



“BUT IF I CAST OUT DEMONS BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, SURELY THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS COME UPON YOU.”

– Matthew 12:28



OVERCOMING THE ENEMY

INTRODUCTION

- We are at war
- “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Eph. 6:12)



1. UNDERSTANDING WHERE TRUE JUDGMENT LIES

- “Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be **judged by you** or by **a human court**. In fact, **I do not even judge myself**. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but **He who judges me is the Lord.**”
(1 Cor 4:2-4)

A. JUDGMENT BY PEERS

- Pontius Pilate
- St. Peter at Antioch
 - “Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed...” (Gal 2:11)



B. JUDGMENT BY HUMAN COURTS

- Can a multitude of people be mistaken?
- Consider: Noah, and Sodom and Gomorrah
- “For he [the governing authority] is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.” (Rom. 13:4)



C. SELF-JUDGMENT

- “For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.”
(1 Cor. 4:4)
- We should not judge ourselves based on our own standard but rather according to the commandments of God.

D. RIGHT JUDGMENT

- “...He who judges me is the Lord.”
(1 Cor 4:4)
- “...I am He who searches the minds
and hearts.” (Rev 2:23)

2. SURROUND YOURSELF WITH GODLY PEOPLE

- "...and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds). (2 Pet. 2:7-8)
- We cannot expect to have victory over the enemy as long as we are friends with his ambassadors.
- "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.'" (1 Cor. 15:33)



3. FLEE FROM SIN

- “Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea.” (Acts 17:10)
- We are commanded to flee from sin:
 - “Flee youthful lusts.” (2 Tim 2:22)
 - “But you, o man of God, flee these things [love of money] ...” (1 Tim 6:11)
 - “Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.” (1 Cor 10:14)
 - “Flee sexual immorality.” (1 Cor 6:18)

4. GO TO THE LORD CHRIST

- “Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.”
(Matt 12:29)
- No sin has its remedy away from the Lord Christ





SUMMARY

- 4 guidelines to finding victory over our enemies
 1. Understanding where true judgement lies
 - Judgement by peers
 - Judgement by human courts
 - Self-Judgement
 - Right Judgement
 2. Surround yourself with godly people
 3. Flee from sin
 4. Going to the Lord Christ