Biblical Christians in Culture. *Looking at the world through the lens of The Word.*Discovering, applying biblical Truth,confronting untruth with Truth.

**Ep. 7: Live Like Hell & Go There Too**

Satan’s cosmic battle against God includes us. Humans are players in the conflict between good and evil. “Whose side are you on?” is a question that needs an answer.

*REPEATED THEMES 1. Belief affects behavior and behavior affects belief. 2. Everyone everywhere has assumptions, pre-thinking. 3. Christian thinking is molded by Scripture’s commands, principles, & doctrine 4. Everyone has “doctrine” that forms their thinking. 5. Doctrine influences living.*

The Gates of Hell How “hell” is used in culture. “Gates of hell” = Caesarea Philippi. “The Gates of Hell Cannot Stand Against” - Jesus (Matt 16.18). *Panias* (Greek city) Worship of “Pan” pagan deity. Cave entrance to underworld where gods lived in winter “The Gates of Hell” Caesarea Philippi (Roman city) Herod Philip named city after Caesar & himself. (1) CP chosen - pagan belief (2) “gates” defensive structure (3) The Church is on offence (4) Overcome evil w/ Good News (5) Not cultural tactics

The Cosmic Battle See “Satan’s Anti-God Program” (back of page)

*Questions: How does the biblical view of evil compare with that of our culture that wants to label evil as a “psychosis”?* [People don’t like or don’t want to believe that evil is real, personal, and historical. With the advent of modern psychiatry, people attempt to rationalize what they cannot understand in terms with which they are familiar. Evil is not simply a sickness. Evil is embedded in the world and the human condition.] *If evil will never overcome good what are we left with now in the midst of evil?* [Hope that good people will do what is right and hope for a future reclamation of the world (Titus 2:11-14).] *Why does our culture think that calling people “evildoers” is wrong? What does Scripture say?* [The Bible explains that God is against evildoers—Psalms 5 and 11.] *“If evil exists, good must also exist.” Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?* [The thesis of something must exist for the antithesis to be possible. For there to be a comparison between or a knowledge of the two, both must be true at the same time (Genesis 3:22-24).] *Are “good people” totally good all the time? Why or why not?* [Even in the LOTR trilogy there is a constant battle for the minds of the major characters. Good and evil war in their souls (Romans 7:15-24).] Jesus was loving and kind. Why are we so concerned about “hell”? Matt 5:22, 29-30; 10:28; 23:15; Mark 9:43-47; Luke 12:5; John 3:16-18

Phrases that Bear Critique “I’m a good person,” “I’m going through hell,” “Hell is other people.”

Evil: A result of sin (Gen 3; Rom 3:9-20; Eph 2:1-3; Col 2:13-15; Rev 12:1-9) Evil is real, historical, and personal. Evil can never win. Evil people follow the principles of the evil one

Good: A result of God (1) Any good thing comes from the good God (Mark 10:17-18; James 1:17). (2) “Good” people follow laws, rules, and principles that come from The Good God (2 Thess 2:4,1 John 3:7, 9, 11-20). (3) Good always triumphs in the end because that is God’s plan. (Col 2:15; Heb 2:14). (4) While from our limited human perspective evil might appear to gain the upper hand for a while (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11), wickedness will be vanquished by righteousness (Eph 1:20-22; Col 1:19-23; 1 John 3:8; Rev 12:10-12). (5) Our responsibility “do good” (Titus, 8x, Titus 3:1, 8, 14).

**Resistance** means “active confrontation of opposing forces” (James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8, 9). **Demolition** means “knocking down barriers of evil with good” (2 Cor 10:3-5; Eph 3:10-11; 2 Tim 2:24-26)

God’s Story is Supernatural God uses evil for His own purposes (Gen 45:5, 7, 8, 9; 50:20; Ps 76:10; Prov 16:4); God is not to be blamed for evil (James 1:13-14); God controls all everything (Job 1,2 ; Ps 103:19; Dan 4:35); evil is an absence of good & God (2 Thess 2:7); Unbelieving minds are “captured” (2 Co 4:4; Gal 4:8); Two kingdoms exist (Acts 26:18; Col 1:12, 13; 1 John 3:10).