

The Biblical Examiner

An Examination of Biblical Precepts Involved in Issues at Hand

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THE MOTHER OF ALL BATTLES

Are we conquerors or conquered? The answer to this question is reflected by the surrounding society. Pro 16: 32, *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.* No doubt this refers to Gen 34 where Levi and Simeon *digged down a wall* of a city in their anger, and thus inherited the wrath of God, Gen. 49:6. But that is not our study at this time. Our present concern is the battle for totalitarianism or freedom which takes place in the *spirit*.

There are at least eight implications with Pro 16:32:

First, *spirit* refers to more than just the uncontrolled spirit of wrath. The Lord clearly tells us that evil proceeds from the inside out, not from the outside in. Thus a person habitually does evil deeds because he is an evil person. A person is defiled outwardly because he is defiled inwardly. His fallen spirit rules him instead of him ruling his spirit, Mk 7 (21). Therefore, *spirit* also refers to other "spirits," such as pride, lust and covetousness, James 1:14. (Personal servitude to covetousness is seen in our debt-ridden society: *the borrower is servant to the lender* primarily because *the borrower is servant to his own lusts*, Pr 22:7; Isa 24:2. Sin and bondage is the natural, unavoidable result of man's unruly spirit.)

Furthermore, James 4:1 & 2 tell us that the end results of the unruly spirit are conflicts, contentions and an early death. Thus conflicts (wars) of all kinds (inner, interpersonal and international) are the direct results of man's unruly spirit. Moreover, terrible depression and worry are obvious results of the spirit ruling over the individual: the individual is unable to turn his thoughts away from depressing and worrisome thoughts, Matthew 6:24ff. The most important battle each person faces is the battle for self-control; if this battle is lost, all is lost.

Though we do not normally think of our spirit being a member of our body, God says it is, 1 Cor 9:27. Furthermore, it is such an important member that the body is dead without it, Ja 2:26. The most dangerous adversary we have is the member of our body that is known as our own heart. Not only does the word of God warn what will happen if our spirit rules us, but it also commands us to rule our spirit, Eph 4:23.

Second, though the battle is within and unknown to

others, it is real and constant. The enemy is within; it is our own fallen spirit, 1 Co 10:13, *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man...*

The basic Christian battle is for control of the spirit, ie., self-control. God compares the control of the spirit to tearing down a strong, stone wall protecting a city, 2 Cor 10:4 & 5 (a strong wall was a city's first line of defence in biblical times). That strong wall is not destroyed all at once, has many defenders (it seems that when one is defeated, two replacements appear), is high and lifted up (requiring supernatural power to tear it down [note the promise of the new covenant, Jer 31:33, 2 Cor 3:3]), and cannot be destroyed all at once. It is destroyed a block at a time. How many grow terribly discouraged because a "magic word" does not bring the wall down? Certainly, there are times when the wall might come down as did

See Mother, p 2.

Pastor John Weaver

Will be with us here at Linden Baptist Church, September 27th – October 4th. Note the dates: the meetings run from **Monday evening through the next Sunday**. The reason for the strange dates is that he had to travel on Sunday, Sept 26th. There will be a pitch-in lunch the Sunday AM service. Then we will start the afternoon service at 1:00 PM. If the arrangements are otherwise, we will let folks know at the meetings.

If you live within driving distance of Linden, it would be well worth your time to attend. Weeknight services will start at 7:00 PM.

The national ACUC meeting will be at The Indianapolis Baptist Temple, October 4-6. Contact IBT for more information – (317) 787-0830 □

□ Bro Sileven writes in his latest newsletter:

I am actually witting this before I am freed. I am living in a very poor facility, called a "Half Way House". These facilities were originally designed to help prisoners who have been incarcerated for a long period of time to get back in society with a job, a place to stay, etc.

Congress wrote a law a few years ago to allow those of us who have a home and job to have "home confinement".

Well, I fit the latter and should have been allowed to go home on May 27th, but was not allowed to do so. I was told that I would be allowed to go home on July the 27th, but then the Federal counselor, who works for the Federal Parole Office informed me that I would not be allowed to finish any of my sentence at home unless I was willing to give up my preaching, because they **considered my preaching as part of my criminal activity!!!**

This should send bells ringing to the pastors but it hasn't. The reason? most pastors are pro-government and sees no sins of government policy which should be opposed... [Emp added.] □

