



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Wake Up! We're In A War!

Bible Reading: Ephesians 6:10-13

[Watch LIVESTREAM here at 10am](#)

[Join our post-sermon discussion on Zoom at 11am](#)

[Join our citKids Connect discussion at 11am](#)

Heaven and Earth are not Divorced from one another (Eph. 6:10-13)

A. For Paul, reality was seen from a cosmic perspective

1. "The human drama of daily life directly related to activity in the heavens, & all of reality was cosmically contested space." (T. Gombis)
2. "For Paul, the world was held in the enslaving grip of evil cosmic powers, whose oppressive rule over creation was displayed in the orientation of human imaginations & behaviours toward sinful practices that kept them from enjoying the life of God." (T. Gombis)

B. Ephesians foregrounds the cosmic conflict

1. Humanity enslaved by the ruler of the air (Eph. 2:1-2)
2. Christ's victory over the powers at the cross brings us that released (Eph. 1:20-21; Col. 2:15)
3. Released captives (Eph. 4:8-10)
4. The church displays God's wisdom to the cosmic powers (Eph. 3:10)
5. Recognizing that the days are evil (Eph. 5:16)
6. Our struggle is against the cosmic powers (Eph. 6:11b-12)

A Dangerous Disbelief

A. "If our goal is to understand the New Testament concept of the Powers...we must...attend carefully to the unique vocabulary and concept of the first century, to grasp what they meant by the vocabulary of 'power' within their own

language and worldview. It is a virtue to disbelieve in something that does not exist. But it is dangerous and arrogant to disbelieve in something simply because it exists outside our current, limited categories." (Walter Wink, "Naming the Powers", p. 4)

- B. "Just because something is ancient doesn't mean it's primitive. This mindset is a product of living in an advanced technological age where we assume that progress in technology means progress in understanding, or progress in wisdom, or progress in insight into the meaning of life and how things really operate." (Tim Mackie, Ephesians Classroom)
- C. "Chronological?snobbery?[is] the uncritical acceptance of the?intellectual?climate common to our own age and the assumption that whatever has gone out of date is on that account discredited." (C.S. Lewis, Surprised by Joy)
- D. "The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled was convincing the world he didn't exist" (Charles Baudelaire, 19th C French poet)

Humanity Held in an Evil Enslaving Grip (Eph. 2:1; 2 Cor. 4:4)

- A. "Modern Christians are well aware of the story of human sinfulness & rebellion against God's purposes, [but] are less acquainted – or perhaps not at all– with Paul's view of our cosmically enslaved world. Having hijacked God's good world, these cosmic entities exploit human sinfulness, dominating humanity & holding all of creation in their enslaving grip." (T. Gombis)
 - 1. Our enslavement displays our captors' characteristics
 - 2. The schemes of the devil
 - 1. "Jesus specifically stated that the devil...is a liar, and the father of lies (Jn. 8:44). In fact, John identifies the devil as Satan who is the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9; 20:2). Due to this, one must always be cognizant that the schemes of the devil are based on lies and are designed to deceive." (Harold Hoehner)

God Broke the Enslaving Grip (Col. 2:15)

- A. "God came in Christ, who, as a human, became a full participant in the cosmically enslaved situation (Rom. 8:3), & whose death dealt a cosmically powerful mortal blow to the powers that had seized God's good World. His death broke loose their enslaving grip..." (T. Gombis)

The church is the sign of God's Victory (Eph. 6:10-12; 3:10)

- A. The church is called to participate in God's cosmic warfare (Eph. 6:10-12)
 - 1. "The church in [the book of] Ephesians is a Spirit-filled cosmic community that's involved in an [end-time] battle with spiritual forces." (Curt Niccum)
- B. The church is the sign of God's victory (Eph. 3:10)
 - 1. "The church in the world is the sign of God's victory over the [cosmic] power alliance...God has already struck a fatal blow to his cosmic enemies & has shaken loose the grip of the present evil age over creation, but he has not yet accomplished his final victory. This world remains, therefore, enemy territory, still held in the grip of the god of this age & the evil powers. But God has invaded enemy territory & has begun establishing & growing communities of Jesus-followers...These communities ...are locations of resurrection life & power, spaces...liberated from the dominating influence of the powers & that bring renewal, redemption, restoration and life." (T. Gombis)