

## WHITFIELD PARISH

### St James' Church † St Luke's Church

LIFE Group study notes w/b Sunday 18 November 2007

#### Teach us to pray – the spiritual battle

Ephesians 6:10-20

1. Where is the Devil?

#### **Read Ephesians 6:10-20**

This is the concluding passage of teaching in this awesome letter from the apostle Paul.

2. What are Paul's priorities in the passage?

#### **Read Ephesians 1:18-23**

Wow! Did you get the significance of the first part of verse 19?

*For the Christian, Satan has been stripped of his power. All we have to do against the Devil is to stand! Don't go looking for him. Don't go asking for a fight. Don't seek out exorcism opportunities. Simply be strong in the Lord, have confidence in what God has done for us and stand firm. [Bryson Smith]*

*'take your stand' (6:11); 'stand your ground' and 'stand' (6:13), 'stand firm' (6:14)  
[The Apostle Paul]*

3. What part does Jesus' death and resurrection two millennia ago play in our spiritual battle today?

The word Paul uses in 6:12 which is often translated 'struggle' is used nowhere else in the New Testament. It was, however, a word commonly used in 1<sup>st</sup> century Greek and meant 'to wrestle' – a sport practiced in the city of Ephesus.

*'Evil rarely looks evil until it accomplishes its goal; it gains entrance by appearing attractive, desirable, and perfectly legitimate. It is a baited and camouflaged trap.'* [Klyne Snodgrass]

4. What might this tell us about the spiritual battle?
5. What kind of 'day of evil' (6:13) do you think Paul has in mind? (Perhaps 5:16 gives us a clue?)
6. How should 6:10-17 affect our approach to prayer?

*(Believer' prayers)... are to be 'in or by the Spirit', that is, inspired and guided by the same Holy Spirit through whom they have constant access to the Father (2:18). As those who have been built into God's dwelling place in the Spirit (2:22) and who are being filled by the Spirit (5:18)... This is not a reference to praying in tongues, since not all Christians are expected to engage in such prayer. [Peter O'Brien]*

NB 'saints' (6:18 & 1:1) is just a New Testament word for Christians.

7. How should 6:18-20 affect our approach to prayer?