

Reality Check!

September 5th & 6th, 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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