

# Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

Volume XVII

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Number 12

## FALL ANTICIPATIONS

We rejoice to see men completing their two year studies with us and are saddened when they must leave and begin applying what they have learned. The Fall Semester looks us in the eye, and we must anticipate what it will bring. We should have one of our largest enrollments. With your help, we are doing all we can to accommodate incoming students.

### Housing Needs



We do not have housing facilities provided for students. They must provide housing with the support they receive while attending. This makes it difficult for foreign students who have no knowledge of the area. Also, not everyone will rent to students.

Three congregations are presently involved in assisting students with housing. Auburndale has for a number of years permitted students to use two houses on their property, and this is most helpful and appreciated. The Springhead Congregation near Plant City has a house that a married family will

occupy this Fall. The Sixth Street Congregation in Lakeland has a house that is being renovated and plans are to make it available for students.

The Board of Directors considered purchasing property for students to occupy but at the present time did not feel this to be expedient. However, the decision was made to rent an apartment that is one mile from school. This will be shared by four new incoming Haitian students. Contributions from individuals furnished it.

### Transportation Needs



The apartment rented by the school is close enough that students may walk to classes (one mile each way). Those living at other locations will have to find a means of travel to classes daily.

We have a large display that is being used to advertise the school at special events like the Freed-Hardeman Annual Lectureship. This is not easy to transport in an automobile with a number of passengers.

During the school year, at least once a month, we travel with students to congregations that request them to come and speak. This creates transportation difficulties.

The Board of Directors has purchased a fifteen-passenger van to be used to transport students on special occasions and to be used for trips to Special events in promoting the school.

### Your Help

Reading the above makes you aware of our needs and goals as we approach the coming school year. Is it possible for you

to increase your assistance? The students could surely use it. If you are not assisting the school or students would you consider doing so? If there are congregations or individuals that you may encourage to assist a student or the school may we count on you to help?



The potential for much good is here. We cannot do it alone. Please help us?

# The Greatest War Ever

By  
Brian Kenyon

As we read this article, a great war is taking place. This war is not being waged in the Republic of Congo or against the Irish Republican Army. This war is taking place between God and Satan (cf. Rev. 12:7-9, 17). This war is the greatest war ever fought because more is at stake than in any other war (every soul cf. Mt. 16:26), more people are involved than in any other war (all humanity), it has lasted longer than any other war (from at least the Garden of Eden), and it involves the most powerful leaders (God and Satan). Thanks be unto God that we can be on the winning side. Ephesians 6:10-20 reveals to us the knowledge that we need to apply in order to be victorious in this war.

## The Enemy

The real enemy is the devil (whose name means "accuser") (Eph. 6:10-11). The devil accused both God and Job (Job 1:9-10; 2:4-5). The devil is also the "accuser of our brethren" (Rev. 12:10). The devil always resists faithful people of God (cf. Zec. 3:1). The devil is also called the "Satan" (which means "adversary," 1 Pet. 5:8). The devil is real and powerful, being referred to as the "prince of this world" (Jn. 12:31), the "god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4), and the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2). Yet at the same time, he appears as "an angel of light" (2 Cor. 11:14). His strongest weapon is deceit. The devil himself is deceptive and he uses the most deceptive means to accomplish his destructive goals (cf. Gen. 3:1ff). We are not fighting against the mere strength of men, but against the

cunning strategies of the deceptive one. There are many instruments through which the devil works, but to be victorious we must be aware of his tactics (2 Cor. 2:11), and we must properly apply the word of God (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10).

## The True Nature Of the War

*"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"* (Eph. 6:12). The nature of this war is not physical. The word "wrestle" (πάλη) denotes a severe struggle, and gets its meaning from a contest between two individuals in which each tries to overthrow the other, and which is decided when the victor is able to hold his opponent down by the throat.<sup>1</sup> Although this war is not physical, it is a fight to the end!

This war's nature is spiritual (Eph. 6:12b). "Principalities" (from ἀρχή, meaning "beginning") can refer to rulers and authorities (cf. Eph. 3:10). In this context the word is used of "angelic and demonic powers."<sup>2</sup> "Powers" (from ἐξουσία) refers to powers exercised by rulers or others in high places by virtue of their position.<sup>3</sup> The context here indicates rulers and functionaries of the spirit world.<sup>4</sup> These "spiritual potentates" are among the more powerful of the spiritual created beings who have become evil.<sup>5</sup> These "principalities" and "powers" are no match for the army of God. They cannot separate the Christian from God's love (Rom.

8:38). Christ triumphed over them at His death (Col. 2:15), and He will destroy them eternally when he returns (1 Cor. 15:24). "Rulers of . . . this world" (from κοσμοκράτωρ) came to be used of evil spiritual beings who allegedly had parts of the cosmos under their control.<sup>6</sup> "Darkness" underscores the extent of their "control"—the world where sin reigns (cf. 1 Jn. 2:15-17; 5:19). "Spiritual wickedness in high places" refers to the evil spiritual forces in the heavens. Although these forces are very powerful, they are inferior to God.

We must never underestimate the powerful forces against which we war. Although this war is spiritual, it is fought over territory—the hearts and minds of people. Territory is won or lost with ideas, attitudes, and philosophies. The devil targets the mind (2 Cor. 4:4). The very first battle between the devil and humanity was a battle for the mind. The devil successfully undermined the goodness of God and the validity of His word in the mind

## The Harvesters

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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

of Eve (Gen. 3:1-5).

### The Weapons Of Our Warfare

Since the war is spiritual, the weapons are spiritual (Eph. 6:13 cf. 2 Cor. 3-4). God provides all the equipment needed to win the war. *"The whole armour"* (from πανοπλία—panoply) refers to the full equipment of a heavily armed soldier.<sup>7</sup> Note the list of necessary equipment. *"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"* (Eph. 6:14-17). The order in which the list is given is the order in which a literal soldier would dress. Strictly speaking, the belt was not part of the armor, but served as its foundation. Before the armor could be donned the garments underneath must be bound by a belt. The belt also kept the other pieces of armor in place. Having our *"loins girt about with truth"* is fundamental for success because *"truth"* will always defeat the enemy (cf. Mt. 4:1-11). The *"breastplate"* covered a soldier's vital organs, protecting him from mortal wounds. By righteous living our hearts are guarded against mortal wounds. Like a Roman soldier, we must have our *"feet shod."* Not only were a soldier's sandals protected, they were often equipped with cleat-like spikes which gave him quick and certain steps. *"Preparation"* emphasizes two aspects as it relates to *"the gospel of peace"*: (1) a readiness of mind so that at a moments call we can go forward with the gospel; and (2) a foundation where knowledge of and confidence in the Gospel gives us

a firm foothold to stand. Note also this beautiful paradox: *"the gospel of peace"* in the midst of war!

The *"shield"* protected the rest of the soldier's body. The Roman shield was large and oblong, and it could be locked with other shields to form a corporate defense. At any time in the war our *"shield of faith"* will quench the devil's assaults. *"Salvation"* is also part of our defense. As a *"helmet"* gives the soldier confidence when fighting, our *"helmet of salvation"* gives us great confidence (cf. Ps. 140:7; 1 Jn. 5:18). The *"sword"* is the only offensive weapon given in this list. This referred to a large knife / small sword with a curved blade for a smooth cutting stroke.<sup>8</sup> Our *"sword"* is the *"word of God"* (cf. Heb. 4:12). It is *"of the Spirit"* because it is given by the Spirit to meet and defeat every attack (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18).

### The Source Of Our Strength

*"Prayer"* is the means through which we tap into the power of God (Eph. 6:18). *"In the Spirit"* (cf. Eph. 2:18, 22; 3:5; 5:18) refers to the sphere in which the Holy Spirit influences, directs, and instructs —through obedience to His word (Rom. 8:5-14). We must pray for *"all saints"* because we are not the only ones who are fighting against the devil. The whole church is involved (Rev. 6:11; 1 Pet. 5:9), and needs our continual prayers. Even the apostle Paul needed the prayers of the church (Eph. 6:19-20).

The war is real, and the devil continues to have overwhelming success. This enemy will do anything within his power to capture souls. Christ, however, came to liberate captured *"territory"* (Lk. 4:18). Every conversion to Christ is *"territory"* gained for God

(Col. 1:13). Every child of God who repents of his or her sins is *"territory"* gained for God (Jms. 5:20 cf. Lk. 15:10). Well-equipped soldiers for God are too few. Our business at the school of preaching is to better equip soldiers of Christ for the greatest war ever. We cannot do it alone. We need and appreciate your help!!

#### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>Joseph Henry Thayer, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, (1885; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975) 474.

<sup>2</sup>Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, 2nd ed., revised and augmented by William F. Arndt, F. Wilbur Gingrich, and Frederick W. Danker (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979) 112.

<sup>3</sup>Bauer 278.

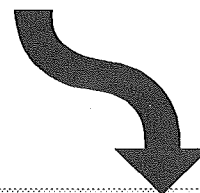
<sup>4</sup>Bauer 278.

<sup>5</sup>Thayer 225.

<sup>6</sup>Bauer 445.

<sup>7</sup>Bauer 607.

<sup>8</sup>Thayer (on μάχαίρα) 393.



Fall  
Registration  
1:00 p.m.  
August 22, 1997



# Registration Schedule

## Florida School of Preaching

Fall Semester Begins August 22, 1997

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ S.S.# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check Classes Desired

Hours	Course	Instructor	Credit
<b>Monday</b> 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15	Romans 21361	Davis	3
	Logie 31370	Burgett	3
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.	Greek 21322	Stearsman	3
	Pentateuch 11364	Stilwell	3
	Practical Work of the Church 11306	Blackman	2½
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15	Revelation 21359	Stearsman	3
	Church History 21341	Kenyon	3
<b>Thursday</b> 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.	Computers and Churches 31387	Kenyon/Stearsman	3
	First and Second Corinthians 11355	Davidson	3
	Matthew 31389	Kenyon	2½
<b>Friday</b> 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15	Denominational Dogmas 11331	Daugherty	3
	First and Second Thessalonians 21317	Kenyon	3

Please Include \$5.00 Registration Fee When Preregistering.

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