

GLEANINGS FROM EPHESIANS PART 31

Eph 6:10-13

How do you explain what is happening in the world today? How do explain all the evil that surrounds us? Carl Jung, the great Swiss psychologist and psychiatrist, once wrote: "We stand face to face with the terrible question of evil and do not even know what is before us, let alone what to pit against it. And even if we did know, we still cannot understand how it could happen here."

Likewise, U Thant, former Secretary General of the United Nations, wrote: "What element is lacking so that with all our skill and all our knowledge we still find ourselves in the dark valley of discord and enmity?...Why is it that, for all our professed ideals, our hopes, and our skills, peace on earth is still a distant objective seen only dimly through the storms and turmoil of our present difficulties?"

In the verses before us, Paul gives an answer to these haunting questions. In verses 6:10-13, he describes life as a struggle...a conflict...a battle against opposing forces...powers and forces of darkness. In other words, the battle is not against flesh and blood but against the "spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places".

Of course the world does not see it this way. Man pins his hopes on man...man has the solutions...solutions that would cure the world if only they could be universally implemented. Let me give you the top three:

1. LEGISLATION. Unfortunately legislation does not address the inner man. It does not change the basic nature of man.
2. EDUCATION. Again, education does nothing to improve man. It just makes him more clever, but only covers the real problem.
3. ENVIRONMENT. When you take a man or woman out of the slums and put them into a nicer environment, you do absolutely nothing to change the inner heart.

Why? Because the real struggle is spiritual and until the spiritual is addressed, there can be no resolution to the condition of the world. But how does this effect the believer who has been made anew by the transforming work of Jesus Christ? Aren't we know free from this spiritual struggle? According to Paul; "NO"! We are still in the battle. We are still in a struggle against these invisible forces of darkness. The battle for dominion continues even after we are saved. All the forces of Satan are waged against us!

That is what Paul is telling us in Ephesians 6. i.e. if we wish to live for Christ, we must understand the enemy. It's not flesh and blood!! The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but spiritual. AND HOW EASY IT IS TO LOSE SIGHT OF THIS FACT!! So Paul tells us in verse 10: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in strength of His might." How? Stay tuned!