

East Cooper Baptist Church
July 16, 2017

Disarmed, Shamed, and Mortally Wounded
Colossians 2:13-15

"And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ **He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.**"

Spiritual warfare is the daily battle against a mortally wounded enemy who tirelessly works to destroy believers.

"We have been forewarned that an enemy relentlessly threatens us, an enemy who is the very embodiment of rash boldness, of military prowess, of crafty wiles, of untiring zeal and haste, of every conceivable weapon and of skill in the science of warfare. We must, then, bend our every effort to this goal: that we should not let ourselves be overwhelmed by carelessness or faintheartedness, but on the contrary, with courage rekindled, stand our ground in combat. Since this military service ends only at death, let us urge ourselves to perseverance. Indeed, conscious of our weakness and ignorance, let us especially call upon God's help, relying upon him alone in whatever we attempt, since it is he alone who can supply us with counsel and strength, courage and armor."

John Calvin, *Institutes of Christian Religion*, I-14-13

1. We operate from a position of authority and strength because of the obedience and atonement of Jesus Christ.

"Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

1 John 4:4

"Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out."

John 12:31

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Colossians 1:13-14

"Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery."

Hebrews 2:14-15

"Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house."

Matthew 12:29

"And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us; The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him; His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure, one little word shall fell him."

A Mighty Fortress is Our God, Martin Luther

2. A (true/regenerate) Christian cannot be possessed by a demon but can be severely oppressed by demonic activity.

"For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"

Romans 7:22-24

3. Repentance restores and authenticates my faith.

"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us."

1 John 2:19

"No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God."

1 John 3:9



"Are your strength and courage so small? Don't be afraid of the lions since they are in fact chained; they are there for the purpose of testing your faith at this point in your journey, as well as the discovery of those who have no faith."

John Bunyan, *Pilgrims Promise*, Watchful to Pilgrim as he approached Palace Beautiful,

Questions for discussion:

1. How can we be in error by: a) understating the supernatural or b) overstating the supernatural?
2. Why does a lack of understanding of the authority and conquering power of the Lord potentially lead to dualism?
3. How is the devil "mortally wounded"? (note the death of the python snake in Indonesia)
4. Read Matthew 12:29, how has the strong man (i.e. Satan) been bound?
5. What is the "one little word that will fell" Satan from Luther's hymn "All Mighty Fortress is Our God"?
6. What could lead a Christian to be severely oppressed by demonic activity?
7. How does repentance authenticate the truth of our standing in Christ?