

NEWS AND VIEWS
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. (Colossians 2:15)

Who can forget that Sunday morning video of Saddam Hussein being examined by a doctor after his amazing capture? The appearance of the former Iraqi strongman seemed more like a helpless and hopeless man than a powerful and much feared murderous dictator. The capture of Hussein was seen as a military victory. But amazingly enough, some people were critical. They thought that the worldwide broadcast was too humiliating. They believed that Saddam Hussein should never have been subjected to this treatment. No matter what political side you come down on, I would agree with one thing. It was a humiliating moment. And for the United States Armed Forces, it was considered the humiliation of the enemy.

Have you ever been the target of the enemy during a spiritual battle? Our enemy, Satan, will use every means at his disposal, every weapon in his arsenal, to discourage and demoralize us. He wants us to be ineffective in the spiritual battle against wickedness. He is ruthless and uses people who are dear to us to wound us. He is merciless and will destroy us if he can. But the good news is that his power is limited.

Jesus said that we are blessed when men persecute us and revile us and insult us in His name. I take great comfort to know that even when I am severely tested under the withering fire of the enemy, God uses the heat of the battle to test us and season us for His service. We are found useful to God when we are found faithful in the fight. We are successfully faithful when we continue to trust the Lord our God. We have an enemy who is fighting a desperate war because he is defeated. Like the intermittent attacks of pockets of resistance in Iraq or other places in the world today, Satan is using much the same strategy. He seeks to depress the spiritual warrior within us and to discredit us for God's service. But the Most High God has another idea.

I. HUMILIATING THE ENEMY IS PART OF WINNING THE WAR. At the cross, the enemy's power was taken away. No more can sin enslave us. We are free of its power because of Christ's payment on the cross. When Life surrendered to death, Death was put to death.

II. PUBLIC DISPLAY OF THE ENEMY'S HELPLESSNESS IS DEMORALIZING TO HIM AND ENCOURAGING TO US. One day every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. When Satan bows the knee, all the demons of hell will know their fate is sealed. That is encouraging to me.

III. A DISARMED ENEMY IS A DEFEATED ENEMY. Once an enemy is disarmed, his power to wage war is over. Sin's defeat at the cross is the decisive victory in spiritual warfare. We are given the mind of Christ so every God-dishonoring thought may be taken captive. God is cleaning up the battlefield one skirmish at the time. Take heart and stay on the battlefield. The battle is the Lord's!

IV. THE MYSTERY OF THE RESURRECTION WAS REVEALED AS THE SUPREMACY OF GOD'S STRATEGY. Consider the greatest strategic blunder the forces of Satan never saw coming... *but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;*

(1 Corinthians 2:7-9)

The enemy never knew what God was up to when Jesus was put to death. Perhaps he was just ignorant of what God was ultimately capable of. He still does not possess the end game strategy of God's end time timeline...but he surely knows his time is short. Like rats running out of room, things are closing in on the Satanic strongholds in this realm. Remember the supremacy of God our Savior when you are defeated by the enemy's strategic power plays in your life. Remember Jesus is Lord...think about it. And then live like you believe it. There is only room for One Master of the Universe. Only One God is worthy of our worship. Blessed be the Name of the Lord...Blessed is the Name of Jesus...and Blessings be to you...

Pastor Sam