

Ephesians 6:10-14a - Part 2

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 2-17-16

Review

Church militant vs. church triumphant

- Inherent tension
 - Church militant:
 - Constant conflict with the world, the flesh, and the devil (Rom. 7:23; Gal. 5:17; I John 5:4),
 - Struggling ceaselessly against the powers of evil (Eph. 6:10; I Pet. 5:8-9).
 - Not a military battle but a _____ one
 - Church triumphant
 - Have been given the crown of life (Rev. 2:10)
 - Saints in heaven are comprised of persons of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues who live in ceaseless praise of God (Rev. 7:9)
- All are the body and bride of Christ!
- Already, but not yet
- Recurring thematic elements throughout the NT:
 - I Pet. 4:12-5:11:
 - V. 12 - these things are “for your testing”
 - V. 13 - we share in the sufferings of Christ now, but will one day share in his glory/exaltation
 - 5:1-5 - meanwhile, elders and younger men are to relate to one another in humility
 - Vv. 8-9 - be sober, resist the devil who prowls like a lion, and stand firm in your faith
 - Vv. 9-10 - “the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren **who are in the world**. 10 **After you have suffered for a little while**, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you”
 - Colossians 2:1-15:
 - Vv. 2-3 - the body is knit together in love, knowing the fullness of the mystery of Christ
 - Vv. 4, 8 - do not be deluded by persuasive arguments, philosophies or deception
 - V. 6 - received Christ, not walk in him
 - V. 10 - he is head over all authority
 - Vv. 12-13 - we have died and been buried with him and God has made us alive together with him
 - V. 15 - he has disarmed the rulers and principalities and triumphed over them
 - Romans 8:31-39:
 - V. 34 - Christ has died but has been raised and it at the right hand of God
 - Vv. 35-36, 38-39 - No external power or force can separate us from his love
 - V. 37 - “through him” we can overwhelmingly conquer all these things
 - James 1:2-4, 12
 - Vv. 2-3 - through adversity your faith is made stronger
 - Vv. 4, 12 - The end result = becoming everything God wants you to be and receiving the completion of our salvation

- I Cor. 10:13 - God does permit us to be tempted/tested, but never to the point where we cannot overcome it

Why does God permit us to suffer at all?

He uses suffering/trials to _____ to Himself

- Trials and distress are part of what it means to be human in a _____ world
- John 16:33 - "you shall have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world"
 - He uses times like these as opportunities to cling to him
 - Through it all He proves His absolute faithfulness to us.
- II Cor. 1:3-7 - we suffer and are comforted so that we can _____
 - Suffering has a _____ quality

He uses suffering/trials to prove our faith is _____

- How we respond is determined by the genuineness of our faith.
- I Pet. 1:6-9
 - V. 6 - the _____ and temporal nature of trials
 - V. 7 - expresses purpose
 - V. 9 - the outcome
 - Real faith will be able to endure real trial and will result in the worship of God and the final salvation of our souls.

He uses suffering/trials to point us _____ this world

- The Bible continually exhorts us to look forward to the world to come.
- Suffering/trials are not the end of the story.
- Romans 8
 - V. 18 - Present sufferings cannot compare with coming glory
 - V. 25 - With hope we see the end that is to come, and with perseverance we eagerly wait for it
 - V. 28 - We trust that "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God"
- God uses suffering/trials to accomplish his ultimately good purposes in the world.

Summary

- We are already the body, the church, who is the temple of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us
- We have not already attained the final triumph over the world, the flesh, and the devil
- We are promised a battle in this life, which has the effect of working like a trial/test of our faith
- He promises us victory and to those who persevere until the end is promised a crown
- He supplies **the** tools to wage the war in the present evil age
- His armor and weapons are all we need, but we have to take them up and use them