

Definition of “isms”—“A distinctive doctrine, ideal, system, or practice

Eph 6:10-18

Wiles of the devil—“isms”

S.G. Goodrich—“The world grew lightheaded, and forth came a spawn of isms which no man can number.”

Wrestle—constant opposition—no “stalling”

William Gurnall—(A Christian) “is a wrestler, not a conqueror...He is not immediately called to triumph over his enemies, but is carried into battle to fight them...Wrap your weary soul in this promise: There is a place of rest reserved for the people of God. You do not beat the air, but wrestle with heaven and a permanent crown in mind. Here on earth we overcome to fight again...We know peace is sweet after war, pleasure after pain. But what tongue can express the joy that will flood the creature at the first sight of God and his eternal home? If we knew more of that future blissful state, we would worry less about our present conflict.” (From “The Christian in complete Armor”)

Whole armor of God—warfare—hand to hand combat

Stand (3x) ---Not lose our position (like Adam & Eve)

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be sober,

1 Pet 4:7—Be sober—Implies here not to be swept away by emotions or passions, thus maintaining a proper eternal perspective on life—sojourner mind-set

1 Pet 1:13—(Gird up) the loose ends of one’s thinking by rejecting the hindrances of the world (“isms”) and focusing on the future grace of God.

Be sober—spiritual sober-mindedness includes the ideas of steadfastness, self-control, clarity of mind, and moral decisiveness. The sober Christian is correctly in charge of his priorities and not intoxicated with the various allurements of the world. (“isms”)

Be vigilant

The outside evil forces (“isms”) which come against the Christian demand that he stay alert. (1 Cor 9: 24-27)

Adversary—legal opponent in a lawsuit

Seeking whom he may devour

(“isms” are claws/teeth used to devour)

Resist him—(lit.) “to stand up against”

Steadfast in the faith—Remain firm in the Christian faith and continue to live according to the truth of God’s word

Gospel—total dependence on Christ/total dependence on God’s armor

2 Cor 11:14

Satan transforms himself into an angel of light

Prince of darkness—knows how to imitate light to accomplish his deceptive purposes

Deceiver

“isms” often look right

(Gen 3---good for food—pleasant to eye—desirable to make one wise)

John 8:44

Murderer from the beginning
Liar and father of lies

2 Cor 10:4-5

Weapons of our warfare
Mighty in God (armor of God)
For pulling down strongholds (“isms” are strongholds) , casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

Every sin involves a focus on self
Many “isms” appeal to self in some way
The overarching “ism” above all other “isms” is “selfism”

The solution to every “ism” *is Him*

Every piece of the armor of God *is Him*

[sword = Word of God—parry/riposte = It is written...]

Every part of the tabernacle *is Him*

Every part of redemption—justification, adoption, sanctification, glorification *is Him*

Every part of life *is Him*

[Rom 11:36—For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.]

And when all we see and have our heart set on *is Him* then the “isms” will be defeated
[That will be in eternity—in the mean time we wrestle]

Close with Valley of Vision prayer—The Servant in Battle p.181