

## Satanic Attack - Ephesians 6:10-12 - September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

- The title of chosen for today's teaching is "Satanic Attack."
  - I have to confess that I've really been looking forward to this particular passage here in Ephesians six for quite some time now.
  - As such I made the decision to carefully and prayerfully approach it by taking time to get through the remainder of this chapter.
- 
- I want to begin by pointing out a very important truth that will be germane to our understanding when it comes to satanic attack.
  - While it's important to understand that Satan is very powerful, we do err greatly in believing that he is God's opposite, he is not.
  - Satan is not omnipotent, omniscient or omnipresent, meaning that he's not all-powerful, all knowing, or all present, only God is.
- 
- It's for this reason that I in no way wish to overemphasize Satan's power, nor do I wish to conversely understate Satan's power.
  - Actually, this in and of itself is one of his many successes in the sense that he gets Christians to go to either of these extremes.
  - Either we underestimate how powerful he is, or on the other side of that, we can also overemphasize how much power he has.
- 
- Please know that this doesn't mean that the devil is not powerful, because he is very powerful, it's just that he's not all-powerful.
  - The fact of the matter is that the devil should be infinitely more afraid of us as Christians, than we should ever be afraid of him.
  - Yes, he can form weapons against us, but there is no way that any weapon he forges against us will ever prosper and prevail.
- 
- It's with this understanding that I think we're better able to tackle the text that's before us today, starting with the word, "finally."
  - You'll forgive me for focusing on not just the verse-by-verse, but also specific words that Paul, by the Spirit, chooses and uses.
  - Such is the case with the first word "finally," which seems to indicate that Paul is referencing everything written up to this point.
- 
- Right out of the chute, Paul tells us what to do, then why we're to do it and then perhaps more importantly how we are to do it.
  - What we're to do is be strong in the Lord and stand against the devil's schemes and the why is because of who we wrestle with.
  - Specifically, entities in the spiritual realm all of which are against us. How we're to do this is by putting on the full armor of God.
- 
- I'm hoping you'll kindly indulge me as we take a closer look at this aforementioned "what," "why" and "how," starting with what.
  - Paul says that what we're to do is first, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power and second, put on the full armor of God.
  - Notice, first and foremost that it's our strength in the Lord and power and might of the Lord, both of which are different in nature.
- 
- By way of illustration, a man with muscles has strength but the display of that strength is when he uses them to show his power.
  - The reason I mention this is because we strengthen ourselves in the Lord, and it's displayed when there's a show of His power.
  - In other words, it's not our own strength and power, it's our strength in the Lord, that we can experience the power of the Lord.
- 
- This brings us to the why, which is that we'll be able to stand against the schemes of the devil instead of falling prey to the devil.
  - The Ephesian's knew a thing or two about this, because the book of Acts tells us Ephesus was filled with demonic possession.
  - So much so, Ephesus was known for the "Ephesian Book of Spells," and many had come out of a very demonic background.
- 
- Enter the "how," which is by first knowing who the enemy is and is not, lest we fight the wrong battle against the wrong enemy.
  - This is where looking at another specific word comes into play, which is that of struggle. Better translated it's the word, wrestle.
  - The reason being is that wrestling is a full contact and very intense and exhausting endeavor, which to me is an apt description.
- 
- Notice Paul delineates the entities that we wrestle with as being four different rankings and authorities within the spiritual realm.
  - First, it's rulers, second the authorities, third the powers of this dark world, and fourth, spiritual forces of evil in heavenly realms.
  - What this means is we do not wrestle with people, who are not our enemy, rather, these entities through people as our enemy.
- 
- This is why it's important we zero in on specific words that Paul uses, and another one is in verse eleven, which is schemes.
  - Some of your translations render it the "wiles" of the devil, which carries with it the idea of being very subtle under the radar.
  - By that I mean the devil will work through people behind the scenes and under the radar so we don't even know that it's him.
- 
- 2 Timothy 2:23-26 - 23 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.
- 
- Matthew 16:23 (NKJV) — 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."
- 
- Here's the bottom line, the devil influences people and circumstances to get us wrestling with flesh and blood, instead of him.
  - This is the take away for today such that, in order to be strong in the Lord and his mighty power, we must identify our enemy.
  - When we identify our enemy in all of his subtle schemes behind the scenes we will then be able to defeat our enemy as well.
- 
- I would suggest in closing, that this is the first step to standing and not falling when attacked by the enemy in the spiritual realm.
  - Next week, Lord willing, we'll commence with an in-depth look into the spiritual armor of God and it's application in this regard.
  - This because, it's the next step to defeating the enemy and as such, walking in victory when, not if, we're attacked spiritually.