

EPHESIANS 6

Message 93

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Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20

INTRO: We have come now to the conclusion to the letter. It begins with the word "Finally." The word "finally" introduces a subject entirely different from anything in the letter. It seems there is some reason in the Ephesian church why Paul gives this additional point. Paul must have known something about the Ephesian believers that caused him to tack this onto the end of the letter. So he says, "finally my brethren."

What he deals with in this final, unrelated point, before he concludes is a most important subject. What Paul does here is he opens a large window into the spiritual world that is arrayed against God and against the Christian. What a large window into the spiritual world of darkness we would be missing if it was not for this passage.

The main reason why Paul opens this window is that from it he might instruct the Christian how to overcome the fierce enemy that is seeking to destroy God and the true believer. It might shock you to know that a large percentage of evangelicals do not believe there is such a thing as the devil. How many evangelicals then believe there are demons all over the world? The Bible pictures the forces of good, God's people, and the forces of darkness as armies in opposition to each other. It is this picture that is given in our passage.

If one of the most important things to know for an army facing another army is to know their enemy, then Satan is having a field day in the Church today, and that is what we see. I just read that according to Gallop 70% no longer oppose same gender marriage. That is staggering. Robert Jeffress, an evangelical pastor that was popular with Donald Trump was asked to respond and he said the Church dropped the ball. It is my view that the Church dropped the ball long before that on divorce and remarriage. And why did we drop the ball? At least part of the reason is that we do not know our enemy and we are dropping fast.

So look at verses 10-12:

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

Our battle, the battle of the Christian, is not with people, it is with an unseen enemy and it is most important that we realize this. But Paul will not only expose this evil enemy to us, he will show us how to resist him.

In this message I simply want to introduce the subject before us and give a few points I believe are important to understand before we get into the passage.

-The believer's opposition

We want to begin by looking at the believer's opposition. What an amazing transition of thought from all that has gone before Ephesians 6:10 introduces to us. He has dealt with two major points in this book. The first is doctrinal, as found in chapters 1-3. The second is duties, the duties that fall to Christians. And that is in chapters 4-6:9. Here he has dealt with numerous issues important to the Christian walk; Christian living.

And then when he is ready to conclude the letter, he says, "Finally, my brethren..." He then points out to the Ephesians that, as Christians, they have entered a battle and they have an enemy that is seeking to destroy them. But before we begin to introduce the subject before us, let me just say that this passage is not mainly about Satan or demonism. It is mainly about how the Christian is to stand against this unseen, external enemy. So on the back of your bulletin you will see an outline of Ephesians 6:10-24. I have called 6:10-20 "Preliminary Conclusions." I view the whole section as a conclusion to the letter, but in concluding he makes a preliminary conclusion and then concludes. And in point one in the preliminary conclusion he deals with the believer's external opposition and in point two with the believer's victory over this opposition. So the biggest section deals with how we overcome the evil one.

You see, the believer has opposition within and without. He fights against the world, the flesh and the devil. By the world

I mean lost mankind. That is the usual meaning of the word "world" in the NT. 1 John 5:19 tells us that the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. Literally it says the whole world lies in the wicked one. That is, every unsaved person is in under the dominion of the wicked one. So the devil attacks Christians both through the world and through direct attack of demons. This is the Christian's external opposition.

The Christian's internal opposition is the flesh. The flesh is an almost almighty power that fights against us from within. There is no greater evidence of the power of the flesh than the millennial reign of Christ. With Satan bound for 1,000 years and a perfect Ruler, the Lord Jesus Christ, the flesh turns many against Christ. This truth itself, may be one of the primary reasons for the millennium. Our own sin nature is a mighty power that fights us from within.

The teaching that a saved person cannot ever become lost, whether it is taught in Calvinism or in the OSAS teaching is one of Satan's most subtle ploys to defeat Christians. It is understood that in warfare, if one does not know one's enemy, one is almost certain to go down in defeat. If knowing one's enemy is one of the most important things in winning the battle against him, believing one can never be lost can make some believers easy prey for Satan.

So in Ephesians 1:1-6:9 we have had many very important instructions given to the believer. We need such instruction because in all these instructions, as in the instructions in the rest of Scripture, are areas Satan will attack us and seek to get us to disobey. The flesh will pull us to disobey and Satan and his demons will help the flesh along to disobedience. And so Paul begins to conclude like this: "Finally, my brethren..." And by way of conclusion to the whole letter he inserts one of the most amazing windows into the spiritual world found anywhere in the Bible. And then he gives one of the most amazing passages on how to thwart the works of the evil one in daily life.

Lloyd Jones has six volumes on the book of Ephesians and he has, not one message, but one whole book given simply to introduce this passage. He says Paul deals first with the battle the Christian has within, in Ephesians 1:1-6:9. And now in a few verses deals with the enemy on the outside, the devil.

When he begins with our verses in the last volume, he begins like this: "There is nothing that is more urgently important for all who claim the name of Christian, than to grasp and to

understand the teaching of this particular section of Scripture" (VII:11).

A.W. Tozer says the Christian life is not a playground, but a battleground. David Raegan, in a booklet on prophecy done about 10 years ago said that according to George Barna, only 57% of professing Evangelicals believed Satan was real. If one believes Satan is not real one is not even actively engaged in the battle.

But whether we realize it or not, we are in a battle. If we don't realize it, unknowingly we may well be a help to the devil. For those who are aware of the devil, he will seek to destroy their faith. Our faith is the most important thing to God there is. It is the very thing by which we overcome the world and Satan will seek to destroy it. I can tell you Satan is trying to destroy your faith. So the devil and demons are the believer's opposition.

-A picture of the battle

Let me now give you a picture of this battle. You will have seen pictures of before and after. Maybe here is an old pickup truck, and on the other side it is all redone. Or here is an old house, and there is the old house all redone. Let me draw another picture for you: Over here is the world of material substance all around us. We can see it. And over on the other side is the other picture. And what do you see? Nothing. But there is a whole army there and it is arrayed to destroy you, but you don't see it. This other picture is as real as the one we see, but you can't see it. The one is physical or material. The other is non-physical and non-material. Unless you are told about it, you will not know it exists. Unless you are told that in that unseen world is an unseen enemy that is trying to destroy you, you will not know it is there. Unless you know how he works, you will not be prepared for the battle.

It is well to be reminded that in that unseen picture, there are also good angels. There is a most instructive Scripture on this in the OT. Turn to 2 Kings 6. Joram, the 14th king of Israel was reigning. And as it is now, it was then, there was trouble with Syria. So we begin in verse 8:

8 Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place."

9 And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there."

10 Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice.

11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?"

12 And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."

13 So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him." And it was told him, saying, "Surely he is in Dothan."

14 Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

15 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

17 And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Here we read of what the eye normally cannot see, and it is a picture of the unseen world. When the Lord opened the spiritual eyes of Elisha's servant, now he got a glimpse into the unseen realm.

You see, in that non-material world are such a huge number of personal beings one cannot number them. It is the realm of God and angels. That vast number of angels is divided into two camps. There are fallen angels and there are the unfallen angels. The fallen angels are those that fell into sin with Lucifer when he desired to be like the Most High. I have dealt

numerous times with how Satan and the fallen angels came into being and won't go into that here.

I also have speculated why God created mankind. Let me just briefly mention it here. I believe God created man so that He will be able to justly destroy the devil without destroying the free will of angels or of man. Let me just briefly say as well that everything God created is for His glory. And without the free will of man and the free will of angels there is no such thing as glory for God. People and angels are not just so many robots. God did not foreordain all things by winding it up like a clock and then letting it tick off. Man and angels are free moral agents. If that is not so, God could have made everything so that no one would ever fall into sin and no one would ever go to hell. That both angels and man fell, is full proof of free will. Without this freedom, there is no glory for God, not even in any so-called secret decrees.

And so when God created man, immediately Satan set about seeking to gain man over to his side. He does this by deception and any other sinful means at his disposal. We are familiar with the account of how he deceived Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. I have dealt with that numerous times.

And so now we have these two worlds; we have the material universe and the immaterial universe. We cannot see the immaterial realm. After the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden, from there mankind grew. By the time of the flood, this is what the world looked like. Let me draw another picture for you. Sometimes you see a picture of the earth taken from up in the air when it is night, and all you see is the lights. Let us say the darkness pictures the lost, and the lights picture the saved. In the days of Noah, how many lights would there have been among the millions of people alive? Eight little lights.

The verse we read earlier, 1 John 5:19 says:

19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

In this verse, the word *world* refers to lost mankind. The Christian is not the light of the earth, he is the light of lost mankind. All unbelievers lie under the sway of the wicked one. You see, the god of this world has blinded their minds. All of them (2 Cor. 4:4). They are all blinded by the forces of darkness.

So if you would take the almost 8 billion people on earth today, and they picture the dark and the Christians picture the light, what would you see? You would see a few lights in a vast sea of darkness. And there is a picture of our battle. And in that darkness the devil is busily at work, seeking whom he may devour. And Jesus said to those few people gathered to Him on a mountain near the sea of Galilee, "You are the light of the world."

The world we see can so intimidate us that we are fearful to touch it. Have you noticed it? Take just worldly dress. How hard do we find it to stand against worldly dress. And when we dress like the world, we take sides with the world. Or say we are with some unbeliever and we want to share the Gospel with them and we tremble in our shoes. Our tongue ceases to work. We are afraid. We are intimidated. We can hardly open our mouth. There is a strong wall between us, it seems, and it is hard to penetrate. We have a powerful enemy. Though we don't see these forces, their presence is very real.

From Revelation 12:4 we understand that Satan took one third of the angels of heaven with him when he left God. That is our battle in the unseen world. Satan and his army are a huge enemy. Then there is the flesh and then there is the world. The world, worldliness is a powerful enemy. In mankind by far the majority of all people alive make up what is called the world.

Furthermore, Satan has at his disposal to use everything sinful in existence to deceive mankind. He can use sin of every description. He can deceive and cheat and lie and do anything else he wants to. There is nothing out of bounds for him. God and good angels can only use that which is true and righteous and good and just etc.

Listen to 1 John 2:16:

16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

Everything that lies under the sway of the wicked one is what the Christian has to battle with. The flesh is an almost almighty force in the world of lost mankind. It is there on every hand. Demons and Satan are the unseen enemy. The world is the visible enemy. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life are the enemy within. And so, the saved, that small part of mankind that belongs to God, have this enemy

that they battle.

I am amazed at how impotent we are as Christians. We seem almost entirely powerless against that which Satan controls. Many professing Christians do not believe in Satan. The majority of us do not know how to deal with those who are demonized. How many of us have ever even led a soul to Christ? A very large part of the evangelical world just goes through the motions, and I believe a good number of those who profess to be believers are not even truly born again. And so we have this vast army of darkness to battle.

And what Paul will do in this passage is open a window into the unseen world, and let us look inside so that we might know what our battle is all about and how we must live in order to effectively fight against our foe.

-Demon Possession

Let me mention as well a very misunderstood matter with regard to the subject at hand. It is the view that Christians cannot be demon possessed. From that view we gather that no Christian can have demons within. Over and over I have read that Christians cannot be demon possessed, but they can be demon oppressed. I know of no Scripture that teaches either of those. Here is what I do find: All cases where demon possession is spoken of in Scripture do not actually speak of demon possession. In every instance, the word "possessed" is not in the original. Literally it speaks of either being demonized, or having a demon, and both of these can be true of a Christian.

Turn to Matthew 4:24, the first case where demon possession is mentioned. It says:

24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.

Look at the word "possessed." If you will check all such cases in the original you will never find the word *possessed*. The KJV and the NKJV will normally put a word in italics if it has been supplied by the translator but it is not in the original. But they do not italicize this word. The English reader has no way of knowing that the word "possessed" is not actually there in the original. If you are able to check Strong's concordance please check out what I am saying. Literally it is just this

word: demonized. The ESV here says demon oppressed. The word *oppressed* is not there either. This is an interpretation put in by the translators.

In my view, translating this word like this has led to a very unfortunate misunderstanding. In every case, a most accurate translation would be that they are demonized or in some cases that they have a demon or spirit. That is they are troubled by demons whether from without or within and that can happen to Christian just as well as a non-Christian.

The majority of writers who say a Christian cannot be demonized do not work with demonized people. If they did, they would see the fallacy of the view that Christians cannot be demonized. Let me explain one other important matter here. When we think of demon possessed people we think of someone like the demonized man of Gadara. He could not be bound with chains, ran around naked, and was a very scary person. We see someone with fingers like claws, long hair and bared teeth. But we often see demonized people and they may well have a suit and tie and look as normal as anyone else.

Why was this man at Gadara like this? He was called Legion. A Roman legion was between 3,000 and 5,200. This man had that many demons inside of him. But what does a person look like who has one or only a few demons? Why, he can be dressed in suit and tie and be a church member in good standing, even a deacon or a pastor. He can be a pastor of a church. The Bible says so. Listen to 2 Corinthians 11:13-15:

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Here we have people who claim to be apostles of Christ and ministers of righteousness and they are demonized! They stand in a pulpit with suit and tie and people believe them and follow them. God is not in control of them, but in His authority He will judge them according to their works.

It is often this kind of person who splits churches. That is

because the demons have ground in this person from which they can influence him. Recently one of our folk alerted me to a certain speaker on the Jan Markel program named Ron Rhodes. He gave an interesting illustration from a Bible Teacher from whom my wife and I had taken many Bible courses, Dr. Harold Willmington.

He said:

"Suppose there is a Bible-believing church which is going through a spiritual crisis. For some months no soul has walked its aisles. The attendance and offerings are down and the members are becoming restless. All Bible pastors have had these experiences. Finally, in desperation, a special committee is appointed by the congregation to discover the source of this coldness and lifelessness. After considerable prayer and probing, the committee submits its report. What are its findings? I believe it may be safely assumed that the average committee would lay the blame on one or more of the following: (1) the pastor; (2) certain officials; (3) a cold congregation; or (4) a difficult neighborhood.

"But what fact-finding group would return the following indictment? We believe the main source of our heartaches for the past few months is satanic! We believe the reason no souls have been saved recently is due to an all-out attack on our church by the devil! We close this report with a strong recommendation that the congregation call a special meeting, rebuke Satan, plead the blood of Christ and claim the victory! (Rhodes, Ron. Spiritual Warfare in the End Times (p. 25). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.)

I am not sure if there is ever a church split where there are not demons involved. But when you have things happen like we have, when sinful means are used to reach an objective, beyond doubt there is demonic involvement. But because it is the unseen realm that is involved, it is hard to get evidence strong enough to prove it was demonic.

Ron Rhodes writes:

"Yet another tactic of the devil is direct attacks against Christian churches. Second Corinthians 11:14-15 reveals that 'Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.' Some of these so-called 'servants of righteousness' are preaching from Christian pulpits, spreading

doctrinal confusion and even heresy. We also read in 1 Timothy 4:1, 'The Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons (NLT). Who can deny that even today we are witnessing preachers teaching patently false ideas? Some deny that God is all-powerful or all-knowing. Some deny that Jesus was God on earth, and claim He even made mistakes when He was on earth. Some deny Jesus is the only way of salvation. Some claim the Bible is inspired just as Shakespeare is inspired—that is, it's inspiring to read, but it's a manmade book with mistakes. Some claim that the second coming takes place whenever a person finds God again in his or her heart. My friend, many in our day have departed from the faith once for all handed down to the saints (Jude 3). These are 'teachings that come from demons' (1 Timothy 4:1 NLT)."

(Rhodes, Ron. *Spiritual Warfare in the End Times* (p. 112-113). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.)

In the Willmington quote earlier he then says: "If I were the devil I would deny my existence in the world and downplay it in the local church, thus freeing me to go about my business unheeded, unhindered, and unchecked."

Rhodes then continues that quote like this:

"I'm convinced Satan himself has been busy promoting nonbelief in his existence on a global scale. It is a sound strategy: If there is no real personal enemy, then there will be no preparation for defense against that personal enemy. If there is no preparation for defense, the enemy can attack at will and work his evil while remaining completely incognito." (Rhodes, Ron. *Spiritual Warfare in the End Times* (p. 26). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.)

One of Satan's great advantages is that he is unseen. The results and affects may be seen, but not the demons. And unbelief in this realm is a huge advantage for Satan. When you work with those who are troubled by demons, one of the biggest battles one faces is whether one believes this is actually real.

One of the men involved in the Canadian Revival Fellowship of some years ago was a Pastor Bill MacLeod. He has written a little booklet on demonism. He was a very conservative and very down to earth man and he dealt with hundreds of people who were demonized. And whenever he was involved in a crusade, he would have one session on this subject and always there were those

troubled by demons who came for help. Demonism is all over our world and many churches have many demonized people, but very few of us recognize or know how to help them.

One of the most understudied and under-practiced fields of biblical wisdom is that of dealing with people troubled by demons. I have no doubt that if we had a good number of full-time people, knowledgeable and capable in this field they could be kept busy all the time in our province alone. There are many, many Christians troubled by demons. There are pastors, if not troubled by demons, then controlled by demons, at work in pulpits all over America (2 Cor. 11:14).

When one has been involved in working with demons one almost comes to the conclusion that to be ignorant on this topic is truly bliss. But the problem is many Christians are far from the frontlines of battle. They are content to be saved and have their family saved. In our church we are familiar with Ken Lobdel who has now gone to be with the Lord. He has helped, I suppose, thousands of demonized people; from the very extreme to those we would consider totally normal. Those who have studied music all over the world, like Frank Garloc, say that the principles of godly and ungodly music are universally the same. Such theologians as Kurt E. Kock of Germany, who passed away in the 1987 and who studied demonology and worked in this field all over the world say the same of this field.

I said one time, "Ken, you need to pass this on to someone so that when you are gone there is someone to carry on the help you give." And he said, "I have tried. I was training a man in Calgary one time. He would come with me when I worked with someone. And then one day he stopped coming. And I said, 'Why are you not coming anymore?' And he said something like this: 'Ken, if you knew what has happened to me since I began this you wouldn't be coming any more either.'"

When we had our last major church problem, I had finished a series of messages exposing Satan. I believe it played at least part in the trouble that followed because lies, violation of agreements, the spreading of misinformation, and rebellion were outstanding characteristics in what followed. As we go through this section in Ephesians, though it will not be a thorough treatment of the subject, I ask you to pray for protection for myself, my family, and yourselves. The devil and sin and hiding all go together. Satan hates exposure, probably worse than a person who is hiding huge sins hates it. And no doubt, he hates those who expose him.

-What God controls

Let me add here briefly as well that I read and hear this said many, times: God is in control. It is meant well and there is some truth to it but it needs closer examination. So let us look at what God is in control of and what He is not in control of. When it comes to the universe and its operation, God is in control of it all. The earth spins as it is supposed to. The sun and moon shine as they are supposed to. God controls all that. There can be no question about that. There are times, like in the case of Job, when God allows Satan to control some of the elements, but he cannot do so without permission.

But among personal beings God controls only part of the angels, and He controls a very small part of mankind. Of the rest, we can say that the devil is in control. God does not control the fallen angels, nor does He control sinful man. What we need to understand is the difference between authority and control. God is in authority over everything. This is true. But He is not in control of the devil, fallen angels, and lost mankind. If God controls the devil, fallen angels and sinful man, He is also responsible for all their sin. But some day every personal being will give account before God, because He is the ultimate authority.

-The sovereignty of God

There is another thing we need to understand when we think of our battle with the demonic realm. We read and hear talk about God being sovereign. By viewing God as sovereign, generally I think, what is meant is that He is in control. There is no Greek or Hebrew word in the Bible for our word sovereign. I think the closest word in meaning in the Bible would be the word "lord." Some argue because certain translations use the word sovereign, such as the ESV that it is in the Bible. The ESV uses it 3 times for 2 different words. It has translated the word "despotees" as *sovereign* twice.

The word "despotees" from which we get the word "despot" occurs 10 times in the NT. The ESV has translated it as "Sovereign Lord" or just "sovereign" three times. But the same word is used numerous times for human masters or bosses. In the NKJV it has been translated as *Lord* 5 times and *master* 5 times. For an example of its use for humans 1 Timothy 6:1-2 says:

1 *Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters <despotees> worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.*

2 *And those who have believing masters <despotees>, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.*

The word 'despotees' here speaks of human masters and the idea is not that of control, but authority. Among humans, when one person has absolute authority, it usually becomes corrupted so this word is usually viewed as being negative. But believers, who are a boss are despots over those under their jurisdiction. A boss is not a despot over things that don't belong to him. God is despot over all that is His, but He is neither in control, nor Lord over the fallen angels or lost mankind.

However, what we may safely say is that God has ultimate authority over all angels and all of mankind. In the end He will do what is just with all mankind, but He does not control the lost. If He controls them and they live in wickedness, then He is also responsible for their wickedness and that is unthinkable.

So, if by saying God is in control or God is sovereign we mean He has ultimate authority over all mankind that is correct. If we mean He predestined all to happen that happens, that is very wrong. Turn to John 8. He does not nor does He claim to control everything. Jesus said of the religious Jews in John 8:38 and on:

38 *"I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father."*

39 *They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham.*

40 *"But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this.*

41 *"You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God."*

42 *Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love*

Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.

43 *"Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.*

44 *"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

When the Jews did the desire of their father, the devil, under whose control were they? And did God control what they did? Of course not! The devil, to whom they belonged, did. We read earlier that the whole world, all of lost mankind, lies in the sway of the wicked one. Satan controls them.

Here is what is under God's control: The material universe; good angels, and saved mankind. Here is what Satan controls: All fallen angels and all of lost mankind. And Satan will seek to destroy every person who is saved. He will seek to destroy you. He is bent on destroying you. How to avoid this is what Ephesians 6:10-20 is about.

But I add to that, though God does not control Satan and all fallen angels and all lost mankind, He is in authority over them. Someday the devil, every fallen angel, and every lost person will meet the judgment of God.

So we conclude with this: When Paul came to the close of his life he said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (1 Tim. 4:7). He fought a fight. That is the battle of the Christian. Paul says in our passage, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood." Someone has said of many Christians it could simply read like this, "We wrestle not." But our passage instructs on how to wage war in this battle. If we are truly Christians, we are in this battle.