

**The Attackers: Review: Introduction to Eph 6:12: Commentary on Verses that Emphasize the "Struggle" against Satanic Forces: Matt 10:16; Col 2:8; 1 Tim 4:1-2; Rom 16:17-19; Eph 5:6-8; 2 Pet 2:1-3; 1 Cor 15:33; 2 Cor 11:3, 13-15; 2 Tim 3:13; Titus 1:10a; 1 Pet 5:8; 2 Pet 1:16a; 3:3-5a**

16. The various attackers that occupy the legions of the Dark Side are the subject of:

**Ephesians 6:12 -** For our struggle [ πάλη (pále) ] is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (NASB)

17. This verse begins with the causal conjunction ὅτι (hóti) and instead of "for," it should be translated "because."
18. The following phrase, "our struggle is not" includes the possessive pronoun ἡμῖν (hēmín), translated "our," followed by the subject πάλη (pále). This word's history goes as far back as Homer and originally meant "wrestling" and this is how the King James translates it.
19. The NIV and NASB translate it "struggle," but Greek tragedies gave it a more general sense of "conflict."

**πάλη (pále).** A wrestling, struggle, or hand-to-hand combat. It was used of the wrestling of athletes and of the hand-to-hand combat of soldiers both of which required deftness and speed. It denoted the struggle between individual combatants in distinction from an entire military campaign.<sup>1</sup>

20. In the Invisible War, Church Age believers, like it or not or aware or not, are combatants. They are engaged in daily combat against the Dark Side and it is not hand-to-hand but "thought-to-thought."
21. They must be able to think divine viewpoint or they will be seized as POWs. Shackled in chains of cosmic thought, they become enemies of the cross of Christ. Some biblical examples of cosmic deception amplify this critical truth:

**Matthew 10:16 -** "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd [ φρόνιμος (phrónimos): a prudent and wise mind-set in dealing with unbelievers ] as serpents and innocent as doves."

**Colossians 2:8 -** See to it that no one takes you captive [ POW ] through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

**1 Timothy 4:1** - The Holy Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

**v. 2 -** by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron.

**Romans 16:17 -** Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.

---

<sup>1</sup> Spiros Zodhiates, gen ed., "πάλη," *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 1992), 1091.

**v. 18 -** For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

**v. 19 -** For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil.

**Ephesians 5:6 -** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

**v. 7 -** Therefore do not be partakers with them;

**v. 8 -** for you were formerly darkness, but now are Light in the Lord; walk as children of the Light.

**2 Peter 2:1 -** False prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

**v. 2 -** Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be maligned;

**2 Peter 2:3 -** and in their greed they will exploit you with false words  
...

**1 Corinthians 15:33 -** Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

**2 Corinthians 11:3 -** I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

**2 Corinthians 11:13 -** For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, dissembling themselves [ μετασχηματίζω (*metaschēmatízō*) ] as apostles of Christ.

**v. 14 -** No wonder, for even Satan disguises [ *metaschēmatízō*<sup>2</sup> ] himself as an angel of light.

**v. 15 -** Therefore it is not surprising if [ 1CC ] his servants also disguise [ *metaschēmatízō* ] themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

**2 Timothy 3:13 -** Evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

**Titus 1:10a -** For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers ...

**1 Peter 5:8 -** Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

**2 Peter 1:16a -** We did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ ...

---

<sup>2</sup> μετασχηματίζω. This outward change is best illustrated by contrasting *metaschēmatízō* with *metamorphóō*, to transform. It is possible for Satan to transform himself into an angel of light, i.e., he can change his whole outward semblance. But it would be impossible to apply *metamorphóō* to any such change for this would imply an internal change, a change not of appearance but of essence, which lies beyond his power" (Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary*, 973).

**2 Peter 3:3** - Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers [ ἐμπαίκτης (*empaíktēs*): scoffers showing disrespect and derision ] will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts,

**2 Peter 3:4** - and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming [ the Rapture ]? For ever since the parents fell asleep [ Old Testament writers now dead ], all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation [ uniformitarianism<sup>3</sup> ].

**v. 5a** - For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago ...

---

<sup>3</sup> A theory developed by Scottish geologist Sir Charles Lyell asserting that all features of the earth's surface, including even its mountains, are produced by natural processes operating over a long period of time. In 1830 he published *Principles of Geology* as a polemic to the writings of French palaeontologist Georges Cuvier |kūv'-yā| that claimed the normal operations of nature have been repeatedly suspended by direct intervention of a superhuman agency.