

## ***Reality Check!***

September 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### ***Ephesians 3:7-13***

#### **God will make known His manifold wisdom to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places through us, the church!**

- ❖ God's Word reveals the truth about all of life ...
  - ... Jesus came to earth, Almighty God incarnate, full of grace and truth!  
*John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."*
  - ... Jesus came to bear witness to the truth!  
*John 18:37 "Then Pilate said to Him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.'"*
- ❖ The truth is that there are spiritual forces in the invisible realm who control the lives of people here on earth (*Ephesians 2:1-2*) and who are waging a war against God's people in an attempt to hinder them from declaring the truth about God!
- ❖ Though the Scriptures reveal this spiritual war, many Christians live virtually unaware of the battle...
  - ... A Reality Check is needed!  
*f Reality Check: a confirmation of facts*

#### **God reveals the nature and activity of Satan and his forces in God's Eternal Word!**

- ❖ Paul addresses this spiritual conflict in which Christians are engaged.
  - 📖 *Ephesians 6:10-14*
- ❖ The battle began before the temptation in the Garden of Eden. *Revelation 12:7-12*
  - Satan*: Adversary or enemy
  - Devil*: Accuser or Slanderer
  - f* The devil accuses God's people day and night (*Revelation 12:10*) ... relentlessly!
  - ♦ The battle is in our thought life! *2 Corinthians 10:4-5*
- ❖ The battle continues to rage against God's people.
  - ♦ The serpent's temptation in the Garden of Eden *Genesis 3:1-5*
  - ♦ Satan before God *Job 1:6-12*
  - ♦ Satan demands to have Peter *Luke 22:31*
  - ♦ Satan attacks Jesus following His Baptism *Luke 4:1-13*
    - f* The devil waits for more opportune times *Luke 4:13*
- ❖ Satan seeks out Christians to destroy them! *1 Peter 5:8-11*
  - ♦ We defeat the devil by standing in faith "...by the blood of the lamb and the word of [our] testimony..."!  
*Revelation 12:11*
  - ♦ Our testimony is a threat to Satan because the whole world is in the devil's power.  
*1 John 5:19 "We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."*
  - ♦ The gates of hell will not prevail against the growth of the church!  
*Matthew 16:18 "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

## **God encourages His people not to lose heart!**

- ❖ God has already provided redemption for His people! *Ephesians 1:7*
- ❖ God has already equipped His people to live for Him! *Ephesians 1:3*
- ❖ God has already made Jew and Gentile one through the shed blood of Christ! *Ephesians 2:13-18*
- ❖ God has already given us access into His presence as we walk by faith! *Ephesians 3:12*
- ❖ God is displaying His glory through the church to our true adversaries, Satan and his fallen angels!  
*Ephesians 3:10-13*

*“So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.”  
Ephesians 3:13*

## Endnote:

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