



# “Hope Rising”

Logismoi = a stronghold.

(see Ephesians 6:12; 2 Cor.10:4-5)

“Sinful systems of thought, evil ways of life, and religious but anti-Christian gospels that promise meaning, hope and protection... worldviews that shape the city... social idols that capture the life of the city... sinful narratives on which people rely. They inhibit people’s lives, their imaginations, their shared memory, and their collective hopes.”

– Leonardo de Chirico

A counterfeit Gospel has taken hold across the known world causing what seems like a united effort against the genuine Gospel of Jesus Christ.

*“<sup>4</sup>And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks. <sup>5</sup>When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. <sup>6</sup>And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”*

Upon the Spirit’s leading, we are responsible to recognize and engage in the spiritual battle, but we are not responsible for the outcome; being a bystander is being disobedient.

[See The Watchman in Ez. 33:1-9]

*“<sup>7</sup>And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. <sup>8</sup>Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.”*

(See Romans 16:23; See part 7 of Better Days on Philippi for “household”)

Better Days series / week 11

Pastor Doug Melder

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*“<sup>9</sup>And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, <sup>10</sup>for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.”*

When we are engaged in a spiritual battle, we should be spiritually distressed when we see evidence of the enemy’s victories around us. (see Acts 17:16; 2 Thess. 3:1-3; 1 Cor. 2:1-3)

Jesus speaks into our spiritual distress the truth of both His presence and His Kingdom. (see 1 Corinthians 12:9-10; 1 John 4:4)

*“<sup>11</sup>And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. <sup>12</sup>But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, <sup>13</sup>saying, “This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law.” <sup>14</sup>But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. <sup>15</sup>But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things.” <sup>16</sup>And he drove them from the tribunal. <sup>17</sup>And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.”*

- Acts 18:1-18 (ESV)

## Small Group Questions

1. Read the definition of a “logismoi” / stronghold. What are some strongholds that you see in our city, your neighborhood, workplace or in your own lives?
2. How well do you understand the term “spiritual battle”?
  - A. How often do you recognize & engage in it?
  - B. Read about the Watchman in Ezekiel 33:1-9. How well are you doing at fulfilling this role?
  - C. What would it look like for you to do this? (tangible examples please )
3. Read the following Scriptures and talk after each one about how this speaks to our spiritual distress but also Christ’s victory. (2 Thess. 3:1-3; 1 Cor. 2:1-3; 1 Corinthians 12:9-10; 1 John 4:4)

