

THE BATTLE FOR AMERICA
EPHESIANS 6:10-17

Thanksgiving is a time of national remembrance. As a nation we reflect upon our beginnings, and the part that God played in our beginnings. This Thanksgiving has been observed in the midst of another national crisis. There is nothing real unusual about this for most of our history has been written during a time of crisis. However, some of us seem to sense that there is something different about the crisis that keeps besetting our country today.

I want to state a proposition this morning. My proposition is ----- Satan has set out to destroy America because of its potential for the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but we Christians can turn the tide of the Battle for victory. This proposition reflects some very basic convictions that come from the Bible and a perspective on the history of our country. The Biblical conviction is that all of the events of human history are related to a greater history that involves the continuing struggle between God and the Devil. This battle of the ages began before the appearance of man on the earth, and will not be finished until human history has been concluded. Even though most of the citizens of earth are never aware of the battle, those who look at the world from the perspective of the Word of God, with enlightened eyes, can see it on every side. The other conviction about our country is not just the view of a patriot. It is a fact that this country serves as the base of operation for the cause of God in the world today. The missionary forces for the Gospel of Jesus Christ are in the main trained and funded in the United States of America. If this country falls, with it will go the base of operation for world evangelization in our day. I want you to hear me this morning, and to evaluate what I say in light of the seriousness of the times in which we live.

THE SOURCE OF THE BATTLE

Who is masterminding the attack upon our country? If you were going to destroy the center of opposition, where would you drop a bomb? If the proposition I have stated is true, the source of the battle is not "flesh and blood". You can not assassinate the opponent, or drop a bomb on him. Behind all of the battle is the great Mastermind of evil identified in Scripture as the Devil or Satan. Consider this inspired word from the Apostle Paul. "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Satan is the opponent of God and the mastermind behind all of the opposition to the things of God. His ever maneuver is planned to thwart what God is seeking to do in the earth. He is wise enough to discern the potential that is present in the evangelical Christian community in America for the evangelization of the world,

so he makes it the center of his attention in our day. To aid him in his opposition to the things of God he has a great hierarchy of evil beings under his control. Through them he is able to manipulate most of the rulers around this world in any way he pleases. He has access to most of the world's religious and political leaders since they are unconsciously, in most cases, under his direct control. At least we know that they have no place in their lives or thoughts for the true and living God, or His Son the Lord Jesus. They stand in opposition to Jesus Christ.

Until the Christians of America see what is going on in the world through the perspective of Scripture, they will be inept in doing anything about the battle. It is important that we see behind all of the visible movements the invisible, but very real, power of the evil one. He is the source of the battle that threatens to destroy America.

THE STRATEGY IN THE BATTLE

Satan has been destroying men and nations from the very beginning. His opposition to the person and plan of God actually goes back beyond the creation of man. His first appearance in human history was in the Garden of Eden as a deceiving serpent. He used "wiles" in his attack upon Eve, and has been using them ever since. The word means to be crafty or deceitful. What is His approach to our country? What means is he using? Without seeking to be exhaustive, let me make some suggestions.

First, his strategy has been to use the intellectual. The mind has always been a target for the enemy. He knows the importance what man thinks. If he can succeed in getting men to exclude God from their minds, he has won the battle. Under the guise of academic freedom, intellectualism, and the like, he has been able to take possession of the great intellectual centers of America. He has been able to staff our universities in the main with agnostics, atheists, and in many cases in our day, men with a deep bias against the Christian faith. He has been so successful that it is now rare to find a real evangelical Christian in these places of so called "higher learning". Then he has encouraged us who are Christians to become tolerant of this lest we seem to be narrow-minded.

One of the real successes of the enemy has been to convince us that there is no place for the knowledge of God in our school systems. Furthermore, he has been pretty successful in getting the history of the United States re-written to exclude any idea that our nation has some significant religious influences in its beginning. References to the religious influences have become primarily negative, while the truth is that without the religious commitment that was in the heart of our founding fathers, there would never have been a United States of America.

Secondly, the strategy has been to use the moral. The enemy is smart. He knows that immorality saps the strength of a nation, and soon brings national death. So

he has been making a relentless attack upon the moral life of America, and this includes a vicious attack upon the home. His tools have been many, and it would appear that he is succeeding. One of the wiles of the devil is how he is able of use good things to accomplish his end. Everyone will recognize that the television is a "good" invention of modern man, but it has become a most effective tool of the enemy. He has used it very effectively in recent years to attack every moral principle held dear by those who know the true and living God. He has used it to make immorality to appear to be fun, and healthy, and those who oppose it to be dull or mentally ill. The heroes are always those who ignore any eternal principles of righteousness that God may have set forth in His word. One has to wonder where all of this going to stop? Is there any alternative? Until we recognize the source of this I doubt that there is.

His attack upon the home has really been effective. He has successfully changed the attitude of this nation toward divorce in one generation. He has been successful in getting us to think of marriage in secular terms almost entirely. No one seems to be much concerned about God's part in their marriage, or in the keeping of their marriage together. But God still hates divorce, and will always hate divorce. He loves the victims of divorce, but he still hates the putting away of your marriage partner.

The latest attack of the enemy has been to get homosexuality accepted as a normal lifestyle. To show you how successful he has been almost every major Christian denomination in this country has been forced to discuss the question of whether or not a homosexual can be ordained to the ministry of Jesus Christ. Can we see this for what it really is ---- a spiritual attack upon the very moral fiber of this country.

Let me add just one other word in this realm. I sincerely believe that there are some "good" things to be said for sex education, but this good thing has become a very useful tool in our country. The enemy has succeeded in getting a group of humanists who see no moral significance at all to sexual expression into the leadership of this movement, and they have successfully diverted much of this movement into the sexual revolution, and are openly encouraging sexual experimentation on the part of teenagers. They do this interestingly against increasing evidence that God's plan is mentally and spiritually healthy.

The other strategy that I see the enemy using is spiritual. Let me make just two suggestions here. First, he has sought to undermine the faith of the churches themselves, so that their spiritual effectiveness will become nought. He has known a good measure of success in this area. Every time you read or hear a spokesman for the church of Jesus Christ who speaks less than the truth as it is in Christ, you are listening to a devilish victory. He is a delight to the devil.

Another spiritual front for the enemy in our day is in the formation of new religions. Every cult that is born in the country is a front for the enemy. The Jim Jones are the agents of the enemy. There seems to be such a movement born every day. The devil uses them to deceive some souls, but probably more importantly, he uses them to discredit the truth. He convinces secular man that all religious movements are the same. So these substitute faiths become a real part of his strategy.

THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE BATTLE

Just how serious is the situation? What is at stake? First, the seriousness can be seen when you consider the millions of souls in this country that are at stake. If the enemy wins the battle for America, he will succeed in damning the souls of millions for whom Christ died. This is no small consideration.

Secondly, the seriousness is seen when you consider the impact on the plan of God to evangelize the world. Most of the missionaries now sharing Christ in the third world are American missionaries. Most of the programs that are taking the Gospel to the world are underwritten with American money. So it is literally true that the fall of America would be a deadly blow to the cause of world evangelization.

While we must never equate the program of God with America, we must recognize the part that we are now playing in God's work in the world. Without any sense of national pride being involved, it is just a fact. However if we fall, God will not be defeated. The defeat of God is not involved in the downfall of America.

Application:

Where does all of this lead? It leads me to make a very sincere appeal. It is time for the soldiers of Jesus Christ to get into the battle. It is time for us to come to the aid of the cause of God in the world against the powers of evil. We need a generation of soldiers who know how to become effective in the battle through the use of the word of God and prayer. I think the greatest need of the hour is a group of Christians who know how to stand against the enemy through the mighty name of Jesus in prayer. You are the best prospect for this ministry that I know. Are you ready?