

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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War

"If we do not abolish war on this earth, then surely one day war will abolish us from the earth." – Harry S. Truman, speech, Independence, Missouri, 1966

"Take my word for it: If you had seen but one day of war you would pray to Almighty God that you might never see such again." – Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, military dispatch from Waterloo, 1815

"War at best is barbarism." – General William Tecumseh Sherman

"Everyone hates war, everyone says." – Andrew A. Rooney, *Word For Word*, "Explaining It All For You"

"And this I hate – not men, nor flag nor race, but only War with its wild grinning face." – Joseph Dana Miller

According to the New York Times, in the past 3,400 years man has only had 268 years of peace. It sure does not give a favorable outlook for man. And when you look at the death toll, it is staggering.

Just in the twentieth century alone, some 108 million people were killed. And in all wars in human history, estimates go as high as a billion people killed.

The carnage of war is hard to stomach. Disease, pestilence, hunger, infection, amputation, barbarism, not to mention the sheer mental anguish from personal pain in the loss of loved ones.

Putting it mildly, war is ugly. And while there may be a victor, the loss to achieve it is horrendous.

But there is another type of war that man often does not consider, and that is spiritual 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. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Eph. 6:12-13).

Christians are at war. And our adversary is cunning and deceitful. "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made" (Gen. 3:1). Never underestimate our adversary, or it could be to your peril. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8).

But there is yet another war which we face, and this one is within. "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul" (1 Pet. 2:11). The carnal desires constantly wage war within us, forcing us to be vigilant in maintaining self-control.