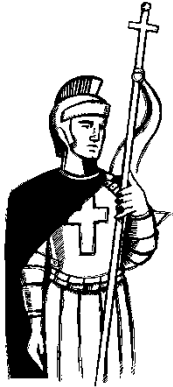


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 2



THE ARTICLES OF WAR

Scripture Texts: Jude 3; Hebrews 6:17-20; 7:19; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Galatians 1:8-12; Romans 1:16-17

The Gospel is the Word of God. The Gospel is changeless and sure. The Gospel is a foundation to build lives upon, and a weapon against Satan. The Bible is the rule of faith for successful living in the Lord's army. There is no other Gospel of Christ but that which is found in the Bible. Believing and living the Gospel is the strongest fortification in time of trouble. Disobedience of any part of the Gospel brings trouble to our relationship with God and can lead to separation from God's army.

MEMORY VERSE: *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. – 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Good News

Jude 3 The Christian life is a warfare. We must fight the good fight of faith. There are strong and fierce enemies headed by the archenemy—Satan. How can we be strong to meet them? The first requirement is a perfect and absolutely dependable Savior. We have this in Jesus Christ. The second requirement is a working program of truth. We must have it as a foundation to build our lives upon, and a weapon to wield against the enemy, and a guide to show us the way through every situation.

Galatians 1:11-12 The Gospel is not rules and regulations that men have set up, but rules that were given and established through revelation of God through His holy Spirit. It is our guide on how to live, how to act, how to dress, what to do, and all other aspects concerning our Christian activities. God controls all that we do through His Gospel. We cannot change it or rearrange it. We just take it as it is.

The word *gospel* is one that is used loosely these days. We hear of the "gospel of cleanliness," and "gospel of hard work," and many others. Such cannot be gospels. *Gospel* means "good news." Advice or a command is not news. The Gospel is something done FOR us, something that comes to us from outside ourselves. It is a gift, unearned, undeserved, unknown before. The Gospel of Christ is the good news and can be summed up and briefly expressed in two words, JESUS SAVES. Since there is no other way to be saved, there is no other Gospel. The Gospel is something to believe, something to live by, and something to spread to others.

A Sure and Steadfast Hope

Hebrews 6:17-20 God wished to show that His promise was changeless. First, He gave the promise. Second, He swore by Himself to keep it. In both of these **it was impossible for God to lie**. Nothing could be more sure than this. Saints are refugees. They have *fled* from Satan **for refuge** in God. They have grasped the hope in God's promise. This hope is an **anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast**. The promise that gives such hope is the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus (**2 Timothy 1:1**)—spiritual life for the soul now and life for a new, incorruptible body at Christ's second coming (1 Corinthians 15:52-54). This life will climax in union with God forever in Heaven. The promise of all this is the Gospel, the good news.

A Perfect Hope

Hebrews 7:19 Here the law and the Gospel are contrasted. When the Gospel came—when Jesus came and brought it—it was **a better hope** because it made the things of the spirit **perfect**, it made it possible for men to

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 2

draw nigh unto God, to be united in Him. Christ as the Mediator joined men with God. How? It is by means of once suffering for sins that Christ brings us to God.

1 Corinthians 15:22 Here is a comparison and contrast. The likeness is that both death and life came by man—death by the sin of the man, Adam; life by the sacrifice of the God becomes man, Jesus Christ. The contrast is that death and life are direct opposites. Sin kills the soul. This is tragic. Christ makes dead souls to live. This is Gospel. He died for all. All can be saved by accepting Christ's sacrifice.

No Other Gospel

Galatians 1:8 Paul's warning to the Galatian church shows that it is wrong to listen to, or accept, or teach any other gospel than the true one of Jesus Christ. Paul was so sure that what he had preached was the true Gospel that he included himself and the angels in the curse for changing it. How did he know it was true? Because he received it from Jesus Christ (**Galatians 1:12**). It was revealed to him. This is the basis and guide for all Christian activities.

A Powerful Gospel

Romans 1:16-17 **The gospel of Christ . . . is the power of God unto salvation.** It is the force God uses to bring about salvation. It is the spiritual law by which the process of salvation works. No one is saved by any other means. It is God's tool for building His church, which is the army of the Lord. Since there is but one Gospel there is but one church. No one can live a victorious life by any other set of rules or by any book other than the Bible.

It Matters What We Believe

Some say beliefs do not matter just so we are sincere in them. This is to say that they are not truths but self-built imaginary philosophies. No, beliefs mold lives. Only a life built on truth is a good life. And there is only one truth—that of God. How much power could we expect our U.S. Army to have, if every soldier divided the soldiers' handbook and Articles of War as people do the Gospel of Christ? It would be as divided, unorganized, and powerless as the church world is. Disobedience brings serious trouble and leads to permanent separation from God and Christian fellowship.

JUST A THOUGHT

**We are not to add to the Bible, nor to subtract
from it, but to rightly divide it.**