**April 2, 2017 “Seeking Some to Devour” I Peter 5:8**

**Ephesians 2:1-3**

**Ephesians 6:12**

**Acts 19:11-20**

**Acts 19:25-27**

Many times, when Christians begin to address spiritual struggles in the Christian’s life, two groups seem to emerge. One group rolls their eyes and immediately begins to drift off into a dream like state, primarily because they really do not believe that a being like Satan exists or that demons have any influence on a Christians’ life.

The other group is much like a horse that Terry and I used to own. That horse loved to run and once it started to run, it would take a half mile to get her to stop. If I remember correctly, one time Terry pulled so hard on the reigns, she literally broke one of the reigns. This second group is very much like this in that they are ready to go. They can and will find demons in every nook and cranny. I read recently about a man who claimed he was delivered from a demon of finger nail biting. Others will go on long prayer walks around various areas to cast out regional demons from that particular area or region and on and on it goes.

Now today, I have a novel idea that I would like us to try. Let’s take the Word of God and let it direct us… especially in the realm of spiritual struggles or as some call it, “spiritual warfare”.

1. I Peter 5:8
   1. Here we have the Apostle Peter
      1. Confirming in Scripture that there is an adversary of your soul
         1. The devil
         2. Seeking someone to devour
   2. If he is seeking someone to devour, don’t you think we should know how he intends to do that?
2. Ephesians 2:1-3
   1. The spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience
      1. Lust of the flesh
      2. Lust of the mind
      3. By nature, children of wrath
   2. Ephesians 6:12
      1. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood
         1. There is going to be a struggle when anyone comes to the knowledge of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior
            1. For years, your sin nature has been in control of your faculties

Anger

Appetites

Thoughts

Language

On and on it goes

1. Acts 19:11-20
   1. All who lived in Asia heard the Word of God
   2. God is doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul (Acts 19:11-12)
      1. Why was God doing this?
         1. He was confirming His Word preached through the Apostle Paul
   3. Immediately imposters show up (Acts 19:13-16)
      1. This is the only verse in the Bible to my knowledge where the word “exorcists” is mentioned
         1. Who went from place to place
            1. Acts 20:31-35
      2. How many of us have seen on TV at one time or another, someone hawking prayer cloths?
      3. II Timothy 3:2… “men will become lovers of money”
2. Real Revival
   1. Acts 19:17-20
      1. Forsaking of every evil practice
3. Results… Acts 19:21-28
   1. Three ways the tools of Satan are so subtle
      1. Acts 19:25
         1. Materialism
            1. “a tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as more important than spiritual values”
            2. This mindset finds itself ignoring any and all Scripture verses that contradict any form of physical comfort

In this world, you will have tribulation

A man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward

All who would live godly lives in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution

* + - 1. Acts 19:26
         1. Humanism… “gods made with hands are not gods at all”

“an outlook or system of thought attaching prime importance to human rather than divine or supernatural matters. Humanist beliefs stress the potential value and goodness of human beings, emphasize common human needs, and seek solely rational ways of solving human problems.”

It’s man’s environment

It’s his education

It’s his financial state

* + - * 1. What every man woman and child needs is relationship with Jesus Christ that will change their heart from the inside out
      1. Acts 19:27
         1. Great is Dianna

Multi-breast goddess

* + - * 1. World worship

What is the worship of our world today?

From David Jeremiah’s book “Is this the end?”

Internets largest online porn site

2015… 4,392,486,580 hours of porn

Equals 500,000 years in time

87,849,731,608 videos

12 videos for every man woman and child in the world

Please do not let your children get on your phone or computer without supervision

Matthew 24:37… as it was in the days of Noah

Genesis 6:5… the wickedness of man was great on the earth and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually

Becky’s song

Hebrews 4:12-13