

**May 10, 2017**  
**Spiritual Warfare**  
**1 Thes. 2:14-3:5**  
**David Self**

**I. Warning (2:14-20)**

**A. Battle** *“they displease God and are hostile to everyone, hinder us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved.”* (15-16)

**B. Barrier** *“but Satan hindered us”* (18) Paul writes **“Put on the full armor of God, so that you can stand against the tactics of the devil.”** (Eph. 6:11) What are these **“tactics”**?

1. **Satan is a Liar** *“You are of your father the Devil...he is a liar and the father of liars.”* (John 8:44-47) We combat this attack with **confidence** *“I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”* (Phil. 1:6) We are to wear **“truth like a belt around your waist”** (Eph. 6:14).
2. **Satan is an Accuser** *“...the accuser of our brothers has been thrown out: the one who accuses them before our God day and night,”* (Rev. 12:10). We resist this scheme by understanding our **completion**. *“...you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”* (Col. 2:10 NKJ) We wear the **“righteousness like armor on your chest”** (Eph. 6:14).
3. **Satan is a Disturber** *“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil...”* (I Tim. 6:10). Our antidote is **contentment** *“But godliness with contentment is a great gain”* (I Tim. 6:6). *“I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am,”* (Phil. 4:11; Heb. 13:5). Our feet are to be shod with the **“readiness for the gospel of peace”** (Eph. 6:15).
4. **Satan is an Aggressor** *“Be serious! Be alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour”* (I Pet. 5:8). To combat his aggression, the Believer needs **courage**: *“I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me”* (Phil. 4:13). *“Be strong and courageous...”* (Joshua 1:6). We defend against his attacks with **“the shield of faith”** (Eph. 6:16).

5. Satan is a Deceiver *“When the 1,000 years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations...”* (Rev. 20:7-8a) God allows us to resist his deceptions with our assurance of **citizenship** *“but our citizenship is in heaven...”* (Phil. 3:20) Our helmet is **salvation** (Eph. 6:17).
6. Satan is a Disputer *“Satan answered the Lord, “Does Job fear God for nothing?”* (Job 1:0).

## II. Concern (3:1-5)

- A. Memories *“Therefore, when we could no longer stand it, we thought it was better to be left alone in Athens”* (3:1).
- B. Messenger *“And we sent Timothy”* (2).
- C. Misgivings *“that no one will be shaken by these persecutions.”* (3)
- D. Misunderstanding *“we told you previously that we were going to suffer persecution”* (4).
- E. Misconduct *“fearing that the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be for nothing.”* (5)

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