

## THE BIBLE VIEW

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### For Better or For Worse!

*Bill Brinkworth*

*“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:12*

Since the first man and woman were in the Garden where God placed them, there has always been a battle between good and evil. Sometimes the battle is personal; sometimes it is on a much bigger scale, as when it involves large groups of people or even nations.

None of the combatants in any of the battles have been totally righteous and without sin. Rarely has a country ever had a leader that was 100% sold out to God and obedient to His commandments. All the leaders were just like us — sinners. In most of the confrontations, there was usually one side more unrighteous than the other was. The upcoming election in America is no exception.

Proverbs 28 points out many of the opposing philosophies in personal struggles and the clashing of governing forces. Many of the battles are actually spiritual battles involving:

**Guilt vs. Confidence.** A person that is living by his own rules, principles, and opinions will not have total peace. They often make wrong decisions, and see situations, obstacles, and people differently. Many times they have their own personal agenda, and it may not be for the benefit of most people. There are often guilt and lack of confidence in what they are doing.

However, one that has some grounding in biblical morality and knows what is right in God's eyes will stand up often against overwhelming odds that he discerns as unrighteousness.

*"The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion." Prov. 28:1*

**Immorality vs. Morality.** Even though many may think biblical commandments no longer apply to "modern" man, they do! There will usually be many that feel comfortable doing wrong, and if they have their will and way will bring a country to destruction. Sin NEVER prospers anyone! However, the bold stand of the few that understand biblical principles, live by them, and boldly proclaim them can preserve a nation from being destroyed. There will often be a struggle between the two groups.

*"For the transgression of a land many are the princes thereof: but by a man of understanding and knowledge the state thereof shall be prolonged." Prov. 28:2*

*"They that forsake the law [the laws of God] praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them." Prov. 28:4*

**Spiritually blinded vs. Spiritually discerning.** Those following their own rules and ways think they know what they are doing, but they are just “shooting in the dark”. Their ways usually result in failure and hurt many. Those that wholly follow and obey God’s commandment, found in His Word, will make more righteous decisions because God is never wrong!

*“Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.” Prov. 28:5*

*“He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.” Prov. 28:9*

*“Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good things in possession.” Prov. 28:10*

*“The prince that wanteth understanding [does not know what he is doing] is also a great oppressor: but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days.” Prov. 28:6*

*“He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.” Prov. 28:26*

**Shame vs. Rejoicing.** When the unrighteous, wicked rule and reign there is shame, uncertainty, and failure.

However, when righteous principles are honored, there is peace among the people and the people are happier.

*“When righteous men do rejoice, there is great glory: but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden.” Prov. 28:12*

*“Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father.” Prov. 28:7*

*“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” Prov. 28:13*

*“Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once.” Prov. 28:18*

**Easy Money vs. Hard Work.** Often to gather votes or popularity, many are offered free handouts as an incentive. However, according to the Bible, hard work gives more reward than a temporary bribe.

*“He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough.” Prov. 28:19*

*“A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.” Prov. 28:20*

There never will be a perfect governing force. Even the godliest biblical leaders sinned and made mistakes. Today’s government will never be any different. Government will never be perfect until Jesus rules man during the Millennial Reign. Meantime, in governments where people have the opportunity to pick their leaders, it will always be a choice between evil, and not so evil. If you have an opportunity to vote for a leader, make sure that it is for the one who adheres most closely to godly principles. God’s ways always work! Man’s do not! Do not shirk your responsibility to vote!

***“No enactment of man can be considered law unless it conforms to the law of God.”*** — Sir William Blackstone

## Armor Up!

*Bill Brinkworth*

Finishing his letter to the Ephesians, Paul reminds them of one important fact that all should never forget. We need to remember that there is a daily spiritual battle going on. We cannot see the enemy, or whom the battle is against, but it constantly rages.

The battle is not between people that we think are the reason for our many conflicts. The root goes beyond those we do not get along with, or those who seem to be making our lives miserable. We struggle “against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12).

A “principality” is a supreme power, and can be the territory of a prince. Since Satan is the “prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2), and is the author of much spiritual wickedness, it is he that is often the instigator of many of the troubles we face. With this in mind, we need to remember our battle is not against our parents, a person we work with, our neighbor, a political party, or someone in church. Our battle originates spiritually, and it is often stirred up by satanic forces.

Because it is a real battle that we as Christians fight almost daily, we need to protect ourselves the way God says to. Our protection is not locking ourselves in our room and keeping away from everyone; and it is not by being nasty to those that are not treating us right. Since

the battle is spiritual, we need to protect ourselves spiritually. This is done by:

- Being filled with the truth from the Word of God. It is the only thing that will shed real light on where the battle is, and what it is actually about (Eph. 6:14). One cannot be full of truth, if one does not read God's word!
- Purposing in your heart to live righteously; no matter what happens in your life (Eph. 6:14).
- Walking in the way the Gospel commands, not altering your direction just because everyone else is walking in the opposite direction (Eph. 6:15).
- Letting faith and trust in what the Word of God says lead you and protect you from what you may think will happen (Eph. 6:16).
- Having a new mind in Christ when you are saved (I Cor. 2:16). Let holy thinking and decision making guide you (Eph. 6:17).

All the above are spiritual "armors". One defensive weapon in a Christian's arsenal is his knowledge and use of the Word of God (Eph. 6:17). Obedience and the following of God's commandments, recorded in its pages, will be how we are delivered from spiritual challenges and battles.

The other defensive weapon a Christian has is his ability to reach the throne room of Heaven in prayer. Since it is a spiritual battle, it takes our spiritual Father to fight and get involved in our dilemmas (Eph. 6:18).

There is a daily, spiritual battle going on. Too many have been wounded and are out of service for the Lord because they never armored-up for the spiritual war that is all around them. God knows best as to how we can survive and win no matter what is happening around us. The only way to win is to daily put on our spiritual armor.

**“Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right.”** — *Abraham Lincoln*