



## CUNNING

Week 14: The Spiritual Battle in the Literature of Paul-Handout  
2024 WINTER SERIES January – March Wednesday Night Crew  
Wednesday Night Church-April 10, 2024

### **I. To the church in Thessalonica:**

Paul's Eschatological\* Epistles: 1 and 2 Thessalonians

\*Eschatological Definition: The study of the end times, including death, the intermediate state, the afterlife, judgment, the millennium, heaven, and hell. <sup>i</sup> The word *eschatology* comes from a combination of Greek words meaning “the study of last things.”<sup>ii</sup>

- A. 1 Thessalonians 2:17–18: The Hindrance of Satan
- B. 1 Thessalonians 3:5: The Tempter
- C. 2 Thessalonians 2:9–11: The Man of Lawlessness
- D. 2 Thessalonians 3:3: Guarded from the Evil One

### **II. To the church in Galatia, Corinth, & Rome:**

Paul's Soteriological\* Epistles: Galatians, 1 and 2 Corinthians, and Romans

Soteriological Definition: Soteriology. (Gk. *sōtēria*, “deliverance,” “salvation.”) The study of the saving work of Christ.<sup>1</sup>

#### A. Galatia:

This letter was not written to a specific city, Galatia is a region in Asia Minor with many towns [Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, & Derbe]

- 1. Galatians 1:4: This Present Evil Age
- 2. Galatians 4:3–9: The Stoicheia. ‘elementary principles’

#### B. Corinth:

- 1. 1 Corinthians 2:6–8: The Superiority of God's Wisdom
- 2. 1 Corinthians 5:5: Handed over to Satan
- 3. 1 Corinthians 10:18–22: Demons and Idolatry
- 4. 1 Corinthians 15:24–25: The Final Vanquishing of Demonic Foes
- 5. 2 Corinthians 2:10–11: Derailing Restoration
- 6. 2 Corinthians 4:3–4: The Blinding of Unbelievers
- 7. 2 Corinthians 6:14–17: Separation unto God, not Belial
- 8. 2 Corinthians 10:3–5: Not with Flesh and Blood
- 9. 2 Corinthians 11:3–4: Beware of Serpentine Deception
- 10. 2 Corinthians 11:12–15: Disguised as an Angel of Light
- 11. 2 Corinthians 12:7–10: Paul's Thorn in the Flesh

#### C. Rome:

- 1. Romans 8:38–39: The Impotence of Satan's Forces
- 2. Romans 16:20: Assurance of Final Victory

### **III. To the church in Colosse and Ephesus: Paul's Prison Epistles**

#### A. Colosse:

- 1. Colossians 1:12–14: Rescued from the Dominion of Darkness
- 2. Colossians 1:15–16: Christ Is Lord over All
- 3. Colossians 2:8–10: Beware of Being Taken Captive by the Stoicheia
- 4. Colossians 2:15: Christ Defeated and Humiliated the Powers of Darkness
- 5. Colossians 2:18: The Error of Angelic Worship
- 6. Colossians 2:20–21: Legalism and the Demonic

#### B. Ephesus:



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1. Ephesians 1:20–23: The Supremacy of Christ
2. Ephesians 2:1–3: Satan Is at Work in the Unconverted
3. Ephesians 3:10–11: God’s Wisdom Made Known through the Church to Demons
4. Ephesians 4:26–27: Believers Must Not Give the Devil a Foothold
5. Ephesians 6:10–20: The Christian Life as Warfare

### IV. Pastoral Epistles: 1 and 2 Timothy

- A. 1 Timothy 1:18–20: Deliver Blasphemers to Satan
- B. 1 Timothy 2:12–14: Beware of Satan’s Deception
- C. 1 Timothy 3:6–7: The Devil’s Trap for Church Leaders
- D. 1 Timothy 4:1–2: Heretical Teaching Is Demonic in Origin
- E. 1 Timothy 5:14–15: Satan Uses Suffering to Turn People from Christ
- F. 1 Timothy 2:24–26: False Teachers Are the Devil’s Captives

ARE WE ABLE TO DISCERN ANY PATTERNS SPECIFIC TO THE INSTANCES OF SPIRITUAL BATTLE IN THE LETTERS HE WRITES?

What principles can we glean to help us with what we’re facing today?

- Identification of the issue, if possible
- Find our Foundation in Christ
- Ask the Holy Spirit for help PRAY-wisdom, knowledge, guidance, direction, etc.
- Take the next right step

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Primary Material: William F. Cook III and Chuck Lawless, *Spiritual Warfare in the Storyline of Scripture* (Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2019), 99–156.

<sup>i</sup>Page Brooks, “[Eschatology](#),” ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

<sup>ii</sup>Stanley M. Horton, ed., *Systematic Theology: Revised Edition* (Springfield, MO: Logion Press, 2007), 652.