

Groundwork Series

“Man – Angels and Demons”

Ephesians 6:10-17

Introduction

- Tonight we continue our series we have entitled “ground work – laying a foundation for faith.”
 - The reason we are doing this is it is so important that every one of us are able to give a reason for the things we believe.

“Always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.” – I Peter 3:15

- We are supposed to understand what we believe and as the verse above states, we are to consider, ‘why’ we believe it.
 - Why do we hold the convictions that we do.

We looked first at God – His Existence...

- So often we are told that smart people believe in things like evolution and weak-minded people believe in God.
 - But as we saw there are some great reasons to believe that something out there exists greater than you.

Next we look at God – His Word

- If we are going to study theology, the study of God, then we need to have some logical reasons we believe He exists and we need have a reliable source to learn about Him
 - And although there are 27 books consider ‘religious’ in our world, all teaching different things about god – only one is back up with consistency of scripture, archeological evidence, fulfilled prophecy, external sources and scientific facts.

Then we considered that God is the Trinity

- He is one God, but One God that exists in three persons – not some church council – Gen 1:1
 - God the Father
 - God the Son
 - God the Holy Spirit

Then we considered God the Father

- And we looked at His attributes or as we called them His perfections because He is not just loving, but He is everything Love is and nothing that love is not.
 - We saw that in His perfections and also in His names that He chooses to be called be, they reveal to us so much of who God is.

Then we considered God the Son

- That He did not begin with Matthew 1 and Luke 2 but He has always existed in eternity past with God the Father.
 - But then took on flesh to be a sympathetic high priest, reveal God to us and die in our place.
 - He died on Calvary’s cross and three days later rose again.

Then we dealt with God the Holy Spirit

- That He is not an “it” or a “force”, but that He is God.
 - Sent to convict the world of sin, lead us into all truth and transform us into different men and women.
 - Jesus never intended us to do life and ministry apart from the Holy Spirit – so we must not grieve or quench Him, but be filled with Him.

Then we moved on to Mankind

- We were created by God with both spirit and body, with the spirit foremost but when man fell, the body took control and we started to die physically and spiritually – so Jesus had to come to die for you and me – to impart righteousness to us.

And last week we look at our salvation

- Is salvation open to anyone, can anyone be saved?
 - Are we chosen by God and our eternal destiny predetermined or do we have a choice in the manner?
 - We look how I believe the scriptures teach both.
- That God is sovereign, and yet in His sovereignty He created man to be free to choose or reject Him.
 - And both are important – theology has consequences and there are days I need to trust like a Calvinist who believes God is totally in control because He is.
 - And other days I need to respond like an Arminianist, like God is going to hold me responsible for my actions, because He will.

But tonight we move on to our second to last topic and that is Man – His fellow servant and enemy – a study on Angels and Demons

- Now that sounds a little creepy when I say it out loud.
 - But with all the emphasis on the supernatural today in pop cultural – I think it is critical for us to understand what Angels and Demons really are and how we fight the spiritual battle they sometimes thrust us into.
- I mean we can argue over terms like “filled with the Spirit” or “baptized in the Spirit” and if we spend all our time arguing we miss experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
 - Tonight if you are taking notes we are going to examine three questions.

3 Questions

#1 – What are Angels?

#2 – What are Demons?

#3 – How do we fight the Spiritual battle?

3 Questions

#1 – What are Angels?

- They are very popular today.
 - But what you see in the store with the little cute chubby babies is not reality.
- In II Kings chapter 19 we read that one angel destroyed 185,000 Assyrians in one night.
 - That is some chubby baby.
 - So in reality what are angels?

What are Angels?

#1 – They are created beings

“Let them (angels) praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created.” – Psalm 148:5

- They have not forever existed as God has.
 - They had a beginning.
- Now when they were created we do not know exactly except for the fact they were created before the creation of the world.
 - Job 38:6-7 – says they were there at the creation of the world.

#2 – They are immortal

“Nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.” – Luke 20:36

- They are not eternal, but they are immortal - you cannot kill them, they will not die.
 - They are different than the physical man in that sense.

#3 – They do not propagate or have baby angles

“For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. – Matthew 22:30

The number of angels that is right now, has always been since they were created, and it will always remain the same (and it’s a large number – the Bible calls it “innumerable” In Hebrews 12:22)

- That is why Jesus says when you and I get to heaven we will be like the angels.
 - We won’t be angels – there will still be a difference – but we won’t be having children and we will live forever.

#4 – They are organized in ranks

- The archangel – Michael
 - Chief princes – the Apocrypha says that there are five chief princes of angels – Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Jeremiah, Uriel
 - Of which Michael is the chief, making him the archangel.
- I don’t know if that is true, but it’s interesting and we are told in Daniel 10 that there are chief princes of angels.
 - Cherubim – Satan is one of these so evidently they are high ranking. He is not the only one – they are often seen as guarding things, such as I Kings 6:23, Genesis 3:24
 - Seraphim – Isaiah 6 says they surround the throne of God.

#5 – They are fellow servants of God just like us

“And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See *that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” – Revelation 19:10

- When John sees an angel, just like you and I would be tempted to do, he begins to worship the angel, but the angel says – don’t do that – I am a fellow servant of God just like you – worship Him!

#5 – They were all originally Holy – but some of them fell

- Genesis 1:31 – Jude 6 with 2 Peter 2:4 – all indicate when God created the angels they were “good”, but then some rebelled – why would they rebel?
 - Well Revelation 12:4 seems to indicate that Satan lead a rebellion in which 1/3 of the angels followed him.
 - So if we are reading and interpreting that correctly there are more angels than demons, which is very comforting to me.

But that leads us to our next section.

3 Questions

#1 – What are Angels?

#2 – What are Demons?

Now I want to go to the other side of angels and that would be fallen angels, also known as demons.

- Now the fact that demons are fallen angels is not universally accepted.
 - It does not say in the Word that they specially are.
 - Some believe they are the people who have died and have come back to torment us.
- Which I think Biblically is the wrong idea.
 - Humans don’t come back unless God resurrects us and for those who were resurrected they came back with a body, not some floating spirit.
 - So if someone is talking to you in your room, it’s probably not your long lost friend.
- I believe it is a fallen angel or a demon.

Why do we believe demons are fallen angels?

#1 – Satan is their leaders

- Matthew 12 we are told Satan is their leader.

Satan is an angel, so that leads many to believe he is leading other angels, fallen angels not unembodied spirits.

#2 – Demons are organized

- In Ephesians 3:10 it tells us that angels are organized into groups called principalities and power.
- In Ephesians 6:12 – we are told the same thing about demonic forces.
 - So it serves to reason if angels are organized into things called principalities and powers and demons are as well – that they are the same type of created being.

#3 – Demons are called “spirits”

“When an unclean spirit goes out...,” – Matthew 12:43

- Angels are called spirits, ministering spirits in Hebrews 1:14.
 - So too demons are called unclean spirits.
 - They are not called unclean men or formally alive people or anything else.
- This again leads many to believe that demons are angels.
 - Fallen angels.

Again – Genesis 1:31 tells us that originally every thing God created was good

- But Jude verse 6, 2 Peter 2:4, and Revelation 12:4 all indicate 1/3 of the angels decided to follow the Devil in a rebellion against and are in the world today trying to lead men astray, lead nations astray as is clear in the book of Daniel, and generally oppress mankind.
 - I mention this just so we are clear, the Occult, dark magic, these are not things to mess around and play with – “Or its only pretend!
 - No, no it is not – Angels are real and demons are real.

Though God is greater than them – they are still more powerful beings than you and are not to be messed with.

Now even though the Bible indicates that the numbers of angels is vast, it only informs us of three of their names.

- Michael – who is the archangel – He is in charge of the Heavenly host.
- Gabriel – who seems to be the messenger angel assigned to Israel – every time God has a message for the Jewish people, He sends Gabriel.
 - Or maybe it is just that he is a talker, can’t conceal the good news – like that kid you have or know that just can’t keep a secret because he gets so excited – just kidding
- Satan or Lucifer – we know the name of the Devil who lead the rebellion against God.
 - In fact the Bible has much to say concerning this particular fallen angel.

Usually two main things people do wrong with the subject of Satan.

- One – they don’t believe he exists.
 - Satan loves this mistake – people see him as a myth.
- Two – they over emphasis him and his work.
 - Have you met those people who say everything is Satan?
 - They bump their head – it’s Satan!
 - Kids are crying – it’s Satan.

Don’t misunderstand me – there is definitely spiritual warfare.

- But I am talking about those who blame Satan for every little thing in their lives.
 - They are so focused on Satan, so they miss the Lord.
 - Don’t make this mistake.

Satan is real.

- 7 OT books - and every New Testament books make some type of reference to the existence of Satan.

There are two main texts that give us insight into his background.

- Isaiah 14: starting in verse 12.
 - And Ezekiel chapter 28.

Now in these passages both Ezekiel and Isaiah begin by speaking to nations that have rebelled against God.

- But then they begin to speak to the power behind these nations.
 - Satan – and from these passages we learn.
- Satan was originally a beautiful creation.
 - He was the seal of perfection.
 - Not the monster with a pitchfork!
- He is an angel (fallen) – specially a Cherub.
- He fell...
 - Isaiah fills in some more details on that.
- It was because of pride.
 - He wanted to be like God; in fact, he wanted to be superior to God.
 - Pride was his downfall, and that may be way God hates pride so much!

He has different titles in the scripture.

Titles for Lucifer

- **Satan – it means “adversary or oppressor”**
 - Satan is against you – we need to see this.
 - He only wants to oppress you.
- **Devil – means “slanderer”**
 - He loves to slander the Lord.
 - To slander believers – to slander the Word.
- **The evil one – John 17:15**
 - There is nothing awesome or wonderful about him.
 - He is absolutely evil in every intention in everything he does.
- **god of this World – 2 Cor. 4:4**

People want to know why there is so much suffering in the world if God is a God of love.

- The answer is man has allowed Satan to be the God of this world.
 - And we see the results, and the influences.
 - That is why I preach against putting your mind in the things of the world.
 - Satan is the god of this world, and he is bent on your destruction.

Satan is real, not to be underestimated or messed around with but he is also not overemphasized or cause unnecessary fear.

- Why?

He is an angel.

- He was created – he is not God’s equal.

“He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” – I John 4:4

He is not everywhere – he is not omnipresent like we learned about he Lord.

He does not know everything.

He is not all-powerful.

He will come to an end!

- Isaiah 14 – there will come a day when we will look upon Satan and say, “is this the one who made such trouble for the earth”?

“Those who see you will gaze at you, *And consider you, saying: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble,’*” – Isaiah 14:16

- There is coming a day when his judgment will come and we will see this one who has caused so much trouble in the world and say – is this him.

Revelation 20 records his ultimate judgment.

“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” – Revelation 20:10

- Not a great future.
 - The Devil is real – not to be messed with.
 - But God is greater – so we don’t have to fear.

But how do we deal with attack from the enemy.

- We realize Satan is not omnipresent so it is probably not him specifically that is coming against you.
 - But if you have been paying attention, he has a lot of help.
 - So when the attack comes what do we do?
 - Ephesians chapter 6 deals with this truth.

3 Questions

#1 – What are Angels?

#2 – What are Demons?

#3 – How do we fight the Spiritual battle?

“Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might” – Ephesians 6:10

- Paul’s exhortation in the battle is to be strong!!!

Notice he tells them to be strong in two areas.

#1 – He says to be strong in the Lord.

- You know every one of us is strong in something.
 - Maybe sports are your thing – I had a friend growing up named Daniel Harney – he was good at every sport. Soccer when we were young, football and basketball captain – and when I got into golf, he picked it up and was great at it – frustrated me – he was strong in the area of sports.
 - Maybe your thing is academics – you are strong academically – others look at Algebra, or chemistry equation and just stare – but you understand and can do it.

Maybe your strong suit is fashion and what is in style – you look good and you know what does and what doesn’t – you could explain to me what the fall fashion is all about and where I go seriously wrong all the time – you are strong in this area.

But Paul says we are to be strong in the Lord or maybe you would understand it better if I said in the things of the Lord.

- We are encouraged to excel in the things of the Lord.
 - And I ask you – you may be strong in sports or school, or art or fashion – but are you strong in the things of the Lord???
- Because now we are talking about things that will matter for eternity and also things that are key for life now.
 - There is nothing wrong with being strong in sports, school, art, fashion – but we need to see the need to be strong in the Lord and the things of the Lord.

Notice he tells them to be strong in two areas.

#1 – He says to be strong in the Lord.

#2 – Strong in His might.

- Not only does Paul exhort us to be strong in the things of the Lord, but he also exhorts us to strong in His might.
 - And how do we do this? – We must be prepared for the battle.
 - Our war is not against flesh.
 - And therefore we cannot fight with fleshly weapons.
 - We need to put on the whole armor of God.

You need to have the right equipment for the job.

- And the same thing is true spiritually.
 - If we have a spiritual battle, we need spiritual weapons.

And Paul being chained to a Roman soldier looks up at this soldier and sees that here is a guy ready for battle.

- And as he is ready for battle – he takes six parts of his armament and applies them to our armament as believers.
 - There are six if you are taking notes.

6 parts to the full armor of God

#1 – Gird your waist with truth – The Belt of Truth

- Standard Roman uniforms had as their basis a type of skirt or you may think of a Scottish kilt. - It made up the basis of the clothes.
 - It was long, flowing, very regal looking.
 - But it was no good for battle.
- Holding the top of the uniform together with the skirt was a belt.
 - And when the battle would begin to rage, the soldiers would take this skirt and gird, and tuck in the excess material – leaving them with almost shorts, and more mobility for hand to hand fighting.
- This belt or girdle that was used to tuck in the material was what held all of the armor together.
 - It was all connected and intermingled with the belt.

Truth with the Christian does much of the same thing.

- We all have an enemy.
 - And the Bible describes this enemy as a liar, and the father of all lies.
 - He lies.
- And if you haven't figured it out yet – he will lie to you.
 - You need to be surrounded and held together with truth.

I remember a season in my life where the enemy would tell me I shouldn't be a pastor. That I was ripping off you guys by staying and not letting someone else better and more called do the job.

And it got so bad that one day I was home alone and the thought kept driving into my head – you need to leave, you need to get into your car and leave, disappear – that is what the kids want, that is what Christy wants – just go.

- And I was convinced – this is the Lord.

And as I was seriously contemplating it – I felt the Lord encouraging me to get into the word.

- You know, since it was the Lord telling me to leave, what would it hurt to read the word and confirm His word to me.
 - But as I opened up this book, God began to share with me how much He loved me and that He had called me to be here with you guys – He shared with me the truth.

There is it guys, we need to know the truth.

- I need to know that God loves me.
 - I need to know that He died for me.

- I need to remember that He is coming again.
- And that I am headed for heaven.
- I need to have these things in my mind, guarding my heart – and if I do I will be prepared for the battle and the lies.

#2 – Put on the breastplate of righteousness.

- The breastplate was the piece of armor under the clothes and it would cover you from the neck to the waist, protecting all your vital organs.
 - The plates were made of metal chains and plates mixed in with thick leather.
 - And the idea was that in close contact, if the sword would come, it would not pierce through and you would be victorious in the battle.

Paul says that we are to have the breastplate of righteousness.

- Now what righteousness is Paul speaking about?
 - Certainly it is not your own righteousness or self-righteousness.
 - God calls that righteousness in the book of Isaiah, filthy rags – not much protection there.

I remember when Haley was younger she was playing peek a boo with me with a kitchen towel but then she put it over her head and began to run – she ran right into the wall, fell back and began to cry. I don't know what type of helmet she thought she was making, but it didn't work – it was a rag.

- So too – Paul is not saying – its your righteousness that is going to protect you.
 - You and I would be in a lot of trouble.

I believe Paul is speaking about the righteousness that has been given to us from the Lord.

- Just as my sin was put upon Jesus on the cross.
 - So His righteousness was put upon.
 - It is His righteousness that covers me.

Again, we have an enemy, and not only is he called a liar, but he is also called the accuser of the brethren.

- And as we go through this life and on occasion fail, you can bet Satan will be right there to try to finish it off.
 - “What did you just do – you're a pastor – you are done”.

He comes to you – “What did you do, - you call yourself a Christian, whatever – why don't you stop being a hypocrite and just live for the world.

- And if we are armed for the battle this can work.
 - Because the thing about Satan's accusations is they are mostly right.
 - I don't deserve to teach God's word – He's right!!!
- You don't deserve to go to heaven – He's right!!!!

But here is the deal – I've never been worthy – That is why Christ had to die, and I needed His righteousness.

- It's never been about me.
 - It's always been about Him.
- And so as the accusations fly – I can respond – I know I'm not worthy to be in God's army – But His righteousness covers all of my sin – and I am going to fight on for a king that loves me anyway!!!

#3 – Shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

- This is similar to what I was just saying, so I will be brief.
 - But footwear was very important to the Romans.
 - One of the things that set the Roman army apart from other militaries at the time was proper footwear.
- They had more padding, so the soldiers to walk further distances without hurting their feet.

- And they were also one of the first shoes to have tread – nails and pieces of metal.

And these shoes prepared them for warfare.

- Travel further, and better stability, foundation for battle.
 - You know it is like those Nike ads; it's all about the shoes.
 - That's not true by the way, I used to have a pair of Jordan Air, and I still couldn't dunk.
- But for the Roman soldier it was true – the shoes did much for the battle.

And Paul says, we are to fit or shod our feet with the preparation the gospel brings.

- Understanding the gospel gives me as a believer and a soldier both stability and the comfort to get the job done.

The gospel – the fact that I am saved by Grace through faith – that I have accepted the Lord's gift and He has forgiven me – that brings to my life peace with God, and the peace of God.

- It brings peace with God – the war is over between Him and I – I can go forward resting in the fact that He with me.
 - It brings the peace of God – all is right in my life.
 - There is a stability that comes from that understanding.

#4 – Shield of Faith.

- Satan bombards us with fiery darts.

In Roman times, they would cover arrows with cloth and pitch and then set fire them.

- Satan does the same with us in the form of thoughts and temptations and often we succumb to the pressure.
 - You want to read you Bible – you lust.
 - You want to pray – you remember all you have to do.
 - You want to come to church – something comes up.
 - Your sharing your faith – “you don't believe this” – I don't.
 - Those are fiery darts.
 - But what should you do?

You need to break out the shield of faith.

- Paul says “above all.”
 - This does not mean it is the most important.
 - It goes back to Roman warfare where they would have this massive shield and they could use it as a little fort, it would be above them.
- The shields were made up of leather and metal and often they would be soaked with water so when the fiery darts came – they could be put out - Faith does the same thing.

Faith is not just a belief system.

- It is acting on belief.
 - Do I belief that God is telling the truth about life and sin?
 - Or Satan.
- I have to make a choice and the only way to extinguish the dart is to believe God.
 - Lord I believe what you say that this thing is not good for me, or not true and I want to follow you.
- The minute you do that, you are going to extinguish the dart.

The other thing that is important about the shield of faith is that sometimes, in fact most of the time, we need each other.

- You see the Romans shield was designed so that not only did it rise above you and provide a shelter from incoming weapons...

- But it also locked together on the sides to provide a greater barrier when used with other shields.
- Sometimes the Romans would have huge walls of defense made up of interlocking shields.

And this is a lesson we need to learn in fighting the battle. We can't do it alone.

- Man, I often need the help of others when my faith gets weak; I say let's lock shields.
 - This is what God wants to do in your life; this is what the truth is.
 - And when two or more are together the strength is increased against the enemy and his weapons.
- Hear me on this – Christianity was not meant to be lived alone – we aren't made for Lone Ranger Christianity – we need one another.

#5 – Helmet of Salvation.

- The helmet protects the head.

When I worked at a golf course you always had to wear a helmet when you were on the course. I thought this was a dumb rule because it messed up my cool hair. Until one day I was out near the range and I heard that sound I have learned to hate. Sizzuppp!!!! – It is the sound of a golf ball coming into your air space; it is usually followed by pain and agony. This ball hit me directly on the head. Knocked me down, scared me to death – I saw my life flash before my eyes – but imagine if I wasn't wearing the helmet. Direct hit on the head, I may not be teaching you here this morning if I hadn't.

- The helmet protects your head, your brain, and your mind.

Now understand me – one of the most frequently attacked areas of our Christian life is the mind.

- And also sadly, the mind is one of the least protected areas.
 - We may learn to guard our heart – not let it get too involved in things that are not of the Lord.
 - We may learn to guard our eyes – we don't let just anything sit before them.
- But the mind, the thought life is often neglected.

And this is scary because the truth is whoever controls you mind, controls your actions.

- Now Paul says we can guard our minds, which will influence our actions, by taking up the helmet of salvation.

You see I don't believe Paul is saying we need to get saved over and over again, every time an attack comes.

- But he is saying that we need to guard our minds with the hope of salvation.
 - The hope and the reality of when God is going to take us home, the hope and reality of heaven.

I'm learning that in my life this is so key, so important.

- If I guard my mind it will control my actions.
 - I need to protect it with the reality that Jesus is coming to take me home, the hope of salvation.
- How different I think when that is the reality in my mind.

Paul says in Galatians 6:9, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

- Hey don't give up – Don't give into those temptations, those battles with the enemy.
 - Because the reality is heaven is coming.
 - And we are going to reap the blessings of a life dedicated to God.
- That truth needs to constantly be guarding my mind and my actions.

- Finally number six...

#6 – the Sword of the spirit.

- This is our only offensive weapon (though used for offense and defense).
 - The Romans small sword always by their sides called the Machaira (Mack-ahee-ra).
 - And what is true about this sword and really all weapons is the more you were trained in it, the more deadly it would become.

Now this is true of our swords as well.

- They are used for offense and defense.
 - They will defend as I hide it in my heart.
 - “How can a young man cleanse his way, David writes in Psalm 119, “by taking heed according to your word.”
- It is a great defensive weapon.

But it is a great offensive weapon as well.

- Peter used the word to covert the multitude as he preached on Pentecost.
 - The word made them cut to the heart.

You see though it is true, the more you are in this book, the better you become at using it.

- The reality is you just need to let the word out.
 - Spurgeon said – “I don’t defend the word just like I don’t defend a lion, I just let it out of its cage.”
 - The word is living and powerful – able to divide between the joint and the marrow.