



Worldly Influences

The Battle for Our Mind

Series Topics

1. Trust Not in Man
2. **The Battle for our Mind**
3. Moral Standards
4. The Kingdoms of this World

The Battle for Our Mind

1. Teach a child in the way he should go
2. News media, social media, and entertainment
3. Put on the armour of God

The Battle for Our Mind

Teach a child in the way he should go

Global Education

From a historical perspective, the world went through a great expansion in education over the past two centuries. This can be seen across all quantity measures. Global literacy rates have been climbing over the course of the last two centuries, mainly through increasing rates of enrollment in primary education. Secondary and tertiary education have also seen drastic growth, with global average years of schooling being much higher now than a hundred years ago.

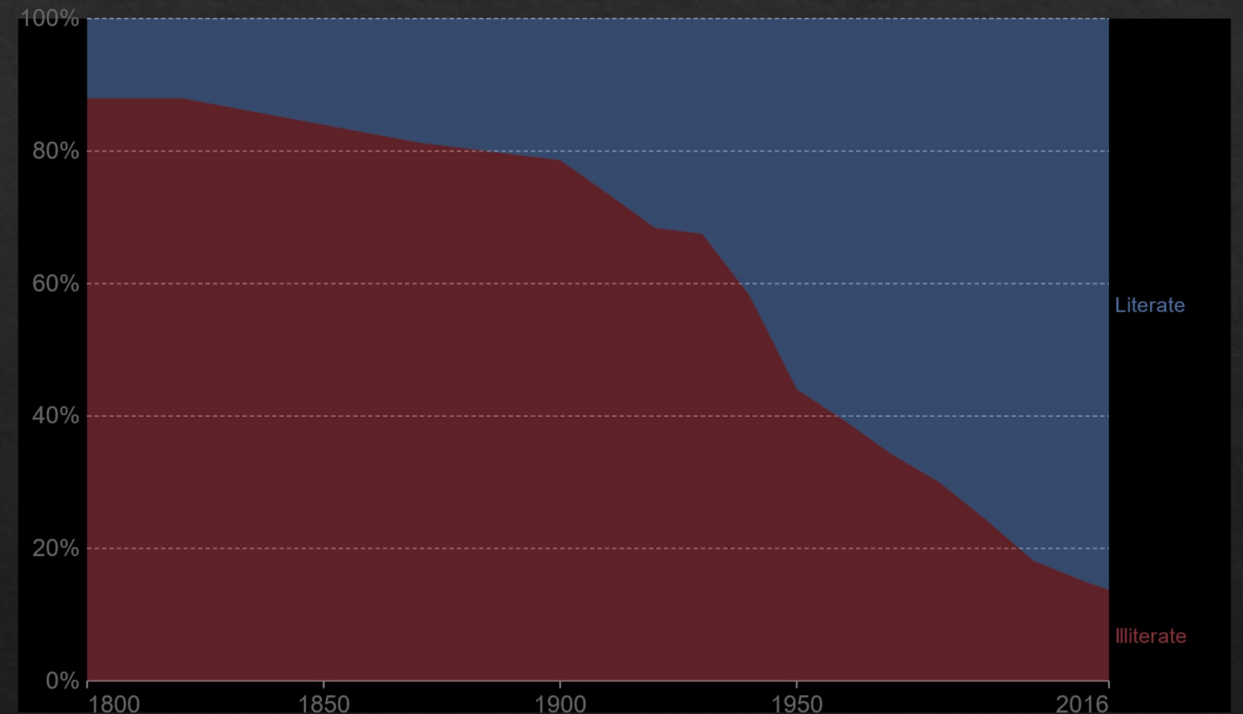
While the earliest forms of written communication date back to about 3,500-3,000 BCE, literacy remained for centuries a very restricted technology closely associated with the exercise of power. It was only until the Middle Ages that book production started growing and literacy among the general population slowly started becoming important in the Western World.

[<https://ourworldindata.org/global-education>]

Literate and illiterate world population

Among people aged 15 and older.

Our World
in Data



Source: Our World in Data based on OECD and UNESCO (2016)

OurWorldInData.org/literacy • CC BY

Give me a child till he is seven years old

‘Give me a child till he is seven years old,’ said St Ignatius Loyola, ‘ and I will show you the man.’

The founder of the Jesuit Brotherhood was way ahead of his time. For most of human history, serious-minded adults paid scant attention to the under-sevens. After all, small children have no obvious economic worth. They’re also difficult to control and apparently impervious to reason...

‘Advertising at its best is making people feel that without their product, you’re a loser. Kids are very sensitive to that... You open up emotional vulnerabilities and it’s very easy to do with kids because they’re the most emotionally vulnerable.’

[<https://sourcenews.scot/give-me-a-child-till-he-is-seven-years-old/>]



How my school tried to indoctrinate children

In the 2020 fall semester, I noticed something strange: Many of my English-as-a-second-language students were failing a mandatory ethnic studies course. Since teachers at the school used the same online platform for lesson plans and learning materials, I was able to access the ethnic studies lessons. While I expected to see plenty of America-bashing, what I found legitimately shocked me: Just about every single lesson had some element of critical race theory in it.

The course syllabus said students would use colored strings to “rank” their different identities to create “intersectional rainbows.” And the class even included a “privilege quiz” instructing students to determine how marginalized—or privileged—they were.

[<https://www.ocregister.com/2022/02/14/im-a-teacher-heres-how-my-school-tried-to-indoctrinate-children/>]

ANTI-RACISM

TALKING ABOUT RACE | NMAAHC

ASPECTS & ASSUMPTIONS OF WHITENESS & WHITE CULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES

White dominant culture, or **whiteness**, refers to the ways white people and their traditions, attitudes and ways of life have been normalized over time and are now considered standard practices in the United States. And since white people still hold most of the institutional power in America, we have all internalized some aspects of white culture — including people of color.



Rugged Individualism

- The individual is the primary unit
- Self-reliance
- Independence & autonomy highly valued + rewarded
- Individuals assumed to be in control of their environment, "You get what you deserve"

Family Structure

- The nuclear family: father, mother, 2.3 children is the ideal social unit
- Husband is breadwinner and head of household
- Wife is homemaker and subordinate to the husband
- Children should have own rooms, be independent



Emphasis on Scientific Method

- Objective, rational linear thinking
- Cause and effect relationships
- Quantitative emphasis

History

- Based on Northern European immigrants' experience in the United States
- Heavy focus on the British Empire
- The primacy of Western (Greek, Roman) and Judeo-Christian tradition



Protestant Work Ethic

- Hard work is the key to success
- Work before play
- "If you didn't meet your goals, you didn't work hard enough"

Religion

- Christianity is the norm
- Anything other than Judeo – Christian tradition is foreign
- No tolerance for deviation from single god concept



Status, Power & Authority

- Wealth = worth
- Your job is who you are
- Respect authority
- Heavy value on ownership of goods, space, property

Future Orientation

- Plan for future
- Delayed gratification
- Progress is always best
- "Tomorrow will be better"



Time

- Follow rigid time schedules
- Time viewed as a commodity

Aesthetics

- Based on European culture
- Woman's beauty based on blonde, thin – "Barbie"
- Man's attractiveness based on economic status, power, intellect
- Steak and potatoes; "bland is best"

- Holidays**
- Based on Christian religions
 - Based on white history & male leaders



Justice

- Based on English common law
- Protect property & entitlements
- Intent counts

Competition

- Be #1
- Win at all costs
- Winner/loser dichotomy
- Action Orientation
- Master and control nature
- Must always “do something” about a situation
- Aggressiveness and Extroversion
- Decision-Making
- Majority rules (when Whites have power)



Communication

- “The King’s English” rules
- Written tradition
- Avoid conflict, intimacy
- Don’t show emotion
- Don’t discuss personal life
- Be polite



EQUITY

- Virtuous without the virtue
- Seductive and manipulative
- Victim culture
- A post-modern nightmare

Control of Information

The most significant development in the culture of war over the course of history has been the increasing importance of the control of information. In parallel with the developments of the printing press, the telephone and radio, television and now internet, the control of these media has been crucial for the maintenance or changing of political power, no less for bourgeois democracy than for authoritarian regimes. We have already mentioned one example: the important role of television in electoral campaigns, and how it provides an ever-increasing advantage to those who are wealthy or have access to wealth.

In recent years control of the media has greatly reinforced the culture of war of the state and military-industrial complex. Never before in history has there been such a concentration of communication power in the hands of a few multi-national corporations, Most media in the United States, for example, are now in the hands of five multi-national corporations. There was popular resistance to this a few years ago, but the media monopolies were supported by the responsible government agency, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC). The FCC was stocked with appointments of the Bush administration and headed by the son of General Colin Powell, the Secretary of State in the Bush administration who initiated the war in Iraq.

[<https://www.culture-of-peace.info/books/history/information.html>]

Cancel Culture Is Not New

“Cancel culture” is nothing new, so why are we acting like it is? Those in power have written their own version of history as they’d like it to be remembered for ages. That “winners write history” is simply another way of saying that selective erasure (or canceling) of inconvenient truths is built into the fabric of documenting history.

The white, Christian, men who wrote our history books have accomplished their goal of telling history through the lens of Eurocentric patriarchal dominance precisely by erasing or minimizing the lives, accomplishments, and cultures of everyone else. The stories we are told intentionally reinforce a narrative designed to protect the power of whiteness and the patriarchy.

[<https://www.honestlymodern.com/cancel-culture-is-not-new/>]

THE BATTLE FOR OUR MIND

Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Pro 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Deu 6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Jdg 2:7 And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel.



PSA 106:37 THEY SACRIFICED
THEIR SONS AND THEIR
DAUGHTERS TO THE DEMONS;

PSA 106:38 THEY Poured OUT
INNOCENT BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF
THEIR SONS AND DAUGHTERS,
WHOM THEY SACRIFICED TO THE
IDOLS OF CANAAN, AND THE LAND
WAS POLLUTED WITH BLOOD.



The Battle for Our Mind

News media, social media, and entertainment



HOW SOCIAL MEDIA ARE RUINING OUR LIVES

a 2021 study from eMarketer that found that the average US adult had increased their time on digital media in 2020 to nearly eight hours a day on average.

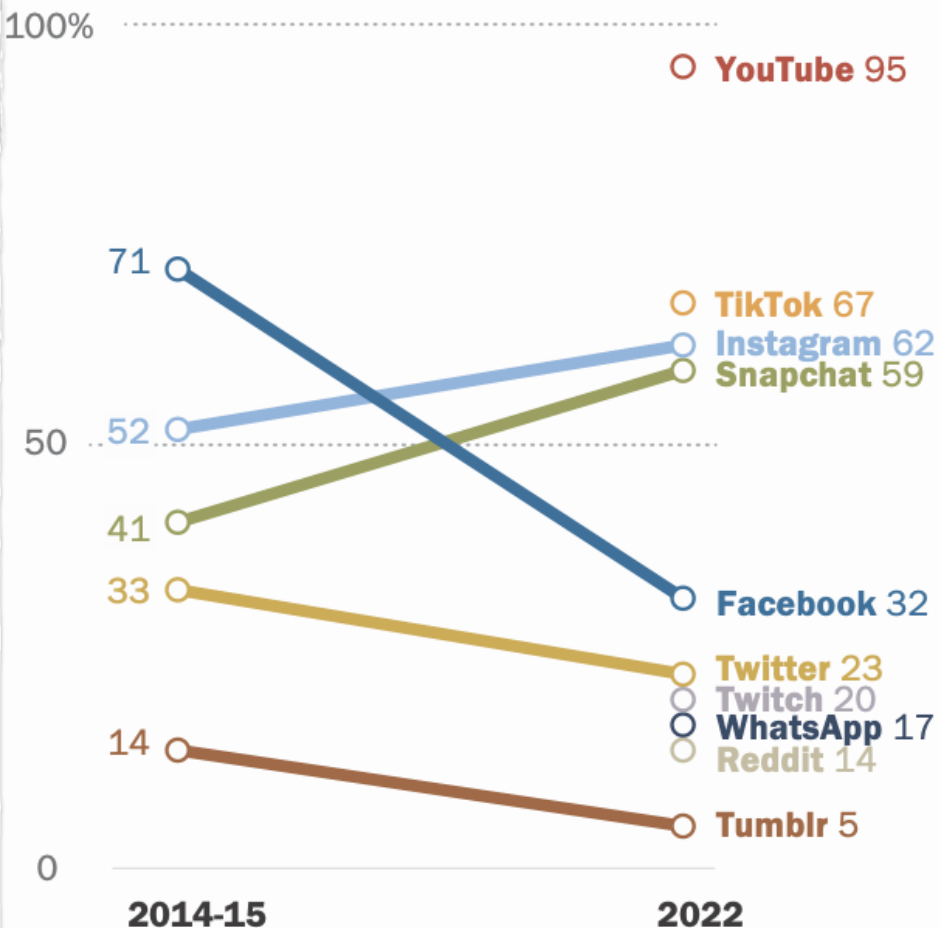
2007 is the date when some kids came of age who don't know a world without it. That was also the year that Facebook launched. So we had this perfect storm of the invention of social media and the internet connected device on every person.

If we didn't click the button, why didn't we? Try a different experiment until they literally weaponize the experience so that we'll do what they want us to do. And what I say is that's shaping our desires. And so our desires end up forming how we make our decisions, and we apply our free will to the desires that they have created in us.

[<https://mindmatters.ai/2022/04/how-social-media-are-ruining-our-lives/>]

Since 2014-15, TikTok has arisen; Facebook usage has dropped; Instagram, Snapchat have grown

% of U.S. teens who say they ever use any of the following apps or sites



Note: Teens refer to those ages 13 to 17. Those who did not give an

Teens, Social Media and Technology 2022

This study also explores the frequency with which teens are on each of the top five online platforms: YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook. Fully 35% of teens say they are using at least one of them “almost constantly.”

[<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2022/08/10/teens-social-media-and-technology-2022/>]

The Role of Social Media in the Arab Uprisings

Social media indeed played a part in the Arab uprisings. Networks formed online were crucial in organizing a core group of activists, specifically in Egypt. Civil society leaders in Arab countries emphasized the role of "the internet, mobile phones, and social media" in the protests. Additionally, digital media has been used by Arabs to exercise freedom of speech and as a space for civic engagement.

Instead, the study suggests that the importance of social media was in communicating to the rest of the world what was happening on the ground during the uprisings. "New [or social] media outlets that use bit.ly links are more likely to spread information outside of the region than inside it, acting like a megaphone more than a rallying cry.

[<https://www.pewresearch.org/journalism/2012/11/28/role-social-media-arab-uprisings/>]

Twitter Files - The anti-establishment writers

While some heralded the documents as proof of big tech censorship, others described them as a "nothingburger" which did not significantly add to the public understanding of how Twitter handled some of its most controversial problems.

Musk handpicked the reporters to give access to internal material, and his choices were telling — all are writers who have gone against the tide on salient issues like trans rights and COVID-19, and are openly hostile to mainstream US media.

Weiss and Taibbi both abandoned high-profile roles to pursue their own reporting, and are scathing critics of established outlets in their Substack newsletters.

[<https://www.insider.com/journalists-helping-elon-musk-twitter-files-2022-12>]



How have 24-hour news stations affected society?

In the beginning there was Cronkite. And it was good. The mighty Walter was "the most trusted man in America," and the CBS Evening News is how the nation got its daily dose of current events -- faster than waiting until tomorrow morning for the paper!

And so in this 24-hour news cycle, overblown stories reign supreme. The world of overblown news is a scary one, indeed. Every day the sky is falling, and then, miraculously, we wake up to find that it has not yet fallen -- but that today will surely be the day! But what happens when even more competitors get involved?

Interestingly, this culture of opinionated journalism that now provides the backbone of a cable news station's ratings may also prove to be their downfall.

[<https://people.howstuffworks.com/culture-traditions/tv-and-culture/24-hour-news-stations-affected-society.htm>]

THE BATTLE FOR OUR MIND

1Co 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Jas 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Col 3:8-11 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.



The Battle for Our Mind

Put on the armour of God

The Most Selfish Generation

The Greatest Generation was known for its patriotism, its fierce “can-do” work ethic, its honesty and integrity, its sense of kindness and community spirit, and its modesty. The people of this generation respected and supported their parents and grandparents in old age and were devoted spouses and parents themselves. They defined the American exceptionalism that was so triumphant in the middle of the 20th century.

Many Americans today, contrary to the path laid out for them by the Greatest Generation, try to maximize their own pleasure and immediate satisfaction at the expense of others, including their own elderly parents and their children and grandchildren. They also denigrate American exceptionalism in international affairs by largely abandoning a commitment to promoting democratic values and the growth-inducing free-market principles

[<https://www.independent.org/news/article.asp?id=14369>]

The Most Selfish Generation

1. Collective Fiscal Irresponsibility
2. Endangering the Health and Economic Sustainability of the Elderly
3. Miseducating Our Youth
4. A Declining Work Ethic and Respect for Laws, Rules, and Religious Strictures
5. Diminished Support for Our Leadership in Enforcing Good Behavior
6. A Growing Disdain for Excellence and More Non-Merit Evaluation of Individuals
7. Not Maintaining the Human Species, Harming Both Older and Younger Generations

[<https://www.independent.org/news/article.asp?id=14369>]

2022 Cell Phone Usage Statistics


In the US, up to 47% of us would say we're "addicted" to our cell phones—it's no wonder with a dazzling array of unlimited data plans and new smartphones every year.

On average, we check our phones every four minutes.

[<https://www.reviews.org/mobile/cell-phone-addiction/>]


Americans' Cell Phone Usage and Habits

 **74%**
of Americans feel **uneasy** leaving their **phone at home**

 **71%**
of Americans say they check their phones within the **first 10 minutes of waking up**


 **53%**
say that they have never gone longer than **24 hours without their cell phone**

 **47%**
consider themselves "**addicted**" to their phones

 **35%**
use or look at their phone **while driving**


 **70%**
of Americans check their phones within **5 minutes of receiving a notification**

 **64%**
use their phone **on the toilet**


 **61%**
have **texted someone** in the **same room** as them before

 **48%**
of people say they feel a sense of **panic or anxiety** when their cell phone **battery goes below 20%**

 **45%**
say that their phone is their **most valuable possession**

 **43%**
use or look at their phone **while on a date**

07:10



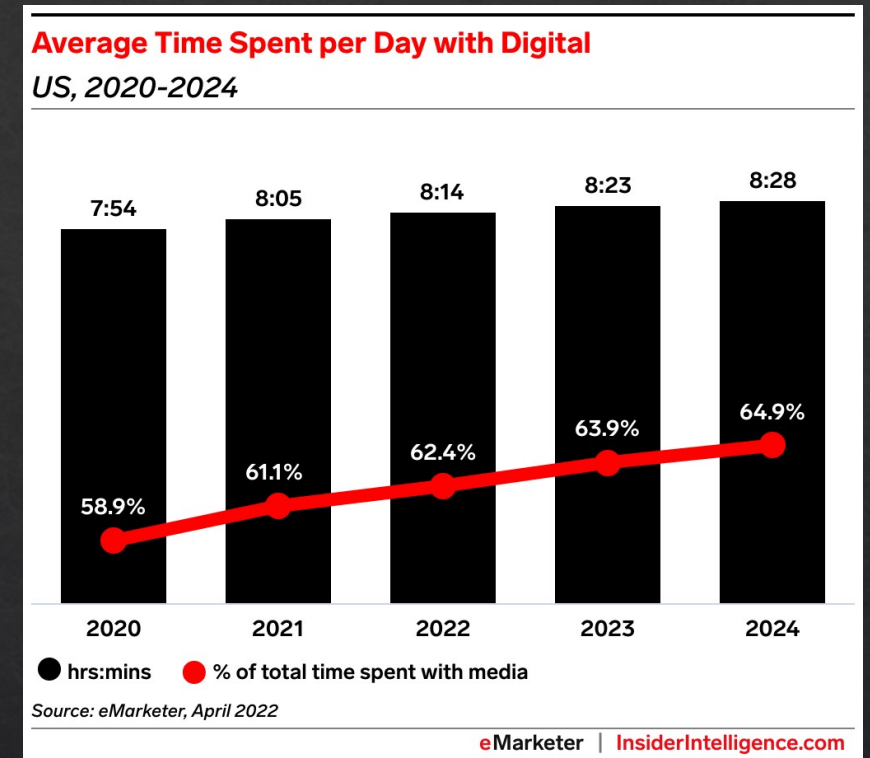
On average, Americans check their phones **344 times per day**
That's once every **4 minutes!**

US adults are spending more time with media on entertainment devices

US average time spent with digital will hit 8 hours and 14 minutes per day in 2022.

The increase in US time spent with media is driven by the "other" connected devices category. This refers to devices like smart TVs, game consoles, and internet-connected devices.

[<https://www.insiderintelligence.com/content/us-adults-spending-more-time-with-media>]



Religion in Canada

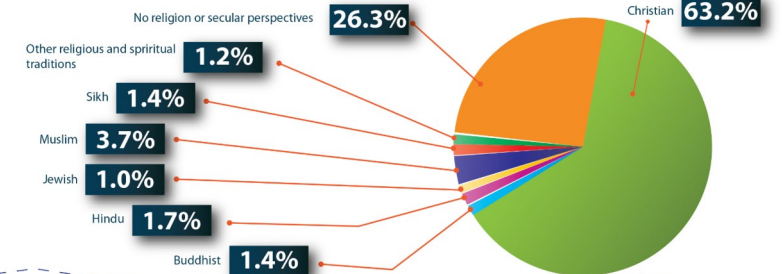
- Decline in religious affiliation and participation
- Decline in younger generations
- Women are more religious than men

[<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2021079-eng.htm>]

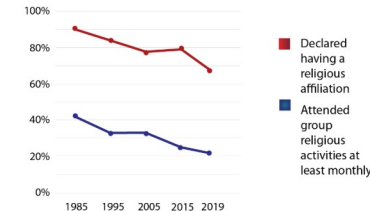
RELIGION in Canada

In 2019, over two-thirds (68%) of the population in Canada reported having a religious affiliation, and just over half (54%) reported that their religious or spiritual beliefs were somewhat or very important to how they lived their lives.

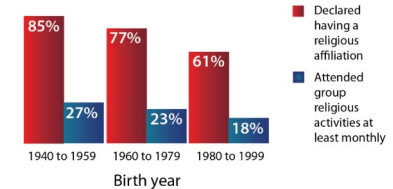
Distribution of religious affiliations, population aged 15 and older, Canada, 2017 to 2019



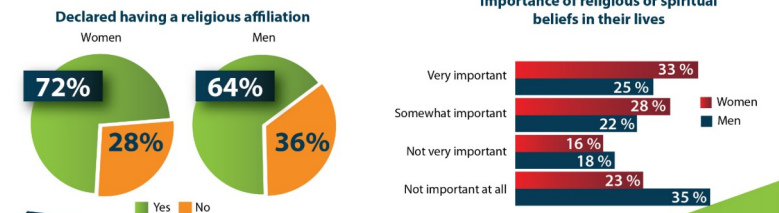
Religious affiliation and participation in religious activities declined from 1985 to 2019



From 2017 to 2019, younger generations were less likely than older generations to declare having a religious affiliation and to participate in religious activities



In 2019, women were more likely than men to report having a religious affiliation and to say that religious or spiritual beliefs were very important in their lives



Source: L. Cornelissen. 2021. "Religiosity in Canada and its evolution from 1985 to 2019." *Insights on Canadian Society*, October. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 75-006-X; Statistics Canada.

Catalogue number: 11-627-M
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THE BATTLE FOR OUR MIND

Eph 6:11-18 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

