

MAN'S GREATEST BATTLE

Rom 7: 14-25

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Every person who has ever lived upon this earth has fought a battle of one kind or another
- B. All of us battle against sickness and disease
- C. Thousands have died fighting on battle fields of the great wars
- D. In our text Paul speaks of the most important battle of all – the battle of good against evil
- E. It is the most important because man's eternal destiny is determined by the outcome

DISCUSSION:

I. THE BATTLEGROUND

- A. man is a dual natured being - spirit and flesh
- B. In one sense man is considered to be a "triune" being consisting of Soul, Spirit and Body or Soul Mind and Body. Matt 22:37 (See also Heb 4:12)
- C. However, we are talking about the nature of man and he has only two - flesh and spirit
- D. This battle takes place between the fleshly nature (the outer man) - (not using this term in the sense that Calvinist use it i.e. "sinful nature") and the spiritual nature (the inner man)

II. SATAN'S PART

- A. Satan speaks to man through the flesh (tempts him)
- B. The three avenues are: Jas 1:14,15; 1Jhn 2:15,16
 - 1. Lust of the flesh (appetites and passions)
 - 2. Lust of the eyes (desires aroused by the eyes)
 - 3. Pride of life (vain glory of life) (seeking after those things in life that causes others to look up to you)
- C. Satan tempts man to sin in all three ways as seen in the case of Eve and Jesus Gen 3:1-6; Matt 4:1-11

III. CHRIST'S PART

- A. Christ speaks to the inner man through the word of God Eph 3:16,17; Heb 1:1; Jhn 12:48
 - 1. God's love & goodness Jhn 3:16; Rom 2:4; 2Cor 5:21
 - 2. God's promises 2Pet 1:4; 1Cor 15:53,58
 - 3. God's blessings Eph 1:3
- B. God promises that even though the Devil tries to cause us to sin we will not be tempted above that we are able to endure 1Pet 5:8; 1Cor 10:13
- C. Whenever man is tempted to sin, God will provide a way to escape, or will help us overcome the temptation

IV. SOME PRESENT DAY BATTLES

- A. The battle of attending all the services of the church
 - 1. Christ through the word commands us to "not forsake the assembling" Heb 10:25
 - 2. Scripture gives examples of assembling not only on the first day but at other times Acts 20:7; 5:42 – Paul waited seven days in Troas, apparently so he could assemble with the saints
 - 3. Satan through the three avenues of temptation entices Christians not to assemble - to forsake
- B. Christ commands us to study to enable us to teach others and then to TEACH OTHERS 2Tim 2:15,24; Heb 5:12; Acts 8:4; Matt 28:18-20
 - 1. Devil says you don't have time, there are so many other things that you must do in your daily routine
 - 2. You have to make a living for your family to give them the things you never had
 - 3. You have to have some time to rest and have a little recreation. (note we teach by influence)
- C. Christ the author of salvation to all that obey him Heb 5:8,9; Rom 1:16
 - 1. Devil says wait till you are older - enjoy life while you can - sow your wild oats
 - 2. Devil says you can have salvation without obedience that is, "you can have your cake and eat it too:
 - 3. Devil says you need to find your place (high place) in life before you become a Christian
 - 4. Devil says enjoy life, God wants you to be happy, whatever it takes to be happy
- D. Many other examples could be given, but these should suffice to illustrate our point, you can make the application in other areas of your life

CONCLUSION:

- A. Man can yield to temptations of Satan through the weakness of the flesh and sin - the result is eternal death
- B. Man can obey the commands of the Lord and live righteously (fight with the sword of the Spirit Eph 6:17) - the result is eternal life
- C. The outcome of the battle depends upon the decision of the individual
- D. To be carnally (fleshly) minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace Rom 8:6
- E. Are you a soldier of the Lord: 2Tim 2:3-5
- F. Are you fighting the good fight of faith 1Tim 6:12; 2Tim 4:6-8