Casting Down Arguments (series)

**1— DESTROYING LIES (double meaning)**

**ARGUMENTS, HIGH THINGS, & THOUGHTS**

**Mark 11:23 (NKJV)** For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, **he will have whatever he says.**

**2 Corinthians 10:3–5 (NKJV)** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. **4** For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down **strongholds**, **5** casting down **arguments** and **every high thing** that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing **every thought** into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

**LET ME SHARE SOME CONTEXT: IN THIS PASSAGE, PAUL IS STRONGLY ADDRESSING A DEEPLY CONCERNING ISSUE…. THERE ARE SOME “SO-CALLED” APOSTLES WHO HAVE COME TO CORINTH… WHO ARE CHALLENGING PAUL’S GOD-GIVEN POSITION OF AUTHORITY… THESE FALSE APOSTLES WERE PREACHING A DIFFERENT VERSION OF THE GOSPEL, AND SEEKING TO BRING THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH OUT FROM UNDER PAUL’S AUTHORITY AND UNDER THEIR AUTHORITY FOR SELFISH MOTIVES.**

**SO PAUL IS CERTAINLY ADDRESSING THESE ISSUES.**

**ONE WAY PAUL ADDRESSED THESE ISSUES IS BY PREACHING THE WORD OF GOD. PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH IS POWERFUL.**

**HOWEVER… ALONG WITH THESE ISSUES, PAUL ALSO ADDRESSES ALL ARGUMENTS AND DEMONICALLY-INSPIRED DECEPTION.**

**LET’S READ OUR PASSAGE AGAIN:**

**2 Corinthians 10:3–5 (NKJV)** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. **4** For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down **strongholds**, **5** casting down **arguments** and **every high thing** that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing **every thought** into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

* **“CASTING DOWN”** = **kathairĕō**, *kath-ahee-****reh´****-o* **= This verb can be used to mean take down, bring down, lower, overthrow, demolish, or even destroy as we see in…**

**Acts 13:19 (NCV)** God **destroyed** **[kathairĕō]** seven nations in the land of Canaan and gave the land to his people.

* “**ARGUMENTS”** = **lŏgismŏs**, *log-is-****mos´***; from *3049* ***=* A proposition arrived at by consideration or reasoning.**
* **“HIGH THING”** = hupsōma, **hoop´**-so-mah **= an elevated place or thing, i.e. altitude, or a barrier:—height, high thing.**
  + **ONLY FOUND ONE OTHER PLACE IN THE NT…**
  + **Romans 8:38–39 (NKJV)** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, **39** nor **height** nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
  + **GOD’S WORD** **TRANSLATES “HUPSOMA” = “powers in the world above”**
  + **THE NLT** **TRANSLATES “HUPSOMA” = “power in the sky above”**
* **IN OTHER WORDS… “HUPSOMA” REFERS TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE HEAVENLY/SPIRIT REALM**

**Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

**AND WHAT DO THESE DEMONIC SPIRITS IN THE HEAVENLY REALM DO?**

* **“EXALTS ITSELF”** = **ĕpairō**, *ep-a****hee´****-ro* **= To exalt one’s self, to lift one’s self, to uphold one’s self.**
  + **THEY ARE EXALTING THEMSELVES… AND THEIR LIES… AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD… THE TRUTH OF GOD’S WORD… THE PROMISES OF GOD.**

**1 Timothy 4:1–2 (NKJV)** Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, **2** speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.”

* **“THOUGHT”** = **nŏēma**, ***nŏ´****-ay-mah* = The content of what a person is thinking about

**I WANT TO ADDRESS THESE THINGS IN THIS SERIES:**

1. **DESTROYING LIES (double meaning)**
2. **THE SHIELD OF FAITH**
3. **THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**

**LET’S TALK ABOUT “DESTROYING LIES”**

**2 Corinthians 10:4 (NKJV)** For **the weapons of our warfare** are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

**LET’S LOOK AT SOME OF OUR MIGHTY WEAPONS OF WARFARE IN…**

**Ephesians 6:10–18 (NKJV)** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. **13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. **14** Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16** above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. **17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; **18** praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

**I WANT TO FOCUS TODAY ON “FIERY DARTS” AND “THE BELT OF TRUTH”**

**FIERY DARTS**

**Ephesians 6:16 (NKJV)** Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

**THE MILITARY OF THE NT TIMES USED THREE TYPES OF ARROWS:**

1. **REGULAR ARROWS: SIMILAR TO THE TYPICAL ARROWS PEOPLE SHOOT FROM BOWS TODAY.**
2. **ARROWS DIPPED IN TAR, SET ON FIRE, AND THEN SHOT THROUGH THE AIR.**
3. **ARROWS CONTAINING MADE FROM LONG, SLENDER PIECES OF CANE AND FILLED WITH COMBUSTIBLE FLUIDS THAT EXPLODE ON IMPACT.**

**THIS THIRD KIND OF ARROW WAS THE MOST EXPENSIVE TO PRODUCE, SO THEY WERE NOT USED IN NORMAL COMBAT. THEY WERE RESERVED TO INFLICT DAMAGE TO A FORTIFIED PLACE OR ENCAMPMENT.**

**THE ARROWS IN EPHESIANS 6:16 ARE CALLED “FIEIRY DARTS.” SINCE PAUL’S WORD USAGE IS IDENTICAL TO THAT OF THE GREEK HISTORIAN THUCYDIDES (**THOO-**SIH*´***-DIH-DEES**), WE KNOW EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF ARROWS PAUL HAS IN MIND… THE THIRD TYPE… ARROWS THAT CARRY FIRE WITH COMBUSTIBLE FLUID TO CAUSE AN EXPLOSION IMMEDIATELY UPON IMPACT… AND THEN CONTINUE BURNING TO CAUSE FURTHER DAMAGE.**

**SOMETIMES THESE ARROWS—WORDS—DON’T SEEM VERY DEADLY WHEN THEY’RE SPOKEN… IT’S ONLY AFTER IMPACT THAT YOU SEE HOW DEVASTATING THESE “FIERY DARTS” ARE.**

**WHAT ARE THESE FIERY DARTS?**

**Proverbs 26:18–19 (NKJV)** Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, **19** Is the man who deceives his neighbor, And says, “I was only joking!”

**James 3:5–6 (NKJV)** Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! **6** And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

**Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV)** Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

**I’M GOING TO EXPLAIN HOW “THE SHIELD OF FAITH” AND “THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT” CONFRONT THESE FIERY DARTS… BUT LET’S TALK ABOUT THE BELT OF TRUTH.**

**Ephesians 6:14 (NIV)** Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist.

**THE BELT OF TRUTH**

**THE BELT OF TRUTH IS MENTIONED FIRST BECAUSE IT’S THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF ARMOR… IT’S SPEAKING OF THE WORD OF GOD.**

**NOW LATER PAUL SPEAKS OF THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT WHICH IS THE “WORD” OF GOD… BUT THE GREEK WORD TRANSLATED “WORD” = “RHEMA”**

**SO THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT = THE “RHEMA WORD” OF GOD**

**SO WHAT IS THE BELT OF TRUTH?**

**JESUS PRAYED IN JOHN 17:17…**

**John 17:17 (NKJV)** Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word **[logos]** is truth.

**“WORD” = LOGOS**

**Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)** For the word **[logos]** of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF ARMOR WE PUT ON IS THE BELT OF TRUTH**

**YOU SEE… GOD’S WORD IS TRE TRUTH… BUT THIS WORLD IS FILLED WITH LIES… AND IF YOU DON’T HAVE THE WORD OF GOD FIRMLY BUCKLED ON… YOU’LL INEVITABLY BEGIN TO BELIEVE LIES.**

**WHAT DID JESUS SAY WAS THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT?**

**Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (NKJV)** “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! **5** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. **6** “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. **8** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. **9** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

**EX – DO YOU REMEMBER THE 10 SPIES WHO SPOKE HALF TRUTHS?**

**ALL BUT TWO OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL BELIEVED THE “EVIL REPORT”––FIERY DARTS––THAT THE 10 SPIES BROUGHT BACK**

**Isaiah 53:1 (NKJV)** Who has believed our report?

**THE WORD OF GOD SHOWS US WHAT IS TRUTH AND WHAT IS A LIE**

**SO WHAT DID GOD COMMAND JOSHUA?**

**Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

**EX – IN NOVEMBER 2006, I HEARD… “START MEDITATING THE HEALING SCRIPTURES BECAUSE YOU’RE GOING TO NEED THEM IN 6 MONTHS… ALEXA’S HEALING… JONATHAN’S HEALING.**

**LET’S WATCH JESUS USES THE TRUTH TO CAST DOWN ARGUMENTS AND HIGH THINGS**

**Luke 13:11–17 (NKJV)** And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. **12** But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.” **13** And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. **14** But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, “There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day.” **15** The Lord then answered him and said, “Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? **16** So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?” **17** And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

**EX – Woman with flow of blood 12 years**

**EX – Man in Lystra… lame from mother’s womb**

**EX – Widow in bad debt**

**EX – Widow and son on last meal**

**EX – Luke 18 – persistent widow… shall not God avenge**

**EXAMPLES OF DESTROYING LIES**

* (In HS) That it was okay for me to speak or joke perversely if I didn’t actually participate in the perversity.
* That I had sinned too many times… repented too many times… received mercy too many times.
* That no matter how hard I try, I don’t qualify for the promises of God.
* That I was born with the wrong biological gender… God made me this way.
* That I was born with the wrong sexual orientation or attractions… that God made me this way.
* That because I’m not educated or eloquent, I’ll always have to live in debt and struggle.