

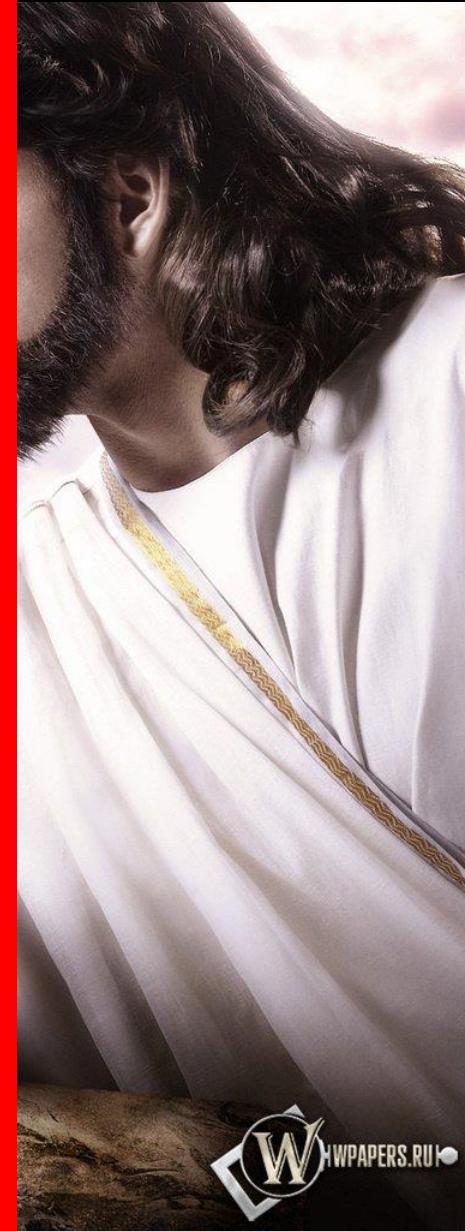
EPHESIANS

This Means War

Ephesians 6:10-12

SPiritUAL WARe









Ephesians 4:8

EPHESIANS

8 Therefore it says,
“When He ascended on
high, He led captive a
host of captives, And
He gave gifts to men.”

We Understand:

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God's covenant plan is to redeem His people and His creation into the glorious kingdom of His Son.

- **We Must Also Understand:**
The forces of darkness in this world stand in opposition to God's good plan.

The Reality of Darkness EPHESIANS

- 5:8 – “you were formerly darkness”
- 5:11 – “Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them”
- 5:16 – “the days are evil”

“Evil has never been experienced in a vague, abstract form.”

Ephesians 2:1-2

EPHESIANS

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.



A dark, atmospheric landscape at night, possibly a coastal or marsh area. In the foreground, there are low-lying plants and small, glowing orange lights, likely from campfires or lanterns. In the middle ground, a body of water reflects the light from distant city buildings. A prominent, tall, thin vertical structure, resembling a lighthouse or a tall chimney, stands in the background. A red location pin, shaped like a teardrop, is overlaid on the image, centered on the left side. Inside the pin, the words "YOU ARE HERE" are written in white capital letters.

YOU
ARE
HERE

The War is Real:

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They think they
can win.

They are
Dangerous.

The alleged synagogue shooter was a churchgoer who talked Christian theology, raising tough questions for evangelical pastors



John Earnest, accused in the fatal shooting at the Chabad of Poway synagogue, stands in court during an arraignment hearing in San Diego on Tuesday.
(Pool via Reuters)



Warren Wiersbe:

“Sooner or later every believer discovers that the Christian life is a battleground, not a playground, and that he faces an enemy who is much stronger than he is – apart from the Lord.”



Ephesians 6:10

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10 Finally, be
strong in the Lord
and in the strength
of His might.

“Be strong”

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- *endynamoō*
 - Passive or middle imperative in the Greek text.
 - It probably meant both “allow the Lord to strengthen you” (passive) and “strengthen yourself in the Lord” (middle).
 - It is the Lord who provides the power in both cases.

3 Words for Power

EPHESIANS

“Finally, be strong (*endynamoō*) in the Lord and in the **strength** (*kratos*) of His **might** (*ischys*)”

- These same three words also appear in 1:19 –
“and what is the surpassing greatness of His *power* (*dynamis*) toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the **strength** (*kratos*) of His **might** (*ischys*)”

Be Encouraged

EPHESIANS

The Lord's strength and might are available to us in our spiritual warfare.

Not only does God command us to be strong, but He gives us the means to accomplish it.

Ephesians 6:11

EPHESIANS

11 Put on the full
armor of God, so that
you will be able to
stand firm against the
schemes of the devil.

Ephesians 6:12

EPHESIANS

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Paul's NT Vocabulary EPHESIANS

- “Rulers” (*archonton or archon*)
- “Principalities” (*arche*)
- “Powers/Authorities” (*exousia*)
- “Powers” (*dynamis*)
- “Dominions/Lords” (*kyrios*)
- “Thrones” (*thronos*)
- “World Rulers” (*kosmokrator*)



These Terms

Are used in both the New Testament and other classical Greek literature to denote geographical domain authority.

Ephesians 1:20b-22a

EPHESIANS

20b He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand **in the heavenly places**, 21 far above all **rule (*arche*)** and **authority (*exousia*)** and **power (*dynamis*)** and **dominion (*kuriotes*)**, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22a And He put all things in subjection under His feet

Ephesians 3:10

EPHESIANS

10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers (*arche*) and the authorities (*exousia*) in the heavenly places.

Now Back to 6:12

EPHESIANS

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers (*arche*), against the powers (*exousia*), against the world forces (*kosmokrator*) of this darkness, against the spiritual forces (*pneumatikos*) of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Question:

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What Does “Spiritual
Warfare” Have To Do
With Geographical
“Territory?”

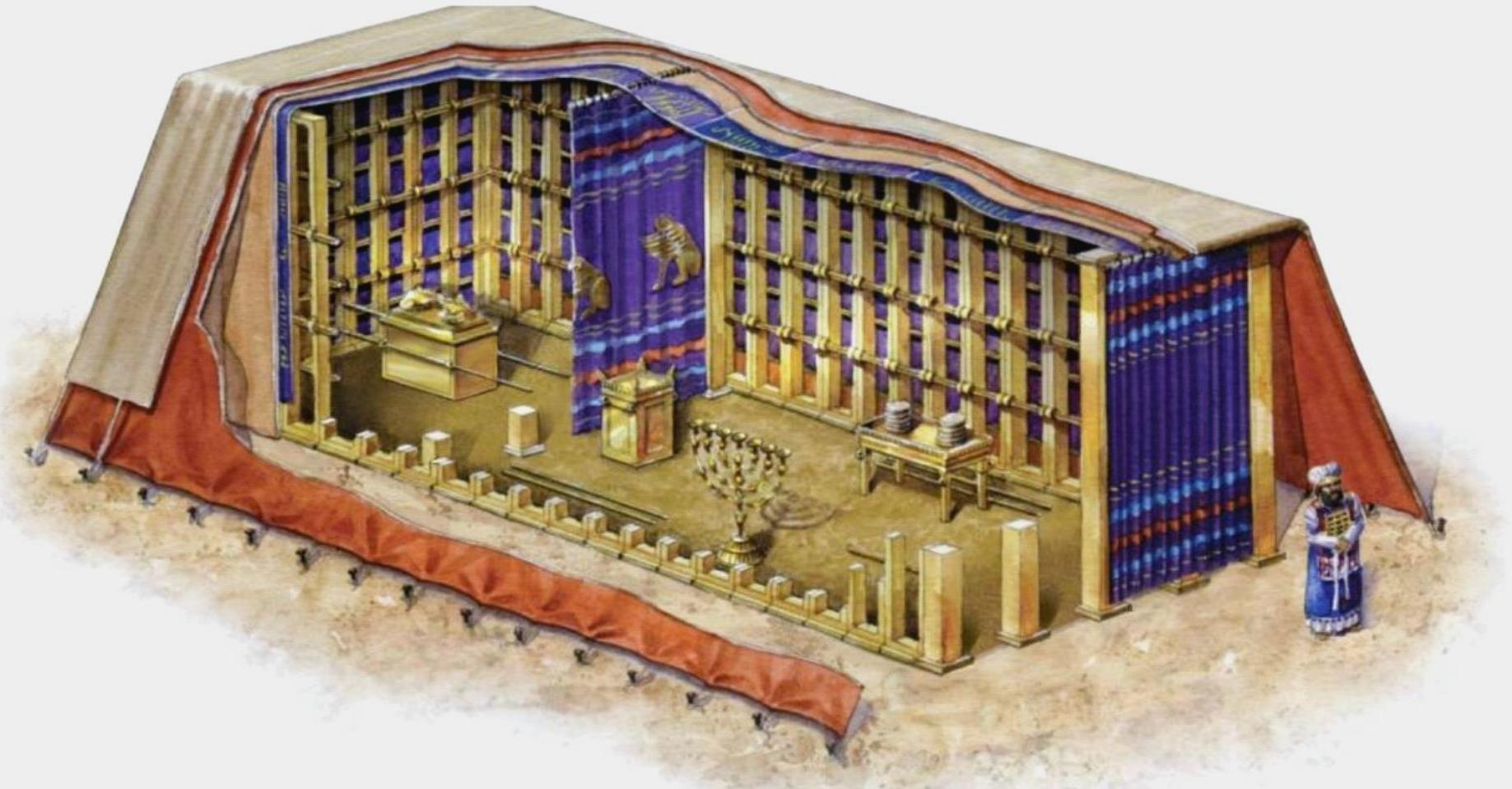


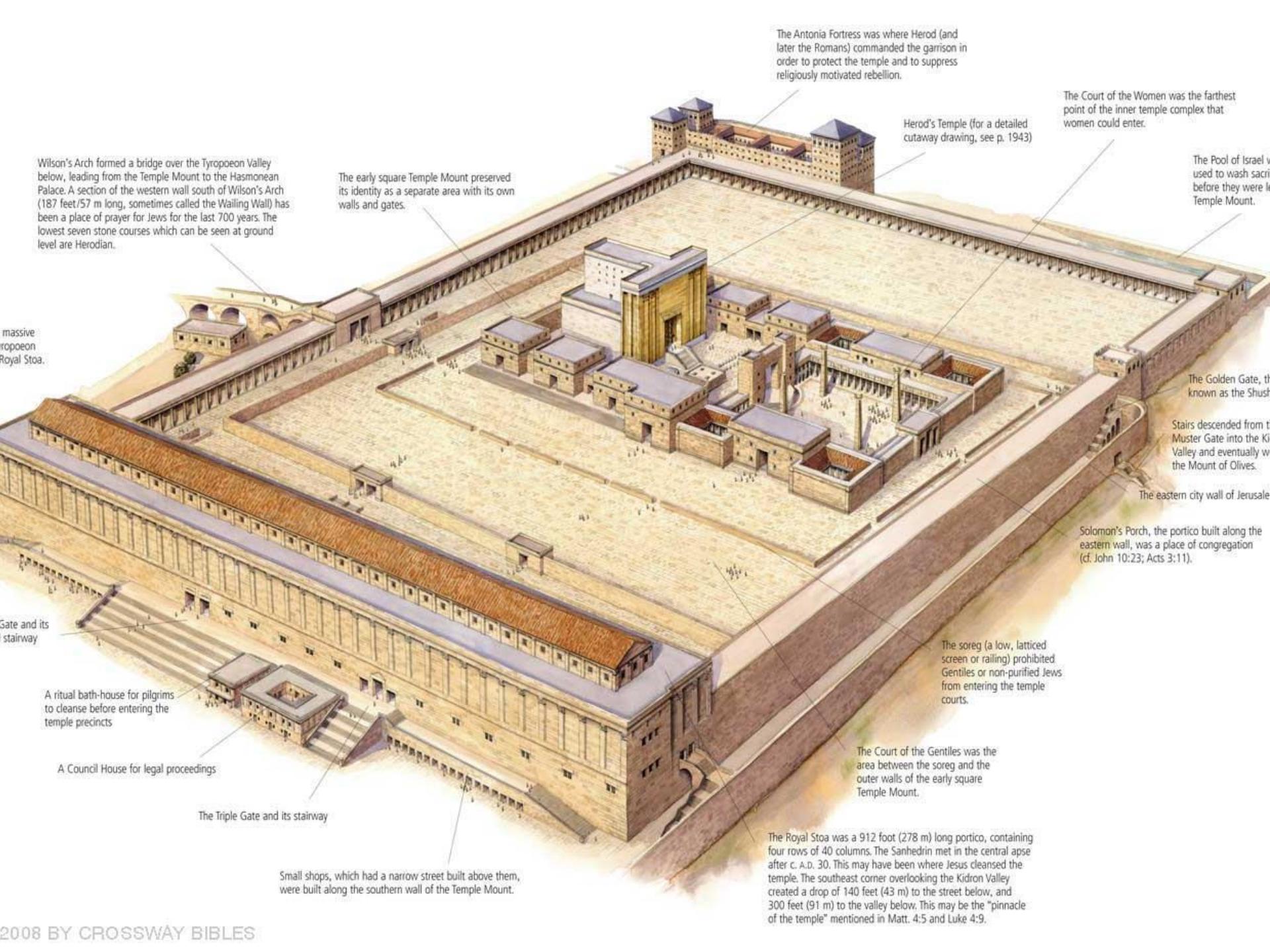
Daniel 10:10-14



Exodus 3:5

Then He said, “Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”





Not Just in the OT

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Is there such a
thing as “Sacred
Space” in the New
Testament?

Believe It or Not

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**You Are
Sacred
Space!**

We Are The Temple

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- Corporately: 1 Corinthians 3:16 –

“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

- Individually: 1 Corinthians 6:19 –

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”

Ephesians 2:19-22

EPHESIANS

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

New Covenant Reality EPHESIANS

We are the place where God dwells – the same presence that filled the Tabernacle and the Temple in the Old Testament.

What are the implications of this startling reality?

We've All Heard

EPHESIANS

- Matthew 18:20 –

“For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”

That's amazing.

But Wait, There's More!

Put In Context

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The New Testament language we have looked at this morning, which in turn is informed by the Old Testament imagery of the Tabernacle and Temple.

The truth is that wherever believers are and gather, the spiritual ground they occupy is sanctified amid the powers of darkness.



“If we could see with spiritual eyes, we would see a world of darkness peppered with Yahweh’s presence, spreading out to meet each other, inexorably pressing and spreading out to take back the ground...from the enemy.”

• Michael Heiser



This is Why

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Life outside the
protection of the
church should be
absolutely
frightening.

Scripture is Clear

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The People of God, in whom is the Name of God and the presence of God, are surrounded, as they have been throughout redemptive history.

The prophets and apostles understood that but were not faint of heart.

There would be no surrender of holy ground in the midst of darkness.

The Reality

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A spiritual war is raging
for the souls of men, and
you must choose a side.

Diplomacy is NOT an
option.



Do Hard Things

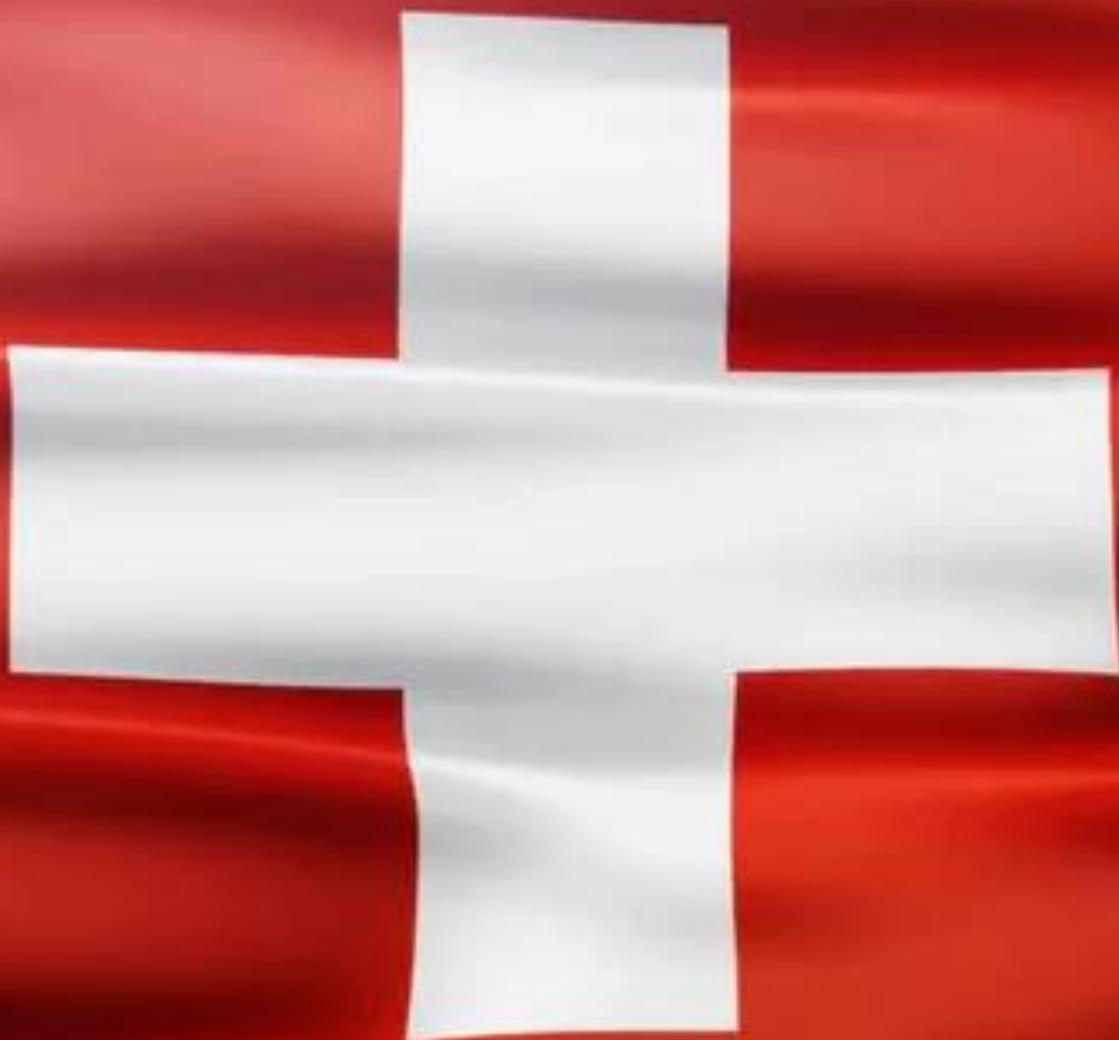
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- If we want to obey God and resist the devil, we are in for a struggle; it is not easy nor is it automatic.
- This is part of our human responsibility in progressive sanctification.
- Paul is clear that God alone saves, and yet, we have a responsibility to pursue holiness, both individually and corporately.

The Struggle

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- Is not primarily a physical one, though saying no to certain temptations may involve certain physical behavior.
- It is essentially warfare on the spiritual level with an enemy that we cannot see.
- This enemy is Satan and his hosts as well as the philosophies and feelings he promotes that characterize the world.



Exodus 32:26

EPHESIANS

then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, “Who is on the Lord’s side?”

I put the same question to you this morning.

Neutrality is NOT on the table.

Acts 4:12

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“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

Fight, Christian Fight! EPHESIANS

“The New Testament focuses on the devil and demons for only two purposes: to say evil and death are defeated, and to warn us not to be beguiled by evil. Everyone knows about evil and death; Christians are people who believe Christ has already conquered both.”



EPHESIANS
