It's the same concept. It's what I want you to see. It's just different wording. But it's the same concept. And that's why he said be strong in the Lord.

Because you're putting on the Lord Jesus Christ. And in the power of his might. When you're putting on the whole armor of God. You're putting on God. It's the armor of God. God. You're putting on the new man.

Which is created after God. And renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him. This is not a battle for you to fight. This is a battle for God to fight. Alright.

This phrase is so important not to overlook it. That he's telling us to be strong in the Lord. And in the power of his might. And sometimes we get lost in the verses that follow. And don't come back to see that that's what he's talking about.

So. Look at Ephesians 6 now. And verse 11. Ephesians 6. Verse 11.

[19 : 37] Put on the whole armor of God. That ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. So if you don't put on the whole armor of God.

You will not be able to stand or resist the wiles of the devil. Because he's as a roaring lion walking about seeking whom he may devour.

So you're not just supposed to be sober and be vigilant. But you're supposed to put something on. The armor of God. The protection of God. The fellowship of God. And everything that he's placed in you and given you.

And made. Put at your disposal. You're to take it. And be ready. Put on the whole armor of God. The armor collectively. Is of God. It's received through God.

Or in him. We might say. And rather than talk about the picture here. Or the analogy of these individual items. Like a physical sword. Or a physical shield.

[20 : 31] Or a breastplate. Let's consider tonight. Just briefly. The spiritual elements. That Paul's really talking about. He's just making an illustration.

So you can see it about the soldier. But he's not. His focus is not on holding a shield up. His focus is on these spiritual things. That you're to be holding up.

Or to taking with you. Or to be putting on. Because no Christian puts on a breastplate. Or carries a shield. And I don't believe that's Paul's real. True intention. For this illustration.

To be focusing on the articles. Rather than the armor as a whole. Both times he calls it. The whole armor of God. Verse 11 and verse 13. So let's read through this passage.

Coming in verse. I'll start in verse 13. And come down to verse 17. Wherefore take unto you. The whole armor of God. That ye may be able to withstand.

[21 : 26] In the evil day. And having done all. To stand. Stand therefore. Having your loins girt about with truth. And having on the breastplate of righteousness.

And your feet shod. With the preparation of the gospel of peace. Above all taking the shield of faith. Wherewith we. Ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation. And the sword of the spirit. Which is the word of God. God praying. Always. With all prayer and supplication.

In the spirit. Notice the things that he's speaking on. Isn't so much the helmet and the feet. The sandals or what have you. The tactical gear. But rather.

He's speaking on the truth. He's speaking on righteousness. He speaks of the gospel. The preparation of the gospel. Of peace. He speaks of faith.

[22 : 20] Of salvation. Of the word of God. These are things that accompany salvation. That are built into the new man. The new. What make up the essence of the new creature.

And so you put on that stuff. You put on truth. You put on righteousness. To stand against the wiles of the devil. Think about truth for a minute.

Just we'll just. I'm not going to go through every one of these. But verse number 14. Stand therefore. Having your loins girt about with truth. Now I'm not knocking the Sunday school lesson.

And the teaching and preaching. On your loins being girt about. And anything with that. But I'm trying to get past it. To see what I believe Paul's really saying. With the focus of being strong in the Lord.

And in the power of his might. So what does the natural man do with truth? As in with something that he knows to be true. You would maybe call it facts.

[23 : 22] But truth. If he gets a hold of something. And the natural man. What does he do with it? Besides argue it with others. Or debate it. Or state his claim that this is the way it is.

That I'm right and you're wrong. Is that what God gave us truth for? Is to argue with people and convince them that we're right? What is it about truth that you and I partake of?

Or get. What does it do for us? Kind of gave it away there. We partake of it. We. We. It nourishes us. It grows us. It establishes us.

To do what? To withstand. To resist. Christ told them you'll know the truth. And the truth will make you free.

And a way to. I picture it as just a scrawny little teenager. That. Is 13 years old. And couldn't. Got noodles for arms.

[24 : 24] And zits all over their face. If they know truth. They can stand against a professor of theology. Who wants to kick their faith. And tell them.

Whatever nonsense. Or heresy they believe. Or some supposed professor in some school. Or even high school around here. Who's going to cram some lies down their throat.

And force them to believe something. Or recite something that's not true. Truth isn't something you just argue about. Or debate. For the new man.

Truth is his diet. Truth emboldens him to stand. The truth gives you strength to stand. Against the wiles of the devil.

You won't see the word. I didn't look this up cover to cover. But to my knowledge. You won't see God telling you to defeat the devil. I don't even know if he could. He tells you to resist the devil.

[25 : 20] And when you have truth. When you know you have the truth. You can stand. And you can stand on your two feet. And say I know what's right. I know this is right.

And God gives you that resolve in the inner man. That you can take it. You can stand against the lies. It doesn't say that you'll defeat them. But you can stand against them.

You can withstand. You can have the boldness in the inner man to do that. And I believe that's what Paul wants us to do. What he's talking about in this whole thing. Paul says things about being persuaded.

He says he uses the word confident. Being confident of this very thing. He uses some terminology like that. There's another one I can't think of right now. That he uses in his writings. And he speaks of why.

It shows you he's got the truth. He's convinced of it. In his core. In his new man. He's not going to be persuaded otherwise. And God can convince you too.

[26 : 17] In the new man. By faith. And that's something you just can't convey to other people. And they it's just it's kind of unrelatable I guess. Especially to the lost. And even to some that are saved.

Certain elements are just truth itself. When you get it. And when you receive it. When you believe it by faith. God gives you the understanding. You see it. You know it. And you're not going to be budged.

You're going to be steadfast and unmovable. From here on out. And you're going to stand. And there's going to be fiery darts. But you won't be shaken.

Because you've got truth. Well righteousness is another one he mentions in verse 14. I don't want to get distracted by the breastplate. I think it's just an analogy with the entire scope of the soldier metaphor.

But what's his point? His point is righteousness. Having on the breastplate of righteousness. Not your personal righteousness. That would amount to nothing. When facing such a formidable foe.

[27 : 17] But righteousness that we read back in chapter 4. In verse 24. Put on the new man. Which after God is created in righteousness. And true holiness.

The righteousness. It's the very essence of what you are in Christ. It's what the new man is. It's his nature. And we're to resist the devil and the new man.

And stand in righteousness. But not ours brethren. Look at Philippians chapter 3 quickly. Philippians 3. And Paul wasn't interested.

Once he got his eyes on something better. He wasn't interested in his righteousness. That he had earned. And take this serious. When it comes to standing against the wiles of the devil.

This thought of whether you're going to try to stand in your own righteousness. Or in something better. Paul says in 3 verse 9. And be found in him not having mine own righteousness. Which is of the law. But that which is through the faith of Christ.

[28 : 16] The righteousness which is of God. By faith. And that's the righteousness that you're created in. In 1 Corinthians. I think it's chapter 1.

Christ has made unto us four things. Wisdom and righteousness. And sanctification and something else. So I can't place it. But every time this is.

This righteousness that we have is Christ. Or it's called the righteousness of God. The Jews in Romans 10. Would not submit themselves to the righteousness of God. They're trying to establish their own righteousness.

And then it says in Christ. Is the end of the law for righteousness. To everyone that believeth. And so the point here is. This all is tying right back to the beginning. Be strong in the Lord.

In the power of his might. Putting on the armor of God. Is putting on the new man. And it's putting on the Lord Jesus Christ. And what comes from him. What do you have in him? It's righteousness. You can withstand him in Christ's righteousness.

[29 : 12] You don't withstand the devil in your own. I've done this before. I've done this for 30 years. I've been saved this long. I can handle it. You're deceived already. Thinking I can do this. I've done this before.

I, I, I. It's all got to be through Christ. You've continually got to humble yourself. And keep your eyes open on what you are. And if it wasn't for him. Which you would be.

Or that deceitful. Subtle. Awfully wise being. Might already be getting in on you. So it's in his righteousness.

Those are just two. We could continue on with these different elements. But I want you to consider that. When Paul's telling you to put these things on. He's talking about the, the spiritual qualities there.

Not so much the picture. Now to conclude this. When we walk in the spirit. When we give ourselves to fellowship with Jesus Christ.

[30 : 12] When we exercise our spiritual nature. Our new man. When we, when we have that communion with God. Like verse 18. Praying always with all prayer and supplication.

In the spirit. When we're strengthened with might by his spirit. In the inner man. When we partake faithfully. And purposefully. Of the word of God.

In verse 17. When we yield our members. As instruments of righteousness. Romans chapter 6. To serve Jesus Christ. When we do these things.

When we live the Christian life. We, we grow. And we mature. And we get stronger in the Lord. And that new man. That's put on Christ.

He could walk through the battlefield. With that armor on. While these arrows. And these fiery darts are flying. They just bounce right off. Bounce right off.

[31 : 10] They're taking other people out. Left and right. But they're not harming you. Why? Because you put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Because you're consistently. Faithfully walking with him.

Seeking his good. Seeking his will. Glorifying him. Those temptations that the devil throws. They just. They don't pierce you. When you spend time on your knees in prayer.

When you commune with God. You don't get up and feel like. Oh man. Now what kind of sin can I get into? If you're tempted with sin. Right after prayer. It just bounces right off. It doesn't even affect you.

But if you neglect prayer. And if you neglect the word of God. And you neglect walking in the spirit. And you taste a little bit of the world. And think that's okay. I'm saved.

And you get a little bit of this fellowship. With the unfruitful works of darkness. It's okay. I'm saved. I know the truth. What you don't realize is. Your armor's not even on. And you're walking through this life.

[32 : 11] In the flesh. Carnally minded. And the fiery darts are flying. And they're catching you in the leg. And they're catching you in the. Shaving against your neck. And you're bleeding.

And you're wounded. And you don't even perceive it. Because you're deceived right here. Because that devil is smarter than you are. And he's telling you. You're fine. You're saved. You know the truth. There's nothing wrong with that.

And when you look at your life. Through the eyes of Jesus Christ. There's nothing to offer him. There's nothing happening. So Paul says.

Finally my brethren. Be strong in the Lord. And in the power of his might. And he's telling us. To put on the Lord Jesus Christ. To take serious.

Our faithful. Walk and communion with him. Every day. And to be sober. And to be vigilant. And to take it serious. That that enemy wants to take you down.

[33 : 07] And he's just firing away. But the new man can handle that stuff. He doesn't fall for that. He doesn't get affected by it.

He doesn't get pierced through. With those things. That's the word that Paul used in Timothy. About somebody that will be rich. He's pierced through. With many sorrows.

Chasing that money. When we walk in the flesh. And we neglect those spiritual needs. Our new man has. We're weakened. And we're an easy target.

For an enemy. That is seeking. Whom he may devour. So. To be carnal. And to put your guard down. Is literally that. It's to put your guard down.

It's to put the armor off. And put the new man on. And think it's okay for a little while. It's not. It's not. You're the one that's going to suffer. So be sober.

[34 : 04] Christian. Be vigilant. And don't neglect. To be strong in the Lord. And in the power. Of his might.

That is the new man. That's what that is. Put the flesh off. Fight it. And the way you stay in the spirit. The way you put on the new man. Is to do those things.

Avail yourself to what he's given you. The word of God. I mean it's. It's not a. It's not just a thing to check off. It's real. It's. It's your man. It's truth.

You need it. And you need to fellowship with him. You need to take serious those things. That he's availed to you. Or you're going to find your. Your carnal.

More carnal than you thought. You're going to find that while you're. Fallen and fallen and fallen. And fallen in sin. There's a reason. And when God has given you. What you need to stand.

[34 : 58] And again. I'll say this last. He didn't tell you to defeat the devil. And he will flee from you. He said resist him. And you resist him. By putting on the Lord Jesus Christ. So let's pray. And then we'll be dismissed.

Tonight. But. You. You. You. You. You. You.