

## THE BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND

**Text: I Samuel 3:19-21**

**Colossians 1:21**

**Key Word: Battlefield**

**Key Thought: The Greatest Battle We Need to Win Is in Our Mind**

We share the earth with so many races of people. It has been terribly scarred from the ravages of war.

The shortest war on record took place in 1896 when Zanzibar surrendered to Britain after 38 minutes. The longest was the so-called 100-years war between Britain and France. It actually lasted 116 years, ending in 1453. Since 1495, no 25-year period has been without war. There are 92 known cases of nuclear bombs lost at sea. During the 1991 Gulf War, the Allies dropped more than 17,000 smart bombs and 210,000 dumb (unguided) bombs on Iraqi troops. Land mines cause 24,000 deaths a year.

There are some 20,000 active nuclear weapons that can be fired within a moment's notice. Although about 45,000 nuclear weapons have been decommissioned they have only been partly dismantled and still pose a serious threat. This is a list of countries with the most weapons of mass destruction.

Rank	Country	Weapons
1	Russia	13,000
2	United States	9,400
3	France	300
4	China	240
5	United Kingdom	185
6	Israel	100
7	India	70
8	Pakistan	65
9	North Korea	<10

Annual global spending on military is more than \$1.3 trillion (45% by USA). Iceland has no military and no military expenditure.

But there is a greater war that has raged from the beginning of creation. Its casualties are beyond our capacity to total them. It's a battle that has never stopped. It's like a contagious disease with no cure available. It's the battle within our mind. It's the most fertile ground used by hell itself in an attempt to defeat people.

**There Are 2 Accounts in the Bible That We're Going to Consider to Encourage Us to Keep Our Minds on the Things of God.**

### **I. ELI/ HOPHNI; PHINEHAS/SAMUEL (I Samuel 2)**

#### **II. PAUL COMPARED TO THE PHARISEES**

### **I. ELI/ HOPHNI/PHINEHAS COMPARED TO SAMUEL (I Samuel 2)**

The first account is the contrast between Eli's sons, Hophni & Phinehas and the son Elkanah & Hanna whom they named Samuel.

It was said of Eli's sons,

*"Eli's sons were wicked men; they had no regard for the Lord."*

*I Samuel 2:12*

*"This sin of the young men was very great in the Lord's sight, for they were treating the Lord's offering with contempt."*

*I Samuel 2:17*

The blame was set at Eli's feet. Both Eli and his sons were judged on the matter.

*"Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?"*

*I Samuel 2:29*

God's Word was established and would not be changed simply because Eli and his sons did not have the mind of God while serving God.

## I. ELI/ HOPHNI/PHINEHAS COMPARED TO SAMUEL (I Samuel 2) (Contd.)

*"...all your descendants will die in the prime of life.*

*34. And what happens to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will be a sign to you - they will both die on the same day."*

*I Samuel 2:33,34*

Scripture records that a short while later a battle broke out with the Philistines. The Israelites made camp at Ebenezer. Later Samuel raised up a stone between Mizpah and Shem and declared it to be named "**Ebenezer**" meaning "**stone of help**".

*"saying, thus far has the Lord helped us."*

*I Samuel 7:12*

**Samuel did have the Lord as his helper. Hophni and Phinehas did not.** News came back to Eli that both his sons had died in battle and the ark of the covenant was captured by the Philistines. At such shocking news Eli fell backwards off his chair, broke his neck and died. That same day Phinehas' wife died at childbirth and named her son "**Icabod**" which means "**no glory.**"

**But the opposite was true of Samuel who had a mind after God.**

The Bible says,

*"The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and let none of his words fall to the ground.*

*20. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet.*

*21. The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word."*

*I Samuel 3:19-21*

**Samuel allowed his mind to be renewed in the limited amount of God's Word available to Him. God also spoke directly to him like he did with Moses. It was this kind of sensitivity to God that opened Samuel's mind.** There were difficult times for Samuel though. The nation had been looking around and chose to have a king and thereby rejected God as their King. They chose to pattern their leadership after the way of the nations around them. When they refused to listen, God gave the nation of Israel Saul to be their first king.

## I. ELI/ HOPHNI/PHINEHAS COMPARED TO SAMUEL (I Samuel 2) (Contd.)

Samuel continued his attempts to lead the nation into a relationship with their heavenly Father.

*"As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you. **And I will teach you the way that is good and right.**  
24. But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart."*

*I Samuel 12:23,24*

Samuel had to continually struggle with his thoughts. He seemed to be living such a different life than the nation he served. **He chose in his mind to serve God. It was his mind that directed the emotions in his heart.** Out of his heart came forth actions that were pleasing before God.

These things are so important. Jesus Himself said,

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."*

*Mark 12:30*

## II. PAUL COMPARED TO THE PHARISEES

This can be only done by a mind that is renewed in our Lord. Paul wrote,

*"You were taught with regard to your former ways of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires  
23. to be made new in the attitude (spirit - KJV) of your minds,  
24. and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."*

*Ephesians 4:22-24*

Paul's greatest opposition came from the same people that he once served with great diligence - the Pharisees. He had served as one of their greatest spokesmen.

## II. PAUL COMPARED TO THE PHARISEES (Contd.)

Paul also had a nation that had stood in opposition to God's will and Word. No one can fully understand the mind of God until they surrender their life to Him. You don't understand God simply by your mental capacity. In fact, some very simple-minded people understand God better than University professors simply because they have had their sins forgiven.

*"Once you were **alienated from God and were enemies in your minds** because of your evil behaviour."*

*Colossians 1:21*

**Paul was a great scholar but recognized that salvation was not something simply gained by mental ascent.** In fact, the greatest way to reach up to heaven is to fall on humble knees before God while on earth.

**It was Paul who recognized probably more than any other New Testament writer the need to renew his mind in Christ Jesus.** He wrote to the Christians who lived in the midst of the political and intellectual greats of their day.

*"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

*Romans 12:2*

Therefore, the actions of God's people are directly related to what they think. Just think of the advantage that hell could have over us if it could set certain thoughts in our minds. Let me tell you something. Fallen angels are working overtime trying to weaken our Christian walk by what they place in our minds. How can we stand against such a subtle attack?

### 1. Pure Heart.

*"Create in me a pure heart, O, God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."*

*Psalms 51:10*

## II. PAUL COMPARED TO THE PHARISEES (Contd.)

### 2. Waiting in Prayer and Word.

*"...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

*Isaiah 40:31*

### 3. Don't Lose Heart.

*"Therefore do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."*

*Ephesians 5:23*

### 4. Renewal of the Holy Spirit.

*"he saved us, not because of righteous things we have done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."*

*Titus 3:5*

**The Pharisees tried to renew their minds through knowledge and actions but they failed.** We have a very highly taught nation but one (for the most part) that has closed its mind to the teachings of Christ. Let's not follow their pattern. Let's allow our minds to be renewed in Christ Jesus. The battle is on and we must win through the help of our Lord and Saviour.

C:\My Documents\WPWin(X7)\Sermons.2016\Warfare\I Samuel 3\_19.21.wpd

Date: Oct 23/16

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Create in Me a Clean Heart - G

## THE BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND

**Text: I Samuel 3:19-21**

**Colossians 1:21**

**Key Word:** Battlefield

**Key Thought:** The Greatest Battle We Need to Win Is in Our Mind

**There Are 2 Accounts in the Bible That We're Going to Consider to Encourage Us to Keep Our Minds on the Things of God.**

**I. ELI/ HOPHNI/PHINEHAS COMPARED TO SAMUEL (I Samuel 2)** - *I Samuel 2:12; I Samuel 2:17; I Samuel 2:29; I Samuel 2:33,34; I Samuel 7:12; I Samuel 3:19-21; I Samuel 12:23,24; Mark 12:30*

**II. PAUL COMPARED TO THE PHARISEES** - *Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 1:21; Romans 12:2*

- 1. Pure Heart** - *Psalms 51:10*
- 2. Waiting in Prayer and Word** - *Isaiah 40:31*
- 3. Don't Lose Heart** - *Ephesians 5:23*
- 4. Renewal of the Holy Spirit** - *Titus 3:5*