



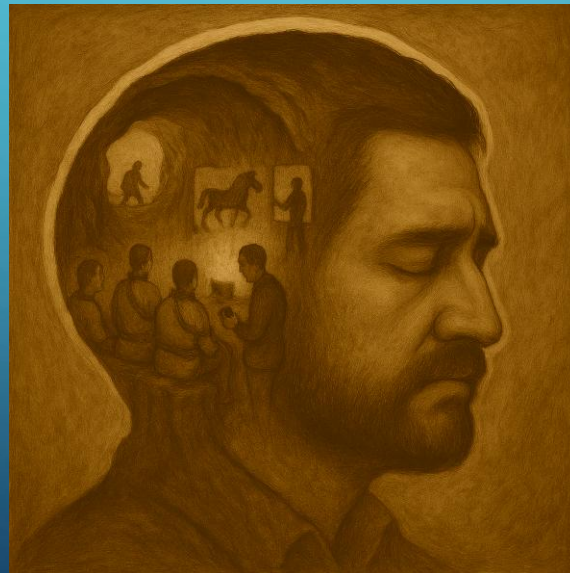
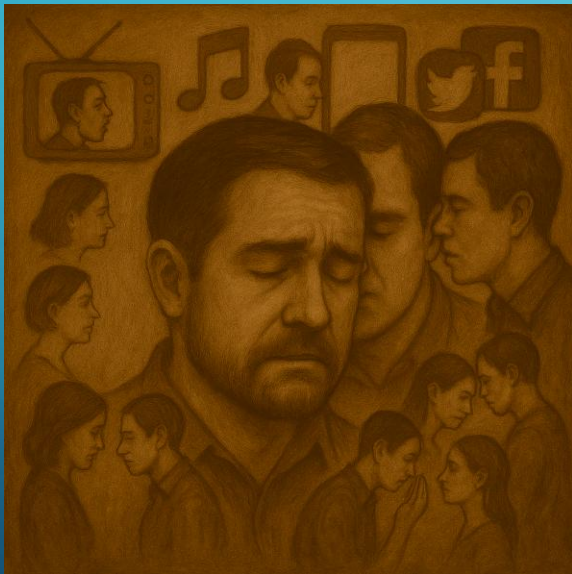
# THE BATTLE FOR OUR MINDS

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

## The Battle for Our Minds : The bad news: Situation

Eph 2:<sup>1</sup> You were dead in your transgressions and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked under the control of the age of **this world**,  
under the control of the **ruler of the air**,

the **spirit** who is now powerfully working in  
the sons of disobedience,  
among whom we all once lived in the lusts of our **flesh** and  
of our **minds**, ...



The Republic, Plato,  
Bk 7, 514a – 520a



The Matrix, red pill blue  
pill scene ≈ 28mins

## The Battle for Our Minds : The bad news: The Enemy

1 Cor 14:<sup>14</sup> Satan.... masquerades as an angel of light.

Jn 8:<sup>44</sup> You [*the pharisees*] belong to your father,  
the devil,

and you want to do your father's desire.

He was a murderer from the beginning,

and does not stand in the truth,

because there is no truth in him.

When he speaks a lie,

he speaks from his own supply,

because he is a liar and

the father of lies.

Jn 10:<sup>10a</sup> The thief does not come except to kill and  
to destroy;



# The Battle for Our Minds : The bad news: Effect

Eph 4:<sup>22</sup> ...your former manner of life

that is corrupt in accordance with deceitful desires, .....



Category	Negative Action	Reference
Moral corruption	Sexual immorality, impurity, greed	Eph 4:19; 5:3
Speech	Unwholesome talk, obscenity, foolish talk, coarse joking, slander	Eph 4:29, 31; 5:4
Relational sins	Bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, malice, provoking children, threats	Eph 4:31; 6:4, 9
Spiritual errors	Idolatry, works of darkness, following the world/Satan	Eph 2:2–3; 5:5, 11
Behavioural failures	Stealing, drunkenness, insincere service	Eph 4:28; 5:18; 6:5–6

## The Battle for Our Minds : The bad news: Timing

Gen 1:<sup>31</sup> God saw all that He had made,  
and it was very good.

Gen 3:<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent [*Satan*] was more crafty than any of the wild animals YHWH  
God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say”



## The Battle for Our Minds : The bad news: Timing

Lk 3:<sup>22</sup> ...And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son,  
whom I love;  
with You I am well pleased”

Lk 4:<sup>3</sup> The devil said to Him, “If you are the Son of God...”

Lk 4:<sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished all his tempting, he left Him until an opportune time.

## The Battle for Our Minds : The bad news: Timing

Mt 16:<sup>21</sup> From that time on Jesus began to show his disciples:

that He must go to Jerusalem and

suffer many things at the hands of the elders,

the chief priests, and

the teachers of the law and

be put to death and

be raised on the third day.

<sup>22</sup> Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying,

“Far be it from you, Lord!

this will never happen to You.”

<sup>23</sup> But Jesus turned to Peter and said,

“Get behind me, Satan!

You are a stumbling block to me,

because you are not setting your mind on the things of God but

on human things.”

## The Battle for Our Minds : The bad news: Timing

Mt 27:<sup>40</sup> ...If you are the Son of God  
come down from that cross.

<sup>43</sup> He has trusted in God,  
Let God rescue him.....

<sup>46</sup> Jesus cried out in a loud voice, saying,  
[Ps 22:<sup>1</sup>] “Eli, eli, lema sabachthani?”  
That is, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned mw?”

Ps 22:<sup>7</sup> All who see me mock me,  
they hurl insults at me,  
shaking their heads,  
“He trusts in YHWH  
let YHWH rescue him”  
c.f. v 16, 18 f.f.

## The Battle for Our Minds : The bad news: Consequence

Eph 5:<sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words,  
for because of these the **wrath** of God is coming .....

Eph 2:<sup>12</sup> [Remember] that you were at that time  
**apart** from Christ  
**excluded** from citizenship in Israel and  
strangers to the covenant of promise,  
**not having hope** and  
**godless** in the world.

Eph 2:<sup>1</sup> You were **dead** in your transgressions and sins  
in which you once walked



# The Battle for Our Minds : The Good News: Victory

Eph 5:<sup>6</sup> ..... For we are **not unaware** of his [*Satan's*] schemes.

Jn 10:<sup>10b</sup> **I [*Jesus*]** came

in order that they [*you & me*] may have **life** and  
may have it in **abundance**.

Eph 2:<sup>4</sup> **But God**

Who is rich in **mercy**

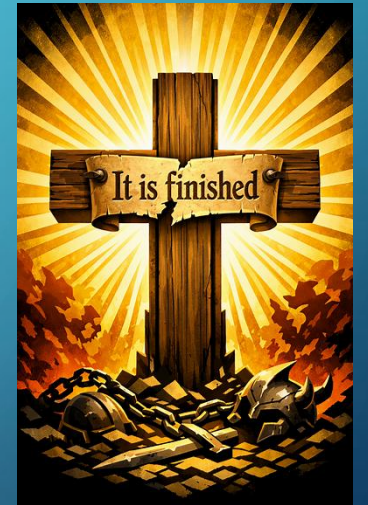
because of His great **love** with which He **loved** us and  
<sup>5</sup>we, who were dead in our transgressions

He made us **alive** with Christ

by grace you have been **saved** and

<sup>6</sup>He **raised** us with Him and

He **seated** us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.....



# The Battle for Our Minds : The Good News: Victory

Eph 4:<sup>1</sup> ..... Walk [*Live*] worthily of the calling to which you were called.

Eph 5:<sup>8</sup> ..... Walk as children of light.

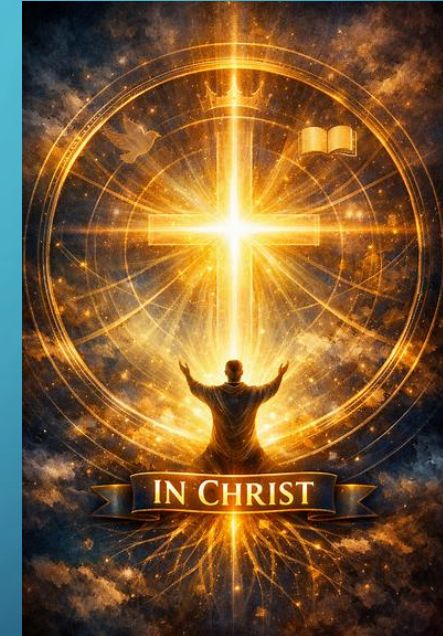
c.f. 4:<sup>17</sup>, 5:<sup>2</sup>, 5:<sup>15</sup>

Eph 4:<sup>27</sup> Do not give a place to the devil.

Eph 3:<sup>20</sup> Now

to The One who has the power  
to do exceedingly more than we ask or think  
according to the power which mightily works in us.

To Him be the glory  
in the church and in Christ Jesus  
forever and ever. Amen.



# The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us!

Eph 6:<sup>10</sup> Finally,

**be strong** in the Lord and His mighty strength.

<sup>11</sup> **Put on** the complete-armor of God

so that you are **strengthened to stand**

against the strategies of the devil

<sup>12</sup> because our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but

against the rulers,

the authorities,

the world powers of this darkness,

the evil spiritual beings in the

heavenly places.



# The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us!

Eph 6:13

Because of this, **take up** the complete-armor of God

so that you are **strengthened** to **withstand** on the evil day and

once you have prepared everything,

**to stand.**

14

**Stand**, then,

by **strapping truth** around your waist, and

by **putting** on the breastplate of **righteousness**, and

15

by **putting** onto your feet the **preparation of the gospel of peace**,

16

in all situations, by **taking up** the shield of **faith**,

with which you will have **power** to quench all the flaming arrows from the evil one, and

# The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us!

Eph 6:17

by **taking** the helmet of salvation, and

the sword of the Spirit,

which is the word of God, and

18

by praying,

in the Spirit

at all times

with every kind of prayer and requests, and

19

by watching for this purpose,

with all perseverance and making requests for all the  
saints,

# The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us!

Eph 6:20

and for me

that words may be given to me

so that, whenever I open my mouth, I could make known

with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

for which I am a chained ambassador;

that I may declare it boldly as I should speak.

# The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us out Completely to Stand.

Eph 6:<sup>11</sup> Put on the **complete-armor of God**

so that you are **strengthened to stand**

against the strategies of the devil

Eph 6:<sup>13</sup> Because of this, **take up** the complete-armor of God  
so that you are **strengthened to withstand** on the evil day and  
once you have prepared everything,  
**to stand.**

Rm 13:<sup>12</sup> ...put on the weapons of light.

Eph 4:<sup>24</sup> put on the new self

that was created in the likeness of God

# The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us with **Truth.**

Eph 6:<sup>14</sup> **Stand**, then,

by **strapping truth** around your waist,

- Alive with Christ (2:5)
- Saved (2:5, 8;5:23)
- A new creation (2:10; 4:24)
- Brought near to God (2:13)
- Given access to God (2:18; 3:12)
- Profoundly Loved (3:17-19; 5:2)
- God's possession (1:14)
- Sealed as God's (1:13; 4:30)
- God's inheritance (1:18)
- God's heirs (1:14; 3:6; 5:5)
- Adopted by God (1:5)
- Beloved children (5:1)
- Members of God's Kingdom (5:5)
- Chosen by God (1:4, 11)
- Called by God (1:18; 4:1)

# The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us with **Truth.**

Eph 6:<sup>14</sup> **Stand**, then,

by **strapping truth** around your waist,

- Redeemed (1:7)
- Forgiven (1:7; 4:32)
- Sanctified (5:26)
- Cleansed (5:26)
- Saints (1:1, 15, 18; 3:8, 18; 4:12; 5:3; 6:18)
- Part of the corporate body of Christ (2:15-16; 4:12, 13, 16, 25; 3:6; 5:30)
- Members of the household of God (2:19)
- Part of the new holy temple that God is building (2:22)
- Possessors of the Holy Spirit (1:13-14)
- Raised with Christ (2:6)
- Seated with Christ (2:6)

The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us with  
**Righteousness.**

Eph 6:<sup>14</sup> **Stand**, then,...

**putting** on the breastplate of righteousness,

Rm 3:<sup>21</sup> But now, the righteousness of God is disclosed

apart from the law,

although it is attested by the law and the  
prophets

that is, the righteousness of God

through faith in Jesus Christ

to all who believe.

The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us with  
**Righteousness.**

Rm 5:<sup>17</sup> ...those who receive the abundance of grace  
**the gift of righteousness**  
reign in life ... through Jesus Christ.

Eph 1:<sup>7</sup> in Him we have the redemption through His blood,  
the forgiveness of our offences,  
on the basis of the abundance of His grace  
which He pour on us ....

The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us with  
**Preparation of the Gospel of Peace.**

Eph 6:<sup>14</sup> **Stand**, then,...

Eph 6:<sup>15</sup> by putting on your feet the **preparation** of the gospel of  
peace.

Isa 52:<sup>7</sup> How beautiful on the mountains are

the feet of those who bring good news,

who proclaim peace,

who bring good tidings,

who proclaim salvation.. c.f. Rm 10: <sup>15</sup>

The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us with  
**Preparation of the Gospel of Peace.**

Rm 1:<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel  
it is the power of God for salvation  
to everyone who believes,

....

<sup>17</sup> For the righteousness of God is revealed in it  
that is by faith  
from first to last,  
just as it is written [*Hab 2:4*], “The righteous will live by  
faith.”

# The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us with **Faith.**

Eph 6:<sup>14</sup> **Stand**, then,...

Eph 6:<sup>16</sup> in all situations, by taking up the shield of **faith**,

with which you will have power to quench all the flaming  
arrows from the evil one,

Eph 1:<sup>13</sup> In Him also when you **heard** the word of truth,

the gospel of your salvation,

in Him also when you **believed**,

you were **sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise,

who is a deposit on our inheritance.

The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us with  
**Faith.**

Eph 6:<sup>14</sup> **Stand**, then,...

Eph 2:<sup>8</sup> For by grace **you have been saved through faith** and,  
this is not from yourselves,  
it is a gift from God  
it is not from works  
so that no one can boast.

Eph 3:<sup>12</sup> in Him we have freedom of access [to God] in confidence  
through faith in Him.

# The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us with **Salvation.**

Eph 6:<sup>14</sup> **Stand**, then,...

Eph 6:<sup>17</sup> by taking the helmet of **salvation**,

Eph 2:<sup>8</sup> For by grace **you have been saved** through faith and,

Eph 2:<sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy

because of His great love with which he loved us and  
we, who were dead in our transgressions

He made us alive with Christ

by faith **you have been saved**

The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us with  
**Salvation.**

Eph 6:<sup>14</sup> **Stand**, then,...

1Thes 5:<sup>8</sup> ...let us be self-controlled,

putting on faith and love as a breastplate and

**the hope of salvation** as a helmet.

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but

to receive **salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ.

He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep

we may live together with Him.

Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up..

The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us with  
**The Word of God.**

Eph 6:<sup>14</sup> **Stand**, then,...

Eph 6:<sup>17</sup> [by taking] the sword of the Spirit,

which is the word of God,

2Tim 3:<sup>16</sup> All **scripture** is God breathed and

is useful for teaching

rebuking,

correcting and

training in righteousness,

17

so that the man [and woman] of God may be thoroughly  
equipped for every good work.

# The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us with **Prayer.**

Eph 6:<sup>14</sup> **Stand**, then,...

Eph 6:<sup>18</sup> by **praying** in the Spirit

at all times

with every kind of **prayer and requests,**

Mt 6:<sup>13</sup> let us not be lead into temptation, but

deliver us from the evil one / evil.

Jm 1:<sup>7</sup> If anyone of you lacks wisdom,

he should ask God, .... And

it will be given to him [her].

The Battle for Our Minds : The good news: God Equips us with  
**Watching.**

Eph 6:<sup>18</sup> by **watching** for this purpose,

with all perseverance and making requests

for all the saints, and

19

[pray] for me

that words may be given me,

so that whenever I open my mouth,

I could make known the  
mystery of the gospel,

20

for which I am a chained  
ambassador;