

4) 2/28/73 Eph. 6:10ff AAM 4

He says, For we wrestle not -- the Greek is, For our wrestling is not. This word wrestle is hardly literal here. You don't put on heavy armour to wrestle. If you're going to wrestle in the literal sense, you would have very little on. You would be encumbered, unable to. It is used in the general sense: our struggle, our combat even though the word is the word that is also specifically used for wrestling. Our wrestling is not against flesh and blood. In the Greek it says, "is not against blood and flesh." The KJV translated it "flesh and blood" because that is our common idiom. But I think that Paul purposely said "blood and flesh" because he is not speaking here of the struggle against the flesh. He's not speaking here about the difficulties we have with our own earthly, carnal appetites. There's plenty about that in the NT. But that's not the subject here. Here he's speaking about our real struggle in life, is not against blood and flesh which is a term ~~to~~ to indicate human beings -- against those who are made of the same chemical elements that we are. How easy it is to think of human beings as our enemies. Human beings are complex creatures. They have good points -- qualities and they have bad qualities. There is no one of us that is perfect, and there is no person no matter how degraded but what has some good qualities in him. Some are going this way heading for heaven. Some are going this way heading for destruction. But we can never say which one God may bring to Himself, and want to deal with all human beings in a way that will win them to the Lord if possible, though we want to stand for the Lord's cause where necessary against human beings, but the point here is that our real adversaries are not human beings but are something far greater and stronger than human beings. I'm so sorry that the KJV translated the end of this verse: "against spiritual wickedness in high places." Why should it say, In high places? Does that mean - well, you can think right away of course, in high places about any battle in the old days, say 100 years ago, say at Gettysburg when they were able to seize Little Round Top and stand there in a high place and that gave them a defense. Or you can say in high places of people who occupy prominent positions, but the Greek word that is here translated "high places" is the word which is everywhere else translated heaven (the heavens) and it certainly should be heaven here. It is not those which are in the heavens, not where God is, but in the area where human flesh cannot enter in the natural condition. It refers to Satanic forces. The whole verse is about Satanic forces. Our real struggle is not against human beings.