

# **Our Battle is Against?**

# God So Loved the WORLD





# Kingdom Focus

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**<sup>2</sup> For our struggle is not against [e]flesh and blood,**  
but against the rulers, against  
the powers, against the world  
forces of this darkness, against  
the spiritual *forces* of wickedness  
in the heavenly *places*.



# We Have Been Deceived

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- **Manicheanism** – very weird, heretical religious sect during 4th – 7<sup>th</sup> century AD.
- One major principle was **Dualism** – the notion that the universe is caught in a battle between two equal but diametrically opposing forces – Darkness vs Light (or Evil vs Goodness) and the supernatural beings that represent them
- And here is the kicker – according to Dualism, the battle is still going on today and it is not clear at any point in time which side will win!
- **WRONG! It WAS FINISHED AT THE CROSS!!**



# Those enemies are bound!

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31 “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has [d]demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat; 32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” – Luke 22

Satan had to ask permission; he still does.  
Satan is limited and Jesus is LORD!!



# Raining Fire From Facebook

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- Anger and Judgement towards Pelosi, et al
- Towards President Trump and McConnell
- Towards BLM
- Towards White privilege
- Towards Gov. Abbot
- People trying to make me wear a mask
- People who won't wear a mask, etc., etc
- Irate, outraged, sarcastic, snarky, nasty, self-righteous, condemning, alarmist



## Typical Human, Fleshly Response

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<sup>54</sup> When His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, “**Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?**” <sup>55</sup> But He turned and rebuked them, [c]and said, “You do not know what kind of spirit you are of;” <sup>56</sup> for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.”] And they went on to another village.



# Yes, There is Darkness

- There is a wave of darkness and injustice and ungodliness rising up right now
- People are making bad decisions
- People are just doing what seems right in their own eyes – unbelievers AND believers
- Great deception is taking place, and we can easily get sucked in too, as we react in the FLESH to situations that require a response fueled by the Holy Spirit and His FRUIT
- What kind of spirit do people see in YOU





# Anger is a Secondary Emotion

- Primary emotion is FEAR – of rejection, of failure, of punishment, of shame, of not being enough, of not being loved, of losing, of being threatened, of not being in control
- So we fight back – in the flesh - So twisted up in our own fear and frustration we are blinded to the angel armies that surround us on every side (Remember Gehazi?)
- We have abandoned the law of love for the law of LAW – no grace, only condemnation, in our fear/anger we mistakenly assume our only weapon is to attack others and condemn



# Join Jesus in His Grief

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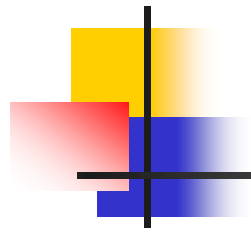
- Matthew 23: <sup>37</sup> “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. <sup>38</sup> Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!” So SAD!
- Instead of posting snarky comments about others, **remember they are loved by Jesus,** He died for them, **so cry out for them, go to battle FOR them, plead for mercy and healing. Humble Yourself**



# There is a Shaking Coming

Get our hearts in order

<sup>2</sup> So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and [k]patience; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. <sup>14</sup> Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is [l]the perfect bond of unity. <sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ [m]rule in your hearts, to which [n]indeed you were called in one body; and [o]be thankful.



# Jesus + Nothing = EVERYTHING

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- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY