

Last week we began our look at the FACT that Christians are at war by discussing the importance of identifying the enemy against whom we are fighting. I stressed to you that as Christians we must allow the Word of the Lord to identify the enemy rather than allowing the world of Lucifer to do so. And what we saw was, God tells us we are involved in a spiritual war against spiritual foes. He specifically spelled out that our enemy is not our fellow man (flesh and blood). He was also specific in naming the enemy (the Devil and demonic subordinates). The specificity with which he described the armor and weaponry we are to outfit ourselves with for battle also clearly points to a spiritual adversary. So, last week we answered the question of "Against whom are we warring?"

This week we ask another important question, "Why war?" Why can't we just live and let live? Why can't we just negotiate or seek some level of compromise? Can't we just boycott or put in place some sort of sanctions? War is so brutal and violent. Shouldn't we weigh the cost prior to going to war.

I agree that war is brutal and violent and I believe weighing the cost is a good idea. I also believe that we must once again allow God's Word to direct us in this endeavor. As a matter of fact, I believe that God himself is the only one qualified to offer us the answers to those questions. After all, he is all wise and the Bible is his revealed truth.

So this morning we set out, exploring and searching God's Word for the answer to those questions.

Scripture: Various

## I. Why War?

### A. **Weighing the Cost** (Luke 14:31)

#### 1. King's Responsibility

- a) It is the king who weighs the cost and makes the decision to go to war, not the soldiers

The King of kings has weighed the cost and this is what he has found

#### 2. Cost of People's Souls

- a) Satan is not short-sighted (Here and hereafter)
  - (1) He wants to devour this life (1 Peter 5:8)
  - (2) He isn't delighted with just this life
  - (3) He wants to destroy for eternity (Rev. 21:8)

#### 3. Cost of Personal Sanctification

- a) Satan is not a quitter
  - (1) Even though he has lost the Christian's soul, he still seeks to impede the Christian's growth and effectiveness
    - (a) Growth leads to a more Christlike life that brings God pleasure

- (b) Effectiveness leads to more people coming to God that brings God praise
- B. War has been Declared**
1. Satan against God
    - a) Why?
      - (1) Pride and envy
        - (a) Isaiah 14:12-14
        - (b) Ezekiel 28:17
    - b) When?
      - (1) Between the end of creation and the fall
        - (a) Ezekiel 28:13
        - (b) Genesis 1:31; 3
        - (c) Rev. 12:7-9
    - c) How?
      - (1) Led 1/3 of the angels to rebel against God's authority
        - (a) Rev. 12:4
  2. Satan against man
    - a) Why?
      - (1) To limit the pleasure and praise of God
        - (a) He knows he can't beat God so he attacks those whom God loves (mankind)
    - b) When?
      - (1) Every day since the fall
    - c) How?
      - (1) Leads man to rebel against God's authority
        - (a) Temptation to sin

I recently read a book, entitled *Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates: The Forgotten War that Changed America* by Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaegar. It details the events that led America into its first war outside of its borders.

The short version goes like this: The leaders of the Barbary nations (Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli) controlled the Mediterranean Sea. The Mediterranean Sea was important to our young country. It was how we conducted commerce with most of Europe. Now America, in her early days had neither the desire nor the ability to fight foreign wars. All America wanted was the ability to safely conduct trade. So we negotiated with these leaders. We agreed to pay them for safe passage. However, these leaders continually broke their promises, repeatedly raiding our ships and taking captive the sailors on board, demanding even more money for the safe return of the hostages. Finally, Jefferson realized that these were not men of honor who could be trusted to keep their word, they

were bullies. So he approved the funding and founding of the U.S. Navy and Marines to go to war with the Barbary nations.

Jefferson's decision was a long time in coming and it was only after numerous violations of treaties and agreements with the Barbary leaders that he decided that what was going on was war. It was just a one-sided war. Upon this realization he decided to fight back. The stakes were too high for our nation and its merchants and sailors.

Fortunately, God did not need to wait. He knew the character of the Adversary. He knew that he was a liar who sought not only God's glory but man's destruction. Make no mistake; Satan declared war and God responded in kind. He has defeated the Devil in heaven with his mighty angelic army and he has defeated his reign of terror among man through the work of Jesus.

But not all of mankind has been set free by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. And that's where we come in. We are called to be both soldiers and missionaries. As missionaries, we have been called to share the good news of the Gospel. As soldiers, we have been commanded to stand in God given strength wearing God 's armor to fight against the Devil and his tactics for the souls of our fellow man.

Like our modern military, God's army is voluntary. You have the freedom to choose to enlist. Enlistment comes when you place Spirit given faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. And like our current armed services, once you have enlisted you have the obligation and responsibility to fight.

The king has weighed the cost and he has deemed the everlasting souls of all mankind and the sanctification of Christians worth fighting for. It is our job to answer the call to arms and do battle against Satan and his schemes. Let me be clear: You don't have the option of receiving all the blessings of being a Christian soldier without being an obedient and warring Christian.

So will you rise to the occasion? Will you enter the fray for the souls of your fellow man, for the glory of your King, and for the advancement of his kingdom?