



Spiritual Warfare: Pulling Down Strongholds

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4-5

LESSON 6 – ANSWERING OBJECTIONS

EXPOSITORY APOLOGETICS: ANSWERING OBJECTIONS WITH THE POWER OF THE WORD
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Wrestling with Errors

- ▶ 2 Cor. 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,
- ▶ Pulling down strongholds – indicates bondage and captivity being demolished or destroyed.
- ▶ Casting down arguments – tearing down, dismantling of reasoning or thought
- ▶ Every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God – a high place designed for offensive military use, the “high ground” in opposition to the knowledge of God
- ▶ Where does the knowledge of God come from? Scripture. So these thoughts (arguments) are the reasons people use to oppose God’s Word.

Pragmatism

- ▶ Pragmatism is so prevalent in our culture and even within the church that most people who raise objections to Christianity do not care to know the **why** behind what we believe, but rather instead want to get to the **what**, questioning what Christianity does.
- ▶ Most arguments are made against the morality of Christianity rather than the theology. We must keep in mind that the lost do not understand why we do what we do, but they do think what we do is evil based on their opposition to the knowledge of God.
- ▶ It is rare for their objections to be based in reality as they do not understand Scripture and are actually living in rebellion to it and its Author.

Tolerance

- ▶ Because tolerance is now seen as a virtue (without actually being defined), those raising objections often ask why Christians have a problem with something (abortion, same sex marriage, etc.).
- ▶ As a result we must be familiar with God's law.
- ▶ The best known verse from the Bible out in the world is Matthew 7:1 – “Judge not lest ye be judged.” Never mind that in the context Jesus goes on to show believers how to judge rightly.
- ▶ When playing the “Don't judge me” card (only God can judge me) doesn't deter us, the next argument from Scripture usually involves taking a ceremonial law or civil law and trying to apply it to someone who is not a part of the ancient nation of Israel – for example, don't eat pork, or shellfish. They are trying to prove that Christians pick and chose what to believe and put into actual practice based on personal preferences in place of Biblical convictions.

Speaking of Pragmatism

- ▶ Opponents of Biblical truth use these arguments from Scripture (just like their father, the Devil) because they work! It either stuns Christians into silence or they don't know how to answer the objection. The trouble truly is that too many Christians DO pick and chose what to believe and practice, making an idol of their will and wants.
- ▶ IF we can answer the objection with poise and relative ease, this will likely cause our opponents to pause and think twice before they throw another punch since this supposed “knock-out” blow didn't work!

Answering Objections

- ▶ Another root problem is that too many Christians read the Old Testament and think the same way the world does and then they try to explain it by saying something like, “We are not under the law but under grace.” The theological and interpretive system known as dispensationalism has caused 2 generations (at least) in the mainstream evangelism church to misunderstand the purposes and use of the Old Testament in the church. What is the purpose of the Old Testament? Same as the New – 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Answering Objections

- ▶ First – we must automatically assume that the Bible is the authority in a debate about whether such authority exists.
- ▶ Some suggest abandoning the Bible since the people we are talking to already reject it – win them with reason or evidence and then they will embrace the Bible. This is a disastrous approach and starts with an admission of defeat. Instead we must demonstrate that we are armed with truth, whether they accept it as true or not. Beside that, they are already demanding that we lay our Bible down based on something they quote from the Bible!

Answering Objections

- ▶ Our own Confession of Faith defines God's moral law this way: "The moral law ever binds to obedience everyone, justified people as well as others, and not only out of regard for the matter contained in it, but also out of respect for the authority of God the Creator, Who gave the law. Nor does Christ in the Gospel dissolve this law in any way, but He considerably strengthens our obligation to obey it." (2LBCF, 19.5).
- ▶ We appeal to the laws of God that apply to all people in all circumstances throughout all time. When those who stand before God to be judged according to the works recorded in the book – those works are violations of God's law.

Answering Objections

- ▶ We need to remember the difference between obedience and sin. In order for an action to be righteous, it must be a right action, done the right way, for the right reason (the glory of God). All men owe God obedience because He is God.
- ▶ How many then are righteous? None. No not one. (Romans 3:10 - "There is none righteous, no, not one.")
- ▶ The backbone of the moral Law is found in the Ten Commandments and these laws are repeated throughout the Old and New Testament as being binding on all people, especially Christians – the law of God defines righteousness as Jesus demonstrates that the law goes beyond the letter (outward conformity) all the way to heart motivation (inward transformation).

Answering Objections

- ▶ Even if we fail to understand the application of ceremonial/civil law (the laws which applied to Israel only and are now obsolete based on the ratification of the New Covenant by the shedding of the blood of Christ) we can find in ANY law in God's Word and underlying principle or reason the law was given. These reasons are always tied to the nature, character, and attributes of God.
- ▶ For example, given the objection that we can't eat pork from the Old Testament, we need to know why that law was given. God's people were to be set apart and distinct from the world. Why? Because we they people of God they were called, not to be common, but to be righteous. These laws were meant to demonstrate sanctification – being set apart for a purpose, the glory of God. Then we can move to the whole counsel of the Word and see that the laws regarding unclean animals was rescinded by God with the vision He gave Peter before sending him to the house of Cornelius, the Gentile.

Answering Objections

- ▶ If we can get them to think through their argumentation (and see their faulty hermeneutic) then we have won the debate, right? NO! But we have opened the door to drop in the gospel! What is the only way that we can be righteous before God? By being justified by faith in Jesus. Remember – whatever you are debating – ALWAYS GET TO THE GOSPEL as soon as you have the opportunity.
- ▶ Next week: Lesson 7 – Taking Every Thought Captive.