

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

1. "THAT'S MY KING" - Dr. S.M. LOCKERIDGE

2. REVIEW

A. CHRISTIANS MUST "STAND FIRM" AGAINST:

1. THE WORLD

2. OUR FLESH (SIN NATURE)

3. SATAN

4. NOTE: ALL OF OUR PROBLEMS/BATTLES ARE NOT SPIRITUAL

B. SPIRITUAL WARFARE – HOWEVER, OFTEN WE ARE IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE... NOT A BATTLE AGAINST THE FLESH OR THE WORLD.

1. Satan **DECEIVES** us to get our **FOCUS OFF GOD** and **ON OURSELVES** and **OUR CIRCUMSTANCES**.

a. **Ephesians 6:10-18a (NIV)** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the **full armor of God**, so that you can **take your stand** against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is **not against flesh and blood**, but against the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the **powers of this dark world** and against the **spiritual forces of evil** in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the **full armor of God**, so that when the **day of evil** comes, you may be able to **stand your ground**, and after you have done everything, **to stand**. **Stand firm** then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist

2. **CHRISTIANS are in a BATTLE.**

a. **SOME BATTLES are NOT against flesh and blood. PEOPLE are NOT our ultimate problem. PEOPLE are merely CONDUITS for something else that's operating in the invisible realm.**

3. THEREFORE... **PHYSICAL/WORLDLY SOLUTIONS CANNOT SOLVE OUR SPIRITUAL PROBLEMS!**

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NASB) For though we walk in the flesh, we **do not war according to the flesh**, for the **weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh**, but **divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses**. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are **taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ**

b. In our own power and intellect, we **cannot outwit** the "father of all lies" who is **THE MASTER of DECEPTION** and **CONFUSION**. Therefore,

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we **MUST** use **GOD'S STRATEGIES** for **VICTORY** in **SPITURAL WARFARE**.

c. **DISCUSS: SPIRITUAL IQ**

1) **Genius IQ** =

2) **Satan's IQ** =

3) **God's IQ** =

4. "and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ"

a. "IN THE NAME OF MY SAVIOR THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, I GIVE NO CONSENT TO THAT THOUGHT SATAN, AND IN JESUS' NAME YOU MUST GO... NOW!"

3. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A JOURNEY. THERE MAY BE SOME SIGNIFICANT STOPS ON OUR JOURNEY, BUT OUR ONLY DESTINATION IS HEAVEN (GLORIFICATION). OUR VEHICLE is JUSTIFICATION and the ROAD we take is SANCTIFICATION.

A. **DISCUSS: A MEMORABLE TRIP**

1. What **CLOTHING** did you **PACK**?

a. **WHERE** you are going should determine **WHAT** you pack for the trip...
WHAT attire is **APPROPRIATE** for your **DESTIANTION**.

b. **SHOWTIME: SUITCASE**

B. The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus and to **Christians** everywhere about **WHAT WE ARE TO WEAR** when we're **engaged** in **SPIRITUAL WARFARE**.

1. Paul has given clear instructions about a **SPECIFIC WARDROBE** that is **necessary** for us, not only to **WEAR** but also to **HAVE PACKED** and **ready to put on IF** we are going to have **VICTORY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE**.

C. **Ephesians 6:10-14 (NASB)** **Finally**, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to **stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 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*. Therefore, take up the full armor

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of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH**

4. WE ARE IN A BATTLE!

A. **BUT** this **BATTLE** is fundamentally **NOT** against **FLESH and BLOOD**.

1. **PEOPLE** are **NOT** our **ultimate problem**.

a. **PEOPLE** are merely **COINDUITS** for something else that's operating in the **INVISIBLE/SPIRITUAL** realm. **PEOPLE**, and even our **own FLESH**, are merely **HOSTS** for the **INVISIBLE CONFLICT** to manifest itself in the **PHYSICAL, VISIBLE** realm.

2. Many of the **ISSUES** we must deal with in our lives look like **FLESH-AND-BLOOD SITUATIONS**, so we use up a considerable amount of our energy trying to **OVERCOME THEM** through **FLESH-AND-BLOOD SOLUTIONS**.

a. We have **forgotten**, or have **never realized**, that a **SPIRITUAL CAUSE** is **behind** many of the **CIRCUMSTANCES** we're facing. And as a result, we often end up **FRUSTRATED, HOPELESS, AND DEFEATED**.

5. THE BELT OF TRUTH... GOD'S WORD

A. **Ephesians 6:14a** (NASB) Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH**

B. What Paul is telling us in Ephesians is that the **BELT OF TRUTH** is designed to **STABALIZE** things by keeping them in their **PROPER ORDER**. **PICTURE** a **ROMAN SOILDER** in **BIBILICAL TIMES**

1. He might hang his **SWORD** or **DAGGER** on his **BELT**.

2. When it got time to get serious with work or move into **BATTLE**, the Roman soldier would lift his robe and **TUCK IT UNDERNEATH** his **BELT**.

3. **BELTS** produce **stability** by **HOLDING THINGS IN PLACE**.

a. **SHIRT**

b. **PANTS**

4. The **BELT OF TRUTH** is **DESIGNED** to **STABALIZE THINGS** by **KEEPING THEM IN THEIR PROPER ORDER**.

C. **REMEMBER: E V E R Y T H I N G** about Satan is a **LIE**, and he uses his **LIES** to **CREATE CONFUSION** and **DISORDER**.

John 8:44 (NASB) "You are of your father **the devil**, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because **there is no truth in him**. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for **he is a liar and the father of lies**."

1. One of the **PRIMARY PLACES** Satan seeks to **DISTORT TRUTH** is in our **RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**. He wants our **RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD** to

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be a **CHARADE** rather than a **SPIRITUAL REALITY**.

John 4:24 (NASB) "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in **spirit** and **truth**."

D. **HOWEVER, EVERYTHING about GOD IS TRUE.**

1. **Numbers 23:19 (NASB)** "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"
2. **John 17:14-17 (NASB)** "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. "Sanctify them in the truth; **Your word is truth**".
3. **John 14:6 (NASB)** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and **the truth**, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

E. **THE SOLUTION: ONLY GOD is the AUTHOR AND ORIGINATOR OF TRUTH. KNOWING HIM and HIS WORD is the ONLY WAY to KNOW HOW to FUNCTION WITH THE BELT OF TRUTH because ONLY GOD CAN DEFINE TRUTH.**

1. **DISCUSS: WHAT IS TRUTH?**

- a. The **devil** doesn't want you to **KNOW THE TRUTH** because **THE TRUTH is the ONE thing that can set you FREE.**
John 8:32 (NASB) and you will **know the truth**, and the truth will make you free."
- b. **STORYTIME:**
 - 1) **PSYCHOLOGIST** said, "Working with people, I've learned that **truth** is what you **FEEL** it to be."
 - 2) **ACCOUNTANT** said, "Working with accounts, I've learned that **truth** is what you **NEED** it to be."
 - 3) **LAWYER** offered, "Working in the justice system, I've learned that **truth** is what you **WANT** it to be."

F. **QUESTION: What will you use to determine what you believe to be TRUE?**

1. Your **EMOTIONS**... which are **CONSTANTLY CHANGING?**
2. Your **INTELLIGENCE**... which is **FINITE?**
3. Your **MORAL INSTINCTS**... which **DIFFER?**

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4. What your **FRIENDS** and **FAMILY** THINK?

5. What the **MEDIA** says?

6. Or, will it be **DIVINE REVELATION?**

G. We need to **EXCHANGE** our **EMOTIONS, INTELLIGENCE, MORAL INSTINCTS, WHAT OUR FRIENDS THINK,** and **WHAT THE MEDIA SAYS** with **GOD'S TRUTH.**

1. **REMEMBER,** Satan seeks to set up **SPECULATIONS** (wrong thoughts) that **CONTRADICT GOD'S TRUTH.**

H. IT IS **IMPERATIVE** FOR CHRISTIANS TO **KNOW THE WORD OF GOD TO EXPERIENCE VICTORY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE!**

6. QUESTIONS