

Fine Sounding Arguments

1. I want you to know how much I am struggling for you, for those at Laodicea, for all who have not met me personally. 2:1

Paul is wrestling, fighting, battling, IN PRAYER for Christians he has never met because he knows they are in a battle.

The church is in a battle:
YOU ARE THE CHURCH and where you go – that is where the battle is taking place.

“He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. Matthew 12:30

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

The battle we are in is that Jesus is the only answer for every problem, challenge or situation we face in life.

- He is the only who can meet every spiritual, physical and practical need the people of this world have.

¹⁴Stand firm with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Ephesians 6:14

The battle requires you to daily die to yourself.

“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23

It requires you to remember who you really are in Christ:

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Galatians 2:20

2. My purpose is that they (you) may be encouraged in heart and united in love. 2:2

In churches that are focused on their mission they are marked as being a church that is:

- ✓ Hopeful and united.
- ✓ Raises up Godly leaders.
- ✓ Is on fire for God.
- ✓ Does not compromise their belief that Jesus Christ is all we need.

My purpose is that you may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that you may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that you may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 2:2-3

Paul’s words of encouragement:

- Being committed to wrestling for each other.
- Encouraging each other.
- Being united in love with each other.
- Putting aside our wants for the mission of the church.

3. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 2:4

The first “fine-sounding” argument was in Genesis 3.

“Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

- ❖ Eve's mistake was that she listened to the serpent as if he had her best interest in his heart **and** as if he were God's equal.
 - ❖ The world/culture does not have the churches best interest in their hearts **and** there advise is not equal to God’s wisdom
- ### **4. So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. 2:6-7**

Paul’s Basic Reminders on how to not be deceived by “Fine-Sounding Arguments”:

- CONTINUE To Live in him (Christ).
- CONTINUE To Be rooted and built up IN him (Christ).
- CONTINUE To Be strengthened IN the faith as you were taught
- CONTINUE To be overflowing with thankfulness.