



Spiritual Warfare: Pulling Down Strongholds

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4-5
LESSON 5 – CASTING DOWN ARGUMENTS

EXPOSITORY APOLOGETICS: ANSWERING OBJECTIONS WITH THE POWER OF THE WORD
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Wrestling with Error

- ▶ 2 Cor. 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,
- ▶ Pulling down strongholds – indicates bondage and captivity being demolished or destroyed.
- ▶ Casting down arguments – tearing down, dismantling of reasoning or thought
- ▶ Every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God – a high place designed for offensive military use, the “high ground” in opposition to the knowledge of God
- ▶ Where does the knowledge of God come from? Scripture. So these thoughts (arguments) are the reasons people use to oppose God’s Word.

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- ▶ What do fallen men do in order to oppose the Word of God? Romans 1:18-32.
- ▶ They suppress the truth in unrighteousness
- ▶ They refuse to glorify God as God
- ▶ They are ungrateful
- ▶ They create idols
- ▶ They exchange the truth of God for the lie
- ▶ They worship and serve the creature (self) instead of the Creator
- ▶ They do not like to retain the knowledge of God (in their thinking they come up with reasons to not believe God or in God – they oppose the knowledge of God)

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- ▶ How do we dismantle the lost man's thinking?
- ▶ 1. NOT by tearing down the lost man!
- ▶ 2. Challenge his thinking and ideas, his rationality and reasoning.
- ▶ 3. Wrestle with error – contend for the faith – Jude 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

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- ▶ Contending for the Faith:
- ▶ 1. Wrestle with our own contradictions and inconsistencies – Rom. 12:1-2.
- ▶ 2. Wrestle with contradictions that come to us directly. Heresy hunters – attacks on our beliefs, typically regarding pet doctrines (KJV only, eschatology, etc.).
- ▶ 3. Wrestle with the contradictions that we know to be common among those whom we are responsible to teach. Pastors and Parents – part of the responsibility of a teacher is to root out and expose contradiction. Teach people to THINK critically.

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- ▶ 4. Wrestle with the contradictions raised by those in open opposition to Biblical truth. Today, if you believe the Bible you are not just wrong, you are evil.
- ▶ When wrestling with contradictions, we must remember that our hearers do not need answers as much as they need the gospel!

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- ▶ God has informed us of the likely response of our hearers – they will be angered and offended –
- ▶ John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
- ▶ John 15:18 “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Wrestling with Error

- ▶ God has also informed us of the fate of our hearers – they are children of wrath who deserve to die the second death! BUT, God shows mercy to whom He wills to show mercy!
- ▶ Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- ▶ Wrestling Moves:
- ▶ 1. Do not believe anyone who calls himself an atheist. Everyone knows there is a God! And to claim to know that God does not exist would require one to know all that does exist so that they might exclude God from existing.

Wrestling with Error

- ▶ Wrestling Moves:
- ▶ 2. Remind people of what they already know:
 - ▶ * they know there is a God
 - ▶ * they know there is truth
 - ▶ * they know there is right and wrong
 - ▶ * they know they are not righteous
 - ▶ * they know judgment is necessary (ie. Rejoicing when evil men are killed)

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- ▶ Wrestling Moves:
- ▶ 3. Refuse to make the fool God's judge! Romans 9:20 But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?"
- ▶ A. Do not assume people are asking legitimate questions and that good answers will satisfy them. Their questions are usually smoke screens to stump you.
- ▶ B. Don't play Whack-a-Mole Apologetics – they ask a question, you answer, they shrug it off (disappear into a hole) and (pop up) ask another question.

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- ▶ Wrestling Moves:
- ▶ C. Get to the Gospel – as Spurgeon preached, take any text and make a bee-line to the cross. Romans 10:17 Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.
- ▶ D. Do not try to cure unrighteousness with information.
- ▶ Answer honest questions.
- ▶ Keep things simple.
- ▶ Always get to the gospel.

Next Week

- ▶ Lesson 6. Answering Objections. *Expository Apologetics*, pgs. 127-180.