

Let us turn to the sixth chapter of the Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians beginning with verse 10

Last time I spoke to you I spoke about the power of Satan and I listed about 70 vv. in the NT that refer to him by the name Satan or by the term the Devil. One of those I listed was "put on the whole armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." Somehow I overlooked the last verse of what I just read. "In addition to all this take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."

I sometimes hear people refer to two aspects of Satan. One that we read that he goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. The other that he (his ministers) are transformed into an angel of light. I never noticed until these last two or three minutes that we have these two aspects in this same passage.

In v. 16 we have "all the flaming arrows of the evil one." In v. 11 we have "put on the whole armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." KJV says, "against the wiles of the devil."

Last time we spoke particularly about the power of Satan. I said it's important we be aware of his power. He is a real for in the world. No question of that. His power is tremendous. When you look at the situation that in N. America is the source from which 80% of foreign support of the work of foreign missions comes, it seems inconceivable to us that this might be extinguished so that it would come to be a place where Christ was hardly known. A place where those who worship him have to do so in dungeons, in prisons, in suffering and persecution. It's hard to conceive of it being possible as you think of what N. America has been.

Yet as we mentioned the other day, on the other side of the picture we see how greatly our nation has turned away from God. We see our nation sinking into deeper sin all the time. You, if you would look at the moving pictures, as they were 50 years ago and hear the criticism of many Christian people about that which seemed in them immoral and unclean and then compare them with the things that are flaunted on TV and brought into people's homes today. Why what they showed 50 years ago seems like purity itself! It is just hard to realize the change that has taken place, morally in decency in many regards in our nation.

We heard ~~x~~ more today about people who are born again than we did a few years ago. There are some great evangelistic campaigns in which a number of people come to the Lord, and God gives blessing to efforts of His people. But today there are at