

THE ANGELIC CONFLICT (#3) (In The Church Age)

Teleiogy is a theology term used to describe the study of spiritual growth maturity in CWL

(Heb.5:14) “But solid food is for the mature (teleios), who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.” (Matt.4:4)

We are studying 12 church age doctrines that are essential for spiritual growth maturity. Today we are studying the ninth Teleiogy doctrine:

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|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Grace | Positional Truth | Angelic Conflict |
| Dispensations | Spiritual Gifts | |
| Spirituality | The Will of God | |
| The Faith Cycle | Suffering | |

You might wonder how important is the doctrine of the Angelic Conflict? The Bible opens and closes with it.

- **The Bible opens** with the beginning of human history and the angelic conflict (Adam, Eve, and Satan) (Gen.2:17; 3:1-7).
- **The Bible closes** with the end of human history and the angelic conflict (Millennium, Gog and Magog, GWTJ, and Lake of Fire; Rev.20).

The Angelic Conflict (A/C) is a doctrinal term to describe the spiritual warfare between Satan’s evil forces and God’s divine agencies in the world (Eph.6:10-20).

This is the third lesson on the doctrine of the A/C: Origin of A/C; First A/C against Mankind; and A/C in Church Age.

Last week we discussed five bread and butter schemes of the devil uses to attack mankind (Adam and Eve) (2 Cor.2:11; Gen.3).

- Targets volition (free agent)
- Looks for kinks in spiritual armor
- Challenges beliefs by offering alternatives to word of God
- Attacks the directive will of God
- Encourages walking by sight rather than faith

Today we will study four aspects of the AC in Church Age.
We will learn how to fight successfully against “spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”
(Eph.6:12b)

1. Every church age believer is a soldier in the Lord’s army in the AC in the Church Age.

Soldier on active duty:

(2 Tim.2:3-4) “Suffer hardship with me (sugkakopatheo) (a.a.impv.2ps), as (hos) [comparative particle] a good soldier (stratiotes) (nsm) of Christ Jesus (possessive genitive of relationship). No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday (pragmateia) life (tou bios), so that (hina) [purpose] he may please (aresko) (a.a.subj 3ps) the one who enlisted him as a soldier (to stratologeio) (a.a.ptc. dsm).”

A Church Age Believer (CAB) who is activated to duty as a soldier of the Lord is commanded to focus on the warfare of the A/C – “No soldier in active service entangles himself in civilian life.” WHY? (Note the hina / purpose clause).

WHY? A CAB engaged in the A/C is to please his Commander-in-chief, the Lord Jesus Christ (aresko).

Hymns of the A/C: A Mighty Fortress, Am I a soldier of the cross, Faith is the victory, Fight the good fight, Onward, Christian Soldiers, Soldiers of Christ, arise, Who is on the Lord's side.

2. The devil's goal is to get the CAB to switch from God's directive will to some distorted view and thus surrender to do the devil's will rather than God's.

(2 Tim.2:26) “And they may come to their senses and escape (ananepho / a.a.subj 3pl) [Sobered from a drunk / intoxicated by cosmos diabolicus] from (ek+abl.of source) the snare (pagis / abl.s.f) of the devil, having been held captive (ananepho / perf.p.ptc. nplm) to do his will (to thelema).”

We will mention two examples of this principle: Ananias-Sapphira (Acts 5); and Peter (Matt.16:21-23).

Lord to Peter: “But He turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.” (Matt.16:23)

Peter to Ananias: “But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land?’” (Acts 5:3)

3. We do not fight for victory but to be faithful (1 Tim.6:12; 2 Tim.4:7-8).

Victory in the AC has already been won by Jesus Christ (Acts 26:18; Col.1:13).

(Heb.2:14-15) “Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.” (Gen.3:15; Gal.4:4)

(Rom.16:20) “And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” (Ps.110:1)

(1 John 4:4) “You are from God, little children, and have overcome (nikao / perf.a.ind.2pl) them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”

4. Paul gave five Greek imperatives essential for fighting successfully with six church age doctrines in the A/C (Eph.6:10-17).

- Be strong (endunamoo / p.m.impv.2pl) in the Lord (Eph.6:10)
- Put on (enduo / a.m.impv.2pl) the full armor of God (Eph.6:11-12)
- Take up (analambano / a.a.impv.2pl) the full armor to resist (Eph.6:13)
- Stand firm (histemi / a.a.aimpv.2pl) with the full armor (Eph.6:14-16)
 - [4 pieces of armor/ defense]

- Take (dechomai / a.a.impv.2pl) the helmet and sword (Eph.6:17)
 - [2 pieces of armor / offense]

The six church age doctrines:

- Truth (Ps.119:160; John 8:44; 1 John 1:8; 2:22; 2 Tim.2:15)
- Righteousness (2 Cor.5:21; 6:14; Gal.2:21; Matt.5:20; 6:33; Eph.4:24)
- Preparation of gospel of peace (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; 5:12; Gal.1:7; 2:5)
- Faith (Rom.10:17; 1 Cor.16:13; 2 Cor.13:5; 2 Cor.5:7; Gal.2:16)
- Salvation (Isa.59:7; Eph.2:8-9; 1 Thess.5:18 Acts 4:12; 16:17, 30; Rom.1:16;5:10)
- Word of God (Acts 6:7; Rom.10:6; 1 Pet.1:23; Heb.4:12; 2 Tim.3:16-17; James 1:21-22; Titus 1:9)