

This Present Darkness

Text: Ephesians 6:12

Context - Before listing out the armor of God, Paul describes the demonic realm.

Main Idea - Demonic forces are at work in our world.

As you study this present darkness....

1. _____ the reality of the demonic realm (12a)

- A. We wrestle against a dark realm of demons that are not made of “flesh and blood.”
- B. Our battles originate in the spiritual realm, so the only way to fight them is with weapons that work in that realm. (Tony Evans)

2. _____ the scope of wickedness (12b)

- A. These demons are:
 - 1. “Rulers” - (Arche) authority, rule, domain, sphere of influence.
 - 2. “Authorities” - These beings have been entrusted with a sphere to exercise dark influence.
 - 3. “Cosmic Powers” - Or “world rulers” of the darkness. These beings exert a dark possession over the affairs of our world.
 - 4. “Spiritual forces of evil” - Promoting every type of wickedness and depraved abominations.
- B. Their wicked scope is spiritual, global, powerful, and discernible in our world today.

3. _____ the forces of evil at work in our world (12c)

- A. There is so much demonic activity happening in our world today - you just need to have the spiritual eyes to see it.
- B. Christ has disarmed all of these authorities through His work on the Cross: Colossians 2:14–15 (ESV) by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.