

## **‘The Sunday Morning Cosmic Battle’ John 17:15**

### **Introduction:**

It’s been said that the devil spends more time in church than many Christians! And it makes sense for him to do this. If he can hang around and create confusion or discord, he wins a victory. So, when Christians gather to praise and encourage one another, our enemy will do all he can to stop that from happening. Our enemy has consistently used at least 4 methods to cause havoc in people’s lives.

*Did you experience any of these this past week?*

### **I. Discouragement** Heb. 10:25

Our enemy likes to discourage believers. He is very good at this. Elijah- 1 Kings 19:4. Thus, we are to encourage one another, to build one another up in the faith, to refresh one another.

*Are you known as a refreshing person?* Many in here are really good at that. Keep it up!

### **II. Deceit** 2 Tim. 4:3,4

A. Another weapon our enemy uses a lot is deceit, deception. Jesus called him the father of lies. Our enemy loves to twist the \_\_\_\_\_ and lead people into deception.

B. Or another way we see deceit is when we do bible studies, (which is fantastic!) yet if we then fail to *do* what it says. James 1:22.

### **III. Division** John 17:20,21

A. One of our enemy’s most effective tools is to bring division into a church. It makes sense that our enemy would try to do this because a splintered, divided church is no threat to him; also because it’s the exact opposite of what Jesus wants. A strong, united church is a testimony to the world of God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

Only a God-honoring, Jesus-focused, Spirit-led praying church can rout the devil and deal wisely with divisive issues. And in this present darkness, our culture is dead set on bringing issues into the church that they hope will destroy it or divide it. Be alert.

B. Rev. 12:9,10 Now compare this with Heb.7:25. Satan’s lifestyle is one of constantly accusing Christians of one thing or another. Jesus’ lifestyle is one of praying for Christians.

*Which one more closely matches your lifestyle?* In these argumentative times, I know it’s easy to fall into this, a complaining, critical spirit, because so many around in our society are doing this.

Our job is to pray for people, not to criticize them.

### **IV. Doubt** Job 1:21

Doubt is one of our enemy’s most common tools. He keeps asking people all over the world: ‘you don’t really believe that, do you?’ He keeps trying to get people to doubt God’s word. Doubt your doubts. Job 1:21- Job sets a tremendous example for us, even when in great anguish.

**Conclusion:** What I am trying to say is that being able to stand \_\_\_\_\_ in this present darkness is not about methods or techniques or rituals. Our victory is centered on Christ and the cross of Calvary! Jesus is the conquering One!

Daily victory in these battles is always all about Jesus. When we keep our eyes focused on Him and not our problems then we can be more than conquerors!

May we not fall for our enemy’s schemes trying to sow doubt, deception, discouragement and division. Rather, ask God to help us do the opposite of each of these: to be people of trust, not doubt; to be encouragers of others, to seek unity, and to always be willing to speak the simple truth, without embellishing it or putting a spin on it. May this be true in each church and in each family.