

*Demonology for the Anxious – Miraculous Mosaic # 38*  
*Ephesians 2:1-2; 4:26-27; 6:10-20*  
*April 10, 2005 – Dave Desforge Preaching*

**Scripture Text:** - Ephesians 2:1-2; 4:26-27; 6:10-20

<sup>1</sup> As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. . . . <sup>26</sup> "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold. . . .

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> And 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.

<sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

As Dave has pointed out for two weeks now, the Bible brings great insight and balance to the question of sin and its origins. Specifically, it avoids a "reductionist" perspective by insisting that we face not one, but three problems when we struggle with our own sin, the sin of others, and evil in the world: the world, the flesh and the devil. As we think about one leg of that "Unholy Trinity" this week – namely the devil, it is important to remember that larger context.

### **More Here Than Meets the Eye**

1) "The evil of the 20<sup>th</sup> century alone transcends reason." Ponder this paraphrase from the NY Times article.

2) What are some of the different answers to the question "Where does sin come from?" that we might hear in the world around us? How well do they hold in balance the "Unholy Trinity" that Paul refers to?

3) What are some differences between a "Personal Force of Evil" and an impersonal one?

## **Facing the Battle**

4) In these passages, Paul shows how “Personal Forces of Evil” press in with:

A. Temptation – ex. Disobedience (2:2)

B. Aggravation – ex. Anger (4:26)

C. Oppression – ex. Struggle (6:12)

Describe scenarios that illustrate the “Unholy Trinity” influencing all three of these areas. (ie. Not just the devil, but the world and the flesh active in these areas as well.)

5) In what ways is our own world as “paranoid” and superstitious as Paul’s Ephesus?

6) Dave pointed out that for Paul, spiritual warfare is not so much our offensive capability or techniques (though we are often quite good at being offensive with one another!) but rather a defensive – “stand firm” – strategy that is built on the promises of God and completed work of Christ. How would this look in your real life of facing temptation?

7) What has changed in your thinking or perspective after this morning? What might change in your daily practice?

## **Prayer Together**

1) What might need to change in your thinking for there to be more balance in your battle with sin?