



WEEK 8 | NICK CARNES

All Scripture is in the Christian Standard Bible (CSB), unless noted differently.

Satan's most effective weapon against the church isn't _____.

It's _____.

Revelation 12:7-9, 12b Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought, ⁸ but he could not prevail, and there was no place for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was thrown out—the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him. ^{12b} ... Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you with great fury, because he knows his time is short.

Ephesians 2:1-2 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins ² in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.

Ephesians 6:10-12 Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 Now the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons, ² through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared.

1 Timothy 4:3 They forbid marriage and demand abstinence from foods that God created to be received with gratitude by those who believe and know the truth.

Hebrews 9:8-10 The Holy Spirit was making it clear that the way into the most holy place had not yet been disclosed while the first tabernacle was still standing.

Outline Continues on Page 2

⁹ This is a symbol for the present time, during which gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the worshiper's conscience. ¹⁰ They are physical regulations and only deal with food, drink, and various washings imposed until the time of the new order.

1 Timothy 4:4-5 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ since it is sanctified by the word of God and by prayer.

Colossians 2:8, 16-18 Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elements of the world, rather than Christ.... ¹⁶ don't let anyone judge you in regard to food and drink or in the matter of a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of what was to come; the substance is Christ. ¹⁸ Let no one condemn you by delighting in ascetic practices and the worship of angels, claiming access to a visionary realm. Such people are inflated by empty notions of their unspiritual mind.

GO DEEPER

This week, read the Scriptures from Sunday and answer these questions:

1. What did you learn from Sunday's sermon? Did you gain new insights?
2. Paul teaches that believers are in a spiritual battle. Why do you think many Christians today avoid talking about spiritual warfare? What dangers come from ignoring this reality?
3. 1 Timothy 4:1 says people depart from the faith because they listen to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons. What are some ways deception can slowly influence a believer's thinking without them realizing it?
4. The false teachers in Ephesus added religious rules about marriage and food that God didn't command. Why is adding man-made religious rules just as dangerous as rejecting God's commands?
5. Paul emphasizes that everything created by God is good and should be received with gratitude. How does gratitude for God's creation protect us from legalism or false spirituality?
6. The sermon mentioned modern attacks on truth such as redefining marriage or denying the value of human life. What cultural messages today most challenge biblical truth, and how should Christians respond?
7. 1 Peter 5:8 calls believers to be sober-minded and alert. What practical habits help you stay grounded in truth and resist spiritual deception?