

Three Enemies of the Believer

Selected Texts

August 26, 2018 - Ray Allen

BASIC TRAINING FOR BELIEVERS SERIES

Three Enemies Identified

-Ephesians 2:1-7

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

These three forces of evil shape all lives outside of Christ.

This is how you “_____ walked” 2: 2

1. The World - “According to the course of this world”
The fallen world system in which we live.
2. The Devil - “According to the prince of the power of the air” -
The arch enemy of God, who turned mankind against God, bringing death on the race, and judgment on creation.
3. The Flesh - “Lived in the lusts of the flesh. -
The inner seat of self-centered craving, and desire for self-gratification.

“Walk no _____ just as the Gentiles (unbelievers) also walk...” 4:17

Three Enemies, One Objective

But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. 2 Cor. 11:3

The common objective of all three enemies:

Since believers are to live by *faith*:

The objective is that we will _____ or _____ God.

Important clarification:

God is never to blame for our sin, despite our tendency to do so.

Ja. 1:13, 1 Cor 10:13

-To _____ our sin, is to implicate our sovereign God in our sin.

The common tool of all three enemies is _____

Jn. 8:44; Eph. 4:22; 1 Tim 4:1

Each employs a different **strategy**; each requires a different **response**.

Three Enemies Exposed

"...so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes." 2 Cor. 2:11

Characterized in the Bible	The World	The Devil (Satan)	The Flesh
Unbelievers' Lifestyle <i>Eph. 2:1-7</i>	Live according to the _____ of the _____ (system)	Live according to _____	Live for _____
Area of Influence	M _____	W _____	E _____ (Feelings)
Method of Attack (Strategy, Objective)	To make you _____ -- without God	To make you _____ -- without God	To make you _____ -- without God
The Biblical Response <i>1 Cor. 10:13 - a way of escape is provided</i>	R _____ <i>Romans 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 3:13; 1 Thess. 2:13</i>	R _____ <i>1 Peter 5:9; James 4:7</i>	R _____ <i>2 Tim 2:22; Ro. 13:14; 1 Pe. 2:11</i>

Other Occurrences in Scripture.

	The World	The Devil	The Flesh
<i>1 John 2:16</i>	lust of the eyes	boastful pride of life	lust of the flesh
<i>Jesus' Temptations Mt. 4; Mk. 1</i>	Jump off temple pinnacle - Fame, world's approval	Worship me - Avoid the cross, immediate power	Stones to bread- Relieve your feelings of hunger
<i>The Garden of Eden Gen 3:1-7</i>	A delight to the eyes - mind	Make one wise (become like God)	Good for food. pleasant feelings

Fighting For Your Life

-1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

We must cherish, and grasp tightly, the eternal life we've been given.

"Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called"

Faith: We must _____ our life in Christ is worth fighting for.

Fight: We must be committed to fight for it. *Eph 6:13*

Good: We must realize, the _____ is good.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing." - 2 Timothy 4:7-8