

**It is written.** The most powerful thing in your life. Scripture. Our weapon, our only weapon of warfare needed. In today's readings we hear of two watershed battles of human history. The battle is about whom you will believe. How God's Word is ignored and how God's Word triumphs.

**It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God... Again It is written, You shall not tempt the Lord your God... Away with you, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.** Note how all the temptations of Jesus seem reasonable, won't hurt anyone.

Temptations take place in our minds. A battle of words. Temptation, we want the wrong stuff. Our heart so often set upon things God has not given us, does not want for us. Do not ignore the Scriptures. Fight against sinful desires of your flesh. Use His Word in your mind to thwart temptation.

And then life is made worse as the world and devil come along to attack us from the outside. Just like our first parents, **Did God really say this in wrong? Does God really care? God should understand why I do things? Did God really say...?** Things we should not do or say or think. Repent. The devil, the world, our sinful nature seek to rationalize sin, to convince us that it's okay, convince us it's reasonable, it's loving; it's deserving and good in some way. Today the battle is the same as ever.

Temptation every day. Satan and his demons would love to dishearten you and me. Create some doubts. They are serious. They hate you. They fear the Gospel and the church and this ministry; under attack by an enemy that neither sleeps or takes a day off. But **it is written.** God's very Word, the works of Christ alone to defeat anything that could ever harm you.

If you could only see what's real. If you could only see the once crucified but now resurrected Christ, reigning over all the cosmos and yet fully with us, not just as your God, but as your human brother, your High Priest —interceding for you, for His church, and for your endurance. Delivering His strength by the powerful work of the Holy Spirit. Delivering His endurance in His ever-living word, in the daily renewal of your baptism into His death and resurrection which remains forever.

478 years ago yesterday Martin Luther preached his last sermon, was carried from the church to a house across the street, where 478 years ago today, Luther was called to his eternal rest. He was a sinner no less than you, tempted no less than you, needed Lent no less than you.

So Luther would comment, when he did not feel tempted, perhaps satan is leaving him alone because he has gone off the course of faith. Luther often felt attacked, and to use the weapons we've been given. **It is written.** Speak

the scriptures, say the Our Father, pray. Satan will flee. One night when Luther was in hiding from those seeking his life, after the Diet of Worms, Here I stand, so now at the Wartburg Castle, there translating the Scriptures into German. His desk is still there to see, behind a rope barrier 5 feet away. If you cross the barrier to feel the desk an alarm will sound, but I didn't care. But one night Luther threw his inkwell across the room lashing out against Satan's torment. So the famous ink spot, you can buy trinkets today there about the famous ink spot. Don't throw things in your home. But don't be naïve to think you are not attacked; surrounded by evil working to destroy you and your household.

Satan has the unbelieving world. He wants you and works day and night, everyday to have you. He comes after Jesus immediately after baptism, should tell us something of our baptism. And the attack on Jesus certainly as he knows Jesus is a man and wants to corrupt Him, undermine God's works.

**It is written, 1 Peter, your adversary the devil prowls around like a lion seeking someone to devour. Resist Him. Firm in the faith. It is written, James, resist the devil and he will flee from you.** One little word can fell Satan, He flees from you, fight against Him. Do not give in. Do not give up. This is the most real thing in your life. Fight; for the victory is yours. Christ fights then and now for you. He is your strength, your courage. You have His Word, Scriptures. He binds up your wounds from the battle. Be comforted dear child. He comes for you. He defeats the devil for you. He lives and reigns for you.

Note there's no need for Jesus to debate Satan and evil. Here's a good point: Jesus shows you how you fight and prevail. **It is written**, this won't convince the devil or even your friends they're wrong. But it will comfort and strengthen faith. The Word serves the tempted, serves you.

That Epistle. He knows your sorrows. He knows your afflictions. He knows you battles. He carries them to His cross and joins Himself to you now. Comfort for you now; you are not alone. In Him you fight and prevail. **It is written. Fight the good fight of faith. It is written, He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. It is written... all things for you. This weapon of the Scriptures. It is written to eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life. It is written, be of good courage. It is written, be strong fear not. I am with you always. It is written, You are mine. I engrave you on the palm of my hands. Not even a hair of your head will perish. It is written, I have overcome the world. Do not let your heart be troubled. The Scriptures. It is written. Dwell in the weapons of warfare given to you. He hold the field forever we sang. And so do you.**