

SERMON-BASED STUDY: WINNING THE WAR IN YOUR HEAD

2 Corinthians 10:3-5, ESV – ³ For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This week we learned that our real battle is not with flesh, but within our minds. How do these battles appear to be battles of the flesh?
- 2 Why can it be difficult to identify the lies that underlie the wrong thinking and behavior?

- 3 Why is the Word of God our greatest weapon against the lies that we believe? How can we wield this weapon?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Romans 1:18-23, ESV** – ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

- 4 Looking at the passage above, how do people allow lies into their minds, and to eventually take over their lives?

- 5 What is the “truth” which the unrighteous people suppress? Can this “truth” be suppressed all the time?

- 6 How are people “without excuse”? How does this understanding change the way we share the Gospel message with others?

B **Matthew 4:3-11, ESV** – ³ And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “ ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’ ” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

- 7 According to the passage above, how did Jesus respond to the lies that Satan presented to Him?

8 What do you think Jesus did in preparation for moments like this (when lies tried to invade His thought life)?

9 Following Jesus' example, what are some spiritual practices that you need to implement in your life? Or, spiritual practices that you need to be more consistent with? What is your plan to make these changes?

TAKING IT HOME

Today's message concluded with a call to identify the greatest stronghold in your mind, admit that it's a lie you believe, and replace it with the truth. Ask God to help you identify the answer to this question. Share with your group or accountability partner what God has been showing you. Pray for one another as you seek to take captive the lies in your mind and replace them with truth. Spend time this week focusing on the truth of God through spiritual practices.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Proverbs 14:12, 21:22

Jeremiah 17:9

John 8:31-32

Hebrews 4:12