**February 17, 2019 “The Sword of the Spirit”, Pt 1 Ephesians 6:17**

As we enter into a study of the weapon described in this verse as the “Sword of the Spirit”, I think we would be remiss if we did not reiterate that this weapon is to be used because we are in a spiritual battle against the devil himself (Ephesians 6:11-12).

I will readily confess that I have a very bad habit and that habit is that I think nearly everyone who claims to be Christian thinks like I do and that is not the case. For example, I believe that the Bible is the Word of God and that it is meant to be accepted as completely accurate in what it tells me. Unfortunately, there are many other so-called leaders within the sphere of so-called Christianity who do not hold to that view but rather modify or change what the Bible says so as not to offend anyone in society.

A prime example is the view many denominations are adopting concerning homosexuality which is a practice that is condemned in God’s Word as is adultery, fornication, stealing, lying, murder, and a host of other sins. Another aspect of adopting a secular world view into the realm of Christianity is the so-called “social gospel” which is really socialism masked as Christianity. Just this week, I read an article in which the author attended a forum on racial issues within the church and one of the members of the panel stated that “racial unity is the gospel” which is blatantly untrue. The gospel is that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God and that God commended His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us regardless of the color of our skin.

Why am I telling you these things? It is because I think most Christians are clueless about the spiritual battle that is raging all around us. The following is one of the reasons if not the main reason why the church in America is so emaciated today.

Excerpt from an article by Dr. Billy Crone:

So, if 91-99% of American Christians do not believe in a literal devil, is it any wonder that the church in America today is getting bounced around like a beach ball at a rock concert?

**Places Where the Devil is Mentioned in the Bible**

Genesis 3:3-5 I Chronicles 21:1 Job 1:6-12 Zechariah 3:1-2

Matthew 5:37 Matthew 6:13 Matthew 13:19 Matthew 16:23

John 8:44 John 17:15 Acts 5:3 Romans 16:20

I Corinthians 7:5 II Corinthians 2:10-11 II Corinthians 11:3 II Corinthians 11:14

Ephesians 6:11 II Thessalonians 2:9 II Thessalonians 3:3 I Timothy 3:7

I Timothy 5:14-15 II Timothy 2:26 James 4:7 I Peter 5:8

I John 2:13 I John 3:8 I John 5:18 Revelation 12:9

Revelation 20:1-2 Revelation 20:10

**Names of Satan or the devil**

Accuser Adversary Angel of Light Beelzebub

Belial Deceiver Devil Enemy

Evil One God of this world Great Red Dragon Liar

Murderer Power of this Dark World Prince of Devils

Prince of the power of the air Prince of this world

Roaring lion Ruler of this world Satan Serpent

Serpent of Old Spirit of those who are disobedient Tempter

Wicked one

Now can we understand Eph 6: 11-12 a little better?

Let’s just take a look at our society and what is happening to it in light of just one of the names for devil… the prince of the power of the air.

1. Prince of the power of the air
   1. I am going to ask you what is meant by the term
      1. The air waves?
      2. What does that mean?
   2. We would all say the media
      1. Television, radio, Internet
      2. What is on those air waves?
         1. Average American adolescent
            1. 14,000 sexual references on TV per year
            2. 10,000 murders, rapes or aggravated assaults per year
            3. 80.3% of television shows have some sort of violence shown
            4. Average child will see 200,000 acts of violence on TV before they are 18
            5. 7 new shows on cable… full nudity
            6. MTV

Virgin Territory

Participants vying to see who can lose their virginity first

Happlyland… teen story of incest

* + 1. Internet
       1. Websites promoting adultery
          1. 110 million Americans with an STD
          2. 20 million new cases every year

1. Results
   1. How do these things affect us?
      1. USA
         1. Highest teen pregnancy rate in the world
         2. Women under 30… half of all children born to single mothers
         3. More than half of all couples “live together before marriage”
         4. Marriage rate has fallen to lowest ever
            1. 6.8 marriages per 1,000 people
         5. Highest divorce rate in the world
         6. Highest percentage of one-person households
         7. 70% of Americans think there is nothing wrong with divorce
         8. 58% believe having child out of wedlock is OK
         9. 72% believe gay and lesbian relationships are OK
      2. Some headlines which do not surprise us anymore
         1. Father places six-week old in freezer to stop her crying
         2. Florida teen accused of poisoning teacher’s drink
         3. High school student kills classmates
         4. Mother stabs her baby in attempted murder-suicide
         5. Mother strangles her baby and throws it in the trash
         6. Man kills wife and children because he didn’t have a car seat
         7. Man fatally shot after fight over utensils for baptism party
         8. Man stabs women for bringing home pizza instead of a chicken sandwich
   2. Would any of this surprise us today if we saw this on the news?
   3. Are surprised to hear of a coven of witches getting together to cast spells of the President?
      1. Where to they get these ideas?
         1. Maybe they come from the TV shows that are out there?
            1. Physic Hotline
            2. Crossing over with John Edwards
            3. Long Island Medium
            4. Charmed
            5. Twilight
            6. Harry Potter
            7. Lucifer
      2. San Antonio news reported
         1. 300-400 military trainees studying witchcraft at Lakeland Air Base

Is it any wonder why the Bible is telling us that we need the Sword of the Spirit? There is a spiritual battle raging all around and we (II Corinthians 2:11) should not be ignorant of it.

II Corinthians 2:11… “so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes”