

## **April 24th, Reporting for Duty**

### **Part 2 in the series 'Engraved Invitation'**

What resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

Read Ephesians 6:11-12

“Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Jim said we are in an epic war. What is this war about? How did it get started? Who is battling against whom? What is the nature of this war?

Information is an important component of wars. How does the enemy use disinformation to wage this war?

Read 1 John 5:19-21.

“We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. **20** We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. **21** Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.”

Knowing that you are a child of God, what do you think are God’s ambitions for your life? Think of what a human parent wants for their child.

What does it mean for the whole world to be under the control of the evil one? How do idols play a role in that?

## Read Colossians 1:21-23

“Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of<sup>[g]</sup> your evil behavior. **22** But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation — **23** if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.”

What does it mean to be an enemy of God **in our minds**? What are some of the ways we do that?

Pastor Jim said other people are not the enemy in this war. What do you think of that - does that change the way you think of things?

Pastor Jim said that even though our victory is assured, we can still become casualties. How do people become casualties in this war, and can we prevent that from happening?

According to John Mark Comer, what is the devil’s strategy in this war?

A: The devil introduces deceptive ideas, that play to our disordered desires, that are normalized in a sinful society.

Can you think of examples where this pattern has taken place?

What is God’s strategy in this war?

## Read John 17: 20-23

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, **21** that **all of them may be one**, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **22** I have given them the glory that you gave me, that **they may be one** as we are one — **23** I in them and

you in me—so that they may be brought to **complete unity**. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (emphasis added)

What is Jesus’ main prayer for the church? Why is unity so important to Him?

The writer of Hebrews said, “**Let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another...**” What is the role of the church gathering in this war?