

# Daily in Christ 2019

**Daily Battles** — Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

2 Timothy 2:3-4

**If we do not recognize the battles and who our enemy is, we will lose.**

**If we do not have a will to do battle, we will lose.**

**If we underestimate our enemy, will we be victorious?**

*Our enemy has well developed schemes and tactics, powerful resources, and great experience in the battle. Why do Christians think they can fight successfully as untrained, haphazard, disinterested soldiers?*

## What's at stake?

One of the battles Christians face today (wordplay intended) is with **apathy** (*I don't care*) and **indifference** (*It's no big deal*). Being a soldier of Christ and daily fighting spiritual battles is **nice** for some but not **necessary** for me. Consider what is at stake:

- **Not** your **eternal** destiny. (However, a lack of concern for Christ and the Christian life may reveal a profession without a possession of new life.)
- Failure to do battle risks the discipline of our loving Father. Sometimes "life" gets hard because God is trying to get our attention.
- **More** than **my** life is affected. My defeat will affect my family, my church, and my testimony for Christ. Our life can bring blaspheme upon Christ, cp. Titus 2:5.
- Genuine and lasting blessedness, **contentment** and **satisfaction** are mine in Christ. Apart from Christ, my pleasures are hollow and for a **season**.
- Your service and usefulness as a vessel in the Lord's hand is affected by your walk with Christ.
- **Eternal** matters are at stake. Living in defeat makes my life: wood, hay and stubble. 1 Corinthians 3:14,15

There is a real enemy; **Satan** and his forces. We fight **spiritual** battles.

1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:12; Ephesians 4:27; 1 Thessalonians 2:18;

Our enemy's work does not require his **personal** presence or **involvement**.

Cp. 2 Thessalonians 2:7,9; ... *the mystery of iniquity doth already work...*

Our enemy is in control of this world and works **in** this world, **tempting** me to adopt its **ways** and **thinking**. James 1:27; 4:4; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; Rom.12:2;

Examples:

The world has a **course**, Ephesians 2:2;

The world has its **wisdom**, James 3:14-15;

The world has a set of **desires** and **pursuits**. 1 John 2:16;

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Satan has the ability to tempt us to sin; Matthew 4:1,3, by placing before us something that **attracts** the interest of my fleshly **desires**. In the course of life, I will intersect with things that appeal to my flesh.

Cp. James 1:13-15; Romans 13:14;

The Christian is to live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit. The point of conflict (battle) comes when my flesh wants something that the Spirit does not. Galatians 5:16-17; 1 Peter 2:11.

If I am going to work to recognize the battles, I will need to understand the workings of **the flesh**.

We have a "**flesh**" or **sin nature**. It is a set of desires/thoughts naturally inclined to go against what God and what He desires.

We are given a description of "sinful man" or the "**natural** man" and the direction or path he is on, 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:2-3. The natural man is controlled by the **flesh**. That control is **broken** by Christ, Galatians 5:24, cp. 5:13, Romans 6, so that at the point of conflict, I can have victory.

## Romans 1

Romans 1 shows us man's declension and what it results from it, it is referred to as the **depravity** of man. Sin has affected the whole of man's being; body, mind, heart, and will. It does not mean that the natural man has no disposition to do good, that they never do any good, that they commit every sin there is, that they sin as badly as they could, or that everyone has sinned to the same extent. However, none of man's "good" or "lack of sinning" is rewardable or will change his condition before God.

Without Christ, all men are what this chapter describes – the natural man. **Christians should not be living the life of the natural man.**

The natural man has a mind – a way of processing inputs, Cp. Colossians 1:21; 2:8, 18. That thinking results in behaviors. Therefore, the need to be transformed by the renewing of my mind, Romans 12:2. If I do not renew my mind, I can reform, but will not be transformed.

- Romans 1: 18-27; man has been given revelation about God and has chosen not to believe it, becoming vain in their imaginations (reasonings, thoughts) and their heart darkened, they became fools. They worshiped something (anything?) besides God; **idolatry**. 1:24; God gave them over to the **lusts** of their hearts, 1:24, and to their vile **affections**, 1:26 – leading to **immorality**, cp. v. 29-32.
- The natural man has a particular mind (thinking), Romans 1:28 – a **reprobate** mind (reprobate = not standing the test, therefore rejected by God; God cannot approve of it). **Christians should not have a reprobate mind.**
- This reprobate mind changes the truth of God into a lie – 1:25; The natural man's thinking readily and easily **exchanges** the truth for things that are not truth. Cp. 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12.
- This mind or thinking leads them to do those things which are not convenient, 1:28 (convenient = **fitting** or **acceptable**, in this case to God.) **Christians should not be doing those things which are not convenient.**
- This mind does not like to retain God in their knowledge, 1:28; The natural mind does not want to have God in its thoughts, **think** about God, or **acknowledge** God. When thoughts enter their mind about God, they deliberately get rid of those thoughts. **Christians should not be ignoring God.**
- The natural mind is not neutral. It in some fashion knows the **judgment** of God, that these thoughts and acts are **sin**, but continue to **do** them, 1:32, and even if they don't do them themselves, they take pleasure in (or give **approval** to) others doing them.