Don't You Know There's a War On?

Int.

1. Aim: To show that we are in a battle for our Souls and we must fight the good fight.

2. Many times in the Bible we read about being in a war and fighting against the enemy.

3. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 NKJV "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

4. 2 Timothy 2:3 NKJV "You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

5. Ephesians 6:10-18 v. 11 "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

6. During World War II a common phrase heard in our country was "Don't you Know there's a war on?" Posters were put up in public places.
   a. They would forget the war going that was going on. They would forget how significant the war was.
   b. This would cause harm to the war effort and those fighting in it.

7. During World War II what some people forget is they were actually fighting two wars.
   a. Today we are still fighting one of those wars.
   b. I'm talking about the war with sin. The war with Satan. And the war for the soul.

8. Today I'd like to ask you the same question they asked then.
   a. Have you forgotten we are fighting the toughest, strongest, largest, and most well equipped enemy we will ever face?
   b. Has it slipped your mind? And are you doing your part in the war?

9. Don't you know there's a war going on?
Discussion

I. **We are to have a clear show of Loyalty**

   A. As a Christian, when we are engaged in this war we need to have a clear show of loyalty.

   B. You must show where your citizenship lies.

      1. **Philippians 3:20** "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,"

      2. Heaven is our permanent home. We are just traveling through this world.

      3. Our citizenship in this country is just a temporary visa.

      4. **Hebrews 11:13-16** tells us that we are pilgrims and foreigners in this country

   C. Our loyalty belongs to no man, country, or object.

      1. It belongs to Christ who died for the remission of our sins.

      2. As loyal citizens we cannot avoid this war. We must stand firm for our king -

         **Jude 3** "Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."

   D. If you don’t fight for the Lord, you will be conquered by the world and find yourself fighting for Satan.

      1. I am not in this battle alone! The rest of the family also faces opposition!

         Never is there any question of where my loyalty lies.

      2. If you give your loyalty to anything but Christ, you are a traitor.
II. **About Our Enemy**

A. Our enemies are not earthly enemies.

1. Ephesians 6:12 “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.”

2. Satan is an enemy that will never leave you alone.

3. He will do anything he can to recruit you. - 1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

B. Satan is going to make evil look as tempting as possible.

1. That cookie only gives momentary pleasure

2. Hebrews 11:25 NKJV “choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,” KJV “pleasures of sin for a season”

C. Satan will do anything he can to capture your soul. He has no Code of Honor, follows no rules of war, and no Geneva Convention in this battle.

1. He is the Father of all lies. - John 8:44b “for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

2. He disguises himself as a angel of light. - 2 Corinthians 11:12-15 v. 14 “for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”

3. He is a wolf in sheep’s clothing. Matthew 7:15 “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”
III. The Battle Plan

A. Our battle plan does not consist of one man doing everything on our own. A battle plan consists of an entire army.

B. We can not fight this war on our own, the only way we can win is if we have God on our side.
   1. Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
   2. There is unlimited power in every area of life that awaits the Christian.
   3. “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19

C. God is both our greatest offense, and defense.
   1. Psalms 144:1-2 “Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight: 2 My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.”
   2. Our best line of defense is to sanctify the Lord in our hearts.
   3. We are to set Him above all else. 1 Pet. 3:14-16 “But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled,” 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 ¶ having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.”
IV. The Battlefield

A. The first battlefield is the battle with worldly temptations.

1. We often have to fight the entire world, and all the desires and temptations that come along with it.

2. 1 John 2:16 “For all that is in the world--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions--is not from the Father but is from the world.”
   a. More people took drugs for recreation yesterday in the CSRA than will take communion today.
   b. More people drank alcoholic to excess yesterday the CSRA than will attend Bible classes today.

3. 1 Peter 2:11 “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;”

4. 1 Peter 4:3 “For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:”

B. The Second is among our Brethren and fellow soldiers.

1. 1 Peter 3:8-12 talks about how we should act within the church.
   a. V. 8 ¶ Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;
   b. V.9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.
   c. V. 10 For “He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit.”
d. V. 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

e. V. 12 For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.

2. If you don’t treat your fellow Christians this way there will be dissension among the Church.

3. One of the Devil’s favorite and most effective tactics is to get Christians arguing, fussing, disagreeing, and dividing among themselves. As long as Christians waste their time and energy disagreeing and arguing among ourselves, we pose no threat to Satan.

4. The surest way to stop fighting Satan is to fight among ourselves.

5. Galatians 5:14-15 “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!”

C. The third is the battle with the world and their view of us.

1. We will never be the “Popular” religion.

2. We are often persecuted, whether physically, mentally, or emotionally.
   a. 1 Peter 3:16-17 “having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. 17 For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”
b. Matthew 5:10-12 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

3. Just the simple act of being a Christian is a threat and offense to many people.
4. They may call you evil, strange, or weird.
5. The Government may try to enact policies that threaten the way you worship God.
   a. The common reaction is often to retaliate and fight back.
   b. We try to put them in their place. Or to fight back in some physical manner.
   c. This however is not the way we are to fight back.
6. We are to stand up for what is right. But that does not mean physical retaliation.
7. Jesus stood up for what was right when He died on the cross. But he didn’t retaliate in a Physical manner.

V. Our Greatest Enemy

A. Now I want to talk to you about the greatest enemy that we will face in our war with sin.
   1. This enemy is cunning. He knows just where to hit you.
   2. He is the one that is responsible for every sin that we commit.
B. I’m speaking, of ourselves, of yourself.

1. You yourself will always be the one to decide whether you stay faithful to God.
2. No one else has that power over you. You shouldn’t fear anyone.
3. Psalms 27:1 “The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?”

VI. Who’s Side Are You On?

A. Unlike most wars, there is no neutral ground in this war.

1. Matthew 12:30 “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”
2. You are either with God, or you are with Satan and his angels.
3. There is a Marine phrase that I like, “The greatest friend, and the worst enemy you’ll ever meet is a US Marine.”
4. The same is true with God.
5. You cannot sit on the sidelines and root for whomever seems to be winning at the time. There can be no conscientious objectors in this war.

B. Nobody likes War.

1. But this is a cause worth fighting for. This is a Noble Fight.
2. The outcome of this war has already been decided.
3. The Battle is the Lord’s. He will have victory.
   a. Deuteronomy 20:4 “for the LORD your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.”
   b. Proverbs 21:31 “The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But deliverance is of the LORD.”
4. It’s our time now to decide who’s side we will choose.

C. Do you want to be on the winning side who’s fight is Noble and Righteous? Who’s reward will be eternal?

D. Or do you want to be on the losing side? Who’s loss and punishment will be eternal?

E. It’s YOUR time now to decide! If you had known in History who would win a war would you choose to be on the losing side? - 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

1. V. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

2. V. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

3. V. 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

4. V. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

5. V. 58 ¶ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

6. GOD WILL WIN!
CONCLUSION

1. Don’t you know there’s a war on?

2. “I will never forget that Christ died for me and I belong to Him! I will never forget I am a soldier in God's army, fighting the good fight of faith unto the end, when victory is finally won!

3. Though Satan opposes us, God will always be there for us. 1 John 4:4 “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

4. You may ask how to become part of the Lord’s army if you aren’t already.
   a. This army does not have a draft.
   b. You have to sign up for this army yourself.
   c. God will not force you to join this army against your will.
   d. Here is what you need to do to join his army

5. The Plan
   a. Hear - Matthew 11:15
   b. Believe - Acts 2:38
   c. Repent - Acts 2:38
   e. Be Baptized - Mark 16:16

6. If you wish to join His army - Come Now

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Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning - March 30, 2014
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