

## Fighting the Gospel War

November 10, 2019  
Joshua 8:1-29

Pastor Mark Turner  
Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

**Discouragement** – one of the enemies best tools, it can cause you to sit down, pity yourself, and do nothing.

### I. The Battle for the Gospel belongs to the Lord 1-8

- God reminds Joshua to not fear or be dismayed. The Battle belongs to the Lord. It is easy to lose sight of this!
  - Remember our New Covenant battle is different
    - Spiritual - Sword=Word of God 2 Cor 10:4-5; Eph 6:17
    - We fight with the Power and the Purpose of the Gospel Truth!
    - Remember: our 21<sup>st</sup> century weapons of Spiritual Warfare are the same ones Paul used and the great saints of the faith: Calvin, Luther
    - We are to use these weapons, not ones of our own design, i.e., the weapons of the world. Eph 6:10-20 - truth; righteousness; peace; faith; salvation; Word of God all covered in prayer
- Do not become discouraged – do not fear nor be dismayed!

### II. Remember the Judgement is the Lord's 9-29

- This narrative is brutal and even gruesome. For our instruction: Rm 15:4
- In this war for the holy land, God is punishing sin. Not vindictive, but Holy! Gen 15:16; Exodus 34:6-7
  - God guides His people on His Holy War. As soldiers in our New Covenant war we are God's warriors. We are proclaiming truth, justice and mercy.
  - Remember God is just eternally - He will punish & reward with justice!
  - There are ONLY two outcomes for those who come under Gospel Sword:
    - Judgement:28-29; Mt 25:41,46. Those who reject the Gospel will receive just punishment & curses for their sins.
    - Salvation: Josh 2:11; Gal 3:13-14. God is gracious and merciful. He has provided Jesus which provides mercy.
  - Be a faithful warrior for Jesus! Leave the judging to God! Take the Sword of the Spirit (Word) to those in the land around us!
- Note the Strategy given by God.
  - Separate the inhabitants from the city to expose their weakness
  - Apply the Sword of the Spirit (Word)
  - Let the Sword do its work
- Why the pause for the King of Ai? What do we learn?
  - King of Ai - representative of the people - judged rightly: Dt 21:22-23
  - Jesus - King – likewise hung on a tree. Was innocent, but took God's curse for His people.
  - Who is your King? Will you take judgement or mercy?  
Great Exchange: 2 Cor 5:21; Gal 3:13-14

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