

Here are three questions that expose and explain the relevance of this week's study:

—1} How am I being **CONDITIONED** by the *corruption* in our *culture*?

—2} Are my *attitudes & actions* being **COMPROMISED** toward *evil*?

—3} How does the **CONTENT & CONTEXT** of God's Word *apply* to me?

#### ***Some Quotes to Help Introduce Our Study***

—“God allows us the luxury of difficult choices so that we can prove our love for Him. These are our opportunities to choose Him and His authority rather than the world.” —**Erwin W. Lutzer**

—“*Our culture has been conditioned to condone lifestyles and behavior that contradict God's Word. Our personal response to this will either lead us into a deeper and more intimate relationship with the Lord or into a lifestyle marked by compromise and confusion over what's right and what's wrong. We can't afford to ignore what God's Word teaches us about the dangers of evil.*” —**GAD**

—“This is a time when all of God's people need to keep their eyes and their Bibles wide open. We must ask God for discernment as never before.” —**David Jeremiah**

—“*Churches must never give a platform to teaching which denies the gospel or condones what's evil. Followers of Christ must not give their ear to ideas that will lead to compromising God's Truth!*”

—**adapted from a statement by Alistair Begg**

—“We should never give thanks to God for sin, or, for that matter, we should never give thanks to God for Satan. But we can give thanks for the way God uses evil to accomplish His purposes. We can give thanks for our own struggles and temptations and say, “Even in this, God is good and His will is being done.” —**Erwin W. Lutzer**

—“*Once people stop believing in the God of the Bible, they don't believe in nothing—they begin to believe in anything.*” —**Many pastors**

#### **—Some Questions for Personal Reflection & Discussion—**

—1} Years ago, Focus on the Family, a ministry based in Colorado Springs, began to declare October as “Spiritual Warfare Month.” There had been some research done that indicated an increase in spiritual battles during this time of year. How often do you sense some form of spiritual oppression or an increase in temptation toward sin?

—2} Some people have the opinion that discussing spiritual warfare is wrong because it gives too much attention to activities that we'd rather ignore or avoid. However, the Bible often warns us to be alert to recognize the *deeds & dangers of darkness* in order to motivate us to put on the *armor of Light* provided for us by God's Spirit. Based on what you find in Romans 12:9; 13:10–14; 2 Timothy 3:1–5; & Ephesians 5:15–18, how would you respond to someone who thinks we shouldn't discuss or put very much emphasis on spiritual warfare?

—3} Various people have asked about how faithful followers of the Lord should approach Halloween. This can be controversial, but it doesn't need to be complicated. We might want to consider how Paul addresses questionable areas (*literally whether Christians should eat meat that's connected in some way to sacrifices made to idols*) in 1 Corinthians 8–10 & Romans 13–15. Being involved in uncertain areas becomes a matter of three things. 1) Our Holy Spirit-controlled conscience and 2) our concern about causing someone else to fall into a dangerous area that might cause spiritual harm. 3) However, we must also be alert to any biblical commands related to this. For example, witches, ghosts, haunted houses, celebrating anything impure or immoral, psychics (fortune telling), & items that are related to the spirit world, except the Holy Spirit, are forbidden by Scripture. What personal thoughts do you have about this? Why should we be careful about such activities?

—4} Using 2 Corinthians 10:3–6; 1 Peter 5:6–10; & Ephesians 6:10–20, what personal principles should we establish for ourselves in finding protection from anything that might be considered evil, wicked, or dangerous to our relationship with the Lord?

—*We're instructed to put on the FULL armor of God. What should be involved in putting on the full armor, as opposed to just attempting to arm ourselves for protection?*

—Why is it beneficial for us to recognize that our most pressing struggles are spiritual in nature, & not physical? How does this reality help to prepare us in a proper manner?

—*It might be helpful to discuss the three questions that introduce this study. They're inserted on the sermon study notes & on the top of the other side of this page.*