

THE BATTLE

Ephesians 6:10-20 | Mark 7:14-23

The language of _____

Living _____

The _____ armor

Take our _____ in the risen Savior

READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REMEMBER.

Sometimes I deeply wonder what people think Christianity is. Culturally, it seems to often be communicated as an organization of moral superiority, even to the point of excusing some pretty immoral things in its wake. For many, it seems to be a ticket to a better place – an excuse to toil through drudgery because something better is coming. For some, it's a culture that is full of sentiment, believing that our days of yore were all well and good and the existence of the church was to meet our needs. But is that it? Are we, as Jesus might say, so dull?

Read Mark 7:14-23.

Reflect:

Jesus is talking about evil in the context of the understanding of purity in his day. And he locates evil not in an external location but internally. What does that say about us?

Can you be wrong? Can you *readily* be wrong? Can you identify something of sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly in yourself, or is it only in others?

Respond:

Jesus is our defense, even against ourselves.

Remember:

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” Ephesians 6:18