

Sunday, January 14, 2018—Grace Life School of Theology—*Ambassadorship 101*—Lesson 2
Ambassadors in Hostile Territory

Our Heavenly Ministry and Satan's Hatred of the Body of Christ

- Ephesians 3:9-11—Not only are we Christ's ambassadors on earth but we also have a teaching ministry that extends throughout the heavenly places.
- Notice that while we on earth in verse 9 endeavor to make all men see the fellowship of the mystery, we are also instructing the principalities and powers in the heavenly places the things pertaining to the manifold wisdom of God.
- Psalms 104:24
- I Corinthians 2:7-8—The hidden wisdom of God deals with the mystery regarding the Body of Christ and all that God intended to accomplish at the cross.
- Ezekiel 28:12-16—Who is this passage really talking about? Satan. Now look at verses 2-3, what was Satan's original boast? That no secret could be hidden from him.
- Job 5:13, I Corinthians 3:19
- Colossians 2:14-15—"he made a show of them," to make an example of.
- Jesus Christ by simply keeping a secret about what he was going to accomplish put Satan and his minions to open shame, according to Ephesians 3:10 we do the same thing as we endeavor to make all men see the fellowship of the mystery.
- Therefore, Satan has attacked the revelation of the mystery with vehement hatred.
- Satan has constructed a policy of evil designed to deal with the humiliation and embarrassment he has suffered regarding "the wisdom of God in a mystery." He has put together a policy of evil that endeavors to make a closed issue out of the open show God has made out of him and his cohorts.
- The policy of evil that Satan vigorously employs against the body of Christ was born of this hatred and it is sustained by it. Out of this hatred Satan has, in effect, sworn vengeance upon both the message, and the messengers, of the mystery for the defamation of character that he suffers as a result of it.
- He, therefore, seeks most of all to drown the hidden wisdom of God in a quagmire of doctrinal confusion, chaos, and uncertainty of which he is the author. He desires to have the members of the Body of Christ, as Paul describes in Ephesians 4:14, "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine."
- Therefore, turning the tables on God, so to speak, is what Satan is ultimately after in his policy of evil against us today. He works to squelch the ability of the members of the body of Christ to make their privileged impact to God's glory in the heavenly places, and this gives Satan the opportunity to mock God by slandering, defaming, ridiculing, and speaking reproachfully of the new creation.

- I Timothy 5:14-15
- Think about all the places where Paul warns about the tactics of the adversary:
 - Ephesians 6:11-16—“the wiles of the devil,” “fiery darts of the wicked”
 - II Cor. 2:11—Satan’s devices
 - II Cor. 11:3-4,—beguiled by subtility, and devices
 - II Cor. 11:13-15—false apostles
 - Galatians 3:1—bewitched
 - Ephesians 4:14
 - Colossians 2:8
 - I Timothy 4:1—seducing spirits and doctrines of devils
 - II Timothy 3:5, 13—“form of godliness,” “evil men and seducers”
 - II Timothy 2:6—“snare of the devil”
- Acts 20:28-31
- The first steps towards being effective ambassadors are:
 - 1) recognizing our heavenly conversation,
 - 2) recognizing that we have been placed on earth in Christ’s stead to teach the ministry of reconciliation,
 - 3) our ministry extends into the heavenly places as we teach the angels things about the manifold wisdom of God,
 - 4) Satan hates the message of grace and has unleashed a full-frontal assault against our message.

Our Spiritual Warfare

- When hear words like fight, weapons, warfare, defense, captive, wrestle, armor, we think of physical confrontations and battle among nations and men. Captives are taken, and advances and losses are sustained.
- However, Paul repeatedly uses the same terminology to describe what it is that Christians face from Satan and his cohorts in his policy of evil against us in this present dispensation of grace.
- War has been declared against us, and the warfare is ongoing. Weapons are being deployed against believers. Fighting as a soldier and defending a position is expected. Armor has been provided. Being taken captive is an unfortunate real possibility.
- Ephesians 6:10-12—the struggle is not physical in nature, rather this conflict and combat is spiritual involving not only spiritual beings, but also spiritually armaments, tactics, battles, triumphs, and defeats.
- The contrary winds of doctrine with their corrupting effects may come through men, but the movers and shakers behind the scenes are Satan and his-cohorts.
- Battle scriptures found in Paul’s epistles:

- Philippians 1:7, 17—defense of the gospel
 - I Timothy 1:18—war a good warfare
 - I Timothy 6:12—fight to go fight of faith
 - II Timothy 2:3-4—good soldier
 - II Timothy 2:26—taken captive
 - II Timothy 4:7—I have fought a good fight
- II Corinthians 10:4-5—the conflict is not physical, so it is not fought with physical weapons and the battlefield is in the mind of the believer.
 - The battles are fought on the pages of the written word of God. Satan and his cohorts assail the written word of God and fight to obscure the truth set forth in it concerning what God is doing today. They word to produce doctrinal confusion and corruption.
 - The theaters of battle are churches, Bible colleges and institutes, and seminaries. Wherever the word of God is handled and promoted, there is the battlefield.
 - Ephesians 6:11—“wiles” indicates that Satan’s operation against us involve the use of highly beguiling and cleverly deceitful devices.
 - A wile is a cleverly designed trick or device by which someone deceives another. Cunningly produced it causes someone to be taken in, especially by fooling him into accepting something as true, which in reality is not true.
 - II Corinthians 11:13-15—With respect to Satan’s wiles it ought to be expected that they will present themselves in a cloak of Christianity. They will bear all the appearance of God’s won involvement and hence of the truth. But this will be smoke screen to hide the misleading and erroneous nature of the doctrines being propagated.