

I. THE ENEMY AND THEIR METHODS, (vs. 10-12).

Paul saw very distinctly what a life of separation to God, such as he had been speaking of, would mean. And that they might be able to understand the nature of the foes they would have to contend with, and their methods of warfare, he proceeds to describe them. *For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood.* We think sometimes that it is hard to maintain a Christian life against the influence of ungodly people with whom we are associated, especially when they attack our position and denounce the things we believe, and deny our Bible. These things are indeed great annoyances, but they are only human—they are flesh and blood. If we are well-grounded in the faith, these ought not for a moment to move, or even very greatly disturb us. Human opinions after all are weak, and can have little effect to shake the faith of one who knows what he believes and why he believes it. If we have ordinary independence and power of self-assertion, we can with comparative ease defend our position against mere human arguments, or human ridicule. Politicians are not overthrown by the arguments or assaults of their opponents, but when attacked, meet it with their own arguments. So a Christian who knows the ground of his faith, need not be in much fear of "flesh and blood"—the opposition of mere human beings like himself.

Nor need we have much fear from temptations which men place before us, by which they seek to draw us away from a right course. We ought to have personal independence and will enough to resist those who are no greater than we. If we are really committed to the cause we have espoused, all the power of flesh and blood ought