

## WHO IS IN CONTROL?

--ESTHER 2:19-3:5--

### INTRODUCTION:

There is nothing more exciting to see than the joy of a new Christian, even more exciting is experiencing that joy yourself, but we must never forget that the joy we have was bought at the expense of the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ. This needs to be remembered when difficulties come and the Christian must soon learn that joy and sorrow go hand in hand, and that out of death comes life, and this is the truth that we are taught through the death and resurrection of our Savior, and this is the true secret of joy. Sometime after the marriage of Esther and Ahasuerus, an incident takes place that could have changed everything had not God intervened.

#### I. AN EVIL PLOT UNCOVERED (Esther 2:19-23)

- a. In these five verses several things come to \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Mordecai was sitting in the king's \_\_\_\_\_, which seems to indicate that he was there in some official capacity.
- c. During this time, two of the king's servants, these servants were guards at the king's door, became \_\_\_\_\_ with the king.
- d. Mordecai, (who remember represents the Holy Spirit) is sitting in the gate in his official role, he has not yet gained access to the \_\_\_\_\_, the place of control.
- e. While performing his duties he discovers or overhears this plot against the king's \_\_\_\_\_.

#### II. THE PRINCIPLE OF THE CROSS (Colossians 2:13-15)

- a. Long before we knew it ourselves, the Lord Jesus Christ through the Eternal Spirit of God offered Himself without spot or blemish to God as a living \_\_\_\_\_ upon a cross.
- b. The principle of the cross is introduced to us as the only means by which God deals with \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. God has recorded for our instruction the incredible history of the cross and has revealed to us that by means of that cross He

intends to \_\_\_\_\_ us from that evil power that is at work to rob us of our blessing in Christ. (Romans 10:17)

- d. If Christianity was \_\_\_\_\_ more than becoming a Christian by faith in Christ, then Esther could end here.

#### III. A NEW EVIL INTRODUCED (Esther 3:1-5)

- a. In these opening verses of chapter 3 we are introduced to a new person, this man named \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. We can learn something about this man from the \_\_\_\_\_ of his family.
- c. The prophet Samuel was sent by God to order King Saul to destroy the Amalekites of whom \_\_\_\_\_ was the king. (1 Samuel 15:1-3)
- d. This grisly command seems difficult to understand unless we know the \_\_\_\_\_ that God made it. (Exodus 17:8-11, 14-16)
- e. God declared war with Amalek forever. He will never make \_\_\_\_\_ with that nation. (Malachi 1-2)
- f. Returning to King \_\_\_\_\_ and the account concerning him in 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel. (1 Samuel 15:8-9)
- g. He spared \_\_\_\_\_ and by doing so presumed to find good in what God had declared to be bad.
- h. Of even more interest, if you remember last week, I told you to remember the \_\_\_\_\_ of Mordecai.

#### IV. THE PRINCIPLE OF EVIL (Galatians 5:16-17)

- a. The New Testament teaches that there is in every life, even the Christian life, an \_\_\_\_\_ principle at work.
- b. But within the Christian, this evil principle of Haman has a relentless and unyielding \_\_\_\_\_—it is our Mordecai, the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:16-17; Romans 8:7)
- c. The Holy Spirit has taken up residence in the Christian heart for one purpose only, that He might \_\_\_\_\_ this evil, satanic influence within us which so subtly and cleverly deceives us and seeks to destroy us.

- d. As long as Haman is in the seat of \_\_\_\_\_ that he has been advanced to by the king, the whole kingdom will be affected by his evil designs.
- e. But Mordecai knows who this Haman is, and he \_\_\_\_\_ to bow to him or give him respect, even if this is a command of the king.
- f. Because Haman rules by the will of the king, it will be necessary to open the eyes of the \_\_\_\_\_ to the true nature of his prime minister.

CONCLUSION:

This morning we have looked at the principle of the cross, that principle says that the cross is the only means by which God deals with evil. Just as those who planned evil against the king were nailed to a tree, our Savior taking upon Himself the evil that was determined to destroy the soul of man and died in our place so that we might be delivered from sin and might be adopted into God's family. Jesus promised before He returned to heaven that He would send the Holy Spirit. When we put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation we are immediately indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Just as the king's eyes need to be opened to the true evil nature of Haman, so the Holy Spirit works in our lives to open our eyes to the true evil nature of our flesh. This enemy of our soul is crafty and subtle and not easily dislodged, but until he is overthrown the kingdom can never know peace. Haman knows that he cannot prevail if Mordecai ever gains the king's ear. The battle is now joined, just as the battle for our soul is being waged. Who will prevail, who is in control?