

## SERMON STUDY NOTES

5<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Speaker: Martin Armstrong

### Walls of Protection – Self Control

1. Today consumerism and self-centredness have hit the Church. Many people are reluctant to commit to a Christian community. “If you don’t do the right thing, we won’t come back – we’ll go somewhere else” How has this weakened the church?
2. Proverbs 25:28 *A person without self-control is as defenceless as a city with broken-down walls.* Give some examples of how a lack of self-control makes a person an easy victim of spiritual attack.
3. People leave a church and take their critical discontented spirit with them. They weaken the wall of their old fellowship start to weaken the wall somewhere else. Discuss
4. In the Spanish Civil War, a Spanish General said “my fifth column will take this city: they are my force inside the city. Satan can never defeat the Church from the outside because Christ has already defeated him. How do you think he goes about establishing a force within?
5. An extremely dangerous spirit in the church today is the Judas Spirit. When Jesus said, “one of you will betray me” each of the disciples replied, “is it me?” they could not discern it. Judas was totally hidden – nobody knew who he was. It wasn’t until Jesus said “let’s make a covenant” – “this is my body; this is my blood” that Judas said “time to get out of here” & betrayed Jesus with a kiss. The Judas spirit wants intimacy without covenant and seeks to establish a traitor force within. Do you believe this or is it just paranoia?
6. 2 Tim 2.2 *Pray for kings and all others who are in authority, so that we can live in peace and quietness, in godliness and dignity.* A house that is divided cannot stand. Elders, Leaders and Parents, – are gatekeepers. As we honour

them we protect ourselves from evil & open ourselves to the blessing that flows from them. Spend some time praying for leaders.

7. Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. Theologian Rick Renner interprets James 4:5 as *“The Spirit who has come to make His home, and permanently dwell in us is moved by an all-consuming, ever-growing, passionate desire to possess us: He is envious and filled with malice toward anything or anyone who tries to take His place in our lives.”* When we Listen to what the HS says to our hearts, and have our spiritual ears open to His counsel and fall in love with Jesus, we can overcome those areas where we are lacking in self-control. Discuss
8. Share with each other those areas in your life where you battle with self-control. Pray for each other.