

“THE ARMOR OF GOD” (Part 1)

Prepared and Ready for Battle?

Eph. 6:10-20

INTRO: Begin new series and go for several lessons. Series focuses on The Armor of God. Today’s lesson is introductory as we prepare to study the whole armor God has made available for every Christian. “Why?” you ask. The Christian life is not easy. It’s a battle ground not a playground. Ask OT prophets, NT Apostles, early church, followers of Christ through the ages, ... The 13-15 per day and 5000 per year who die for their faith – this war has real casualties. We are all soldiers of the Cross – some are ignorant, others unaware, many deceived and naïve, some wounded, few prepared and ready for battle. Turn to Ephesians...

TEXT: Ch. 6 of Ephesians. Outline: Our wealth in Christ (1:3; chs. 1-2), walk with Christ (4:1; chs. 3-6:9), warfare for Christ (6:10-20). J. MacArthur writes, “As Paul closes...struggle.” TODAY, Eph. 6:10-13...

I. PAUL’S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (Eph. 6:10-13)

A. The TRUTH of it comes from two sources:

1. *Testimony of Scripture* says, “Yes.” Seven (7) OT books make references beginning in Genesis. Every NT writer (10) affirms the reality of Satan and demons. More than 300 more references to Satan and demons than to holy angels. Over 100 references to demons in NT. There are 48 references to Satan in Gospels, 25 by Jesus. He dealt with demonized people on earth (9 of 17 mentioned). Paul faced it and taught on it (15 times). So did Dr. Luke in Acts (11 times). Includes John, James, Jude, writer of Hebrews and Revelation, too. The first time “church” mentioned it is warfare related (Matt. 16:18). Look at Acts 3 ff...; 1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12
2. *Human experience* says, “Yes.” Just look around and see obvious ongoing conflict. Satan is no longer in closet. Look at TV, movies, books, etc. We live in the evil days (v.13). Paul Nyquist...

B. The *TRAITS* – What does war look like? (Eph. 6:10-12)

1. *Supernatural* – spiritual and invisible, not with flesh and blood
2. *Organized* – chain of command, hierarchy according to function and power
3. *Intense* – “wrestle”, will worsen as near the end
4. *Personal* – “we”, every Christian involved
5. *Continual* – ongoing

C. The *TERRITORY* is in the mind – BRAIN pic – (2 Cor. 2:11; 10:3-5; 11:3; Pro. 4:20-23; 23:7; Phil. 4:8). Satan has a plan (“wiles”)

II. THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES (vv. 10-11)

- A. Depend on His Power (v.10) Three words with same idea – divine unequalled power. We don’t have to fight in our own human strength! God is our strength. We are at war with supernatural enemies. His infinite power (Resurrection power – Rom. 8:11) is available if we use the next resource...
- B. Dress in Full Armor (v. 11) – God’s part is to supply, ours is to put it on. The strength is God’s the commitment is ours – a paradox – both needed to prevail. Plus prayer (vv. 18-20).

III. THE ADVERSARY (v. 12)

- A. Who is he? Satan, the devil, a fallen archangel – and his demons.
- B. What is his plan? He has a design, “schemes” (wiles), strategy (2 Cor. 2:11). He wants to deceive us.
- C. What’s it like? “wrestling” contest, up-close and personal
- D. Does he have help? (v. 12b) – All have different functions and capabilities. Paul identifies three . . .

IV. THE ADMONISHMENT (v. 13) 2 – fold:

- A. “STAND” (4 times) – Because we have the available power (v. 10), we must “take up the whole armor of God.” These are “evil days” and we must stand up in His power. Paul doesn’t tell us to chase the devil around, just to stand firm.
- B. RESIST (Jam. 4:7b; 1 Pet. 5:8-9) – BTW “resist” is actually the same word for “stand.” We aren’t told to find him, just stand against him with the full armor on! PIC of soldier alone . . .

V. THE ARMOR/OUR WARDROBE (vv. 13-17)

- A. The COMPLETENESS of it - (“full, whole”) PIC– all we need
- B. The ORDER of the pieces – as the soldier adorned it
- C. The GROUPING of the armor –
 1. What we “have” – belt, breastplate, shoes – fixed to the body
 2. What we “take up” – shield, helmet and sword

CONC: We are soldiers in a battle for our lives. No desk jobs! But, we are not alone. We have the necessary resources to stand and resist. Our choice is to put it on – not automatic – we must dress for the battle. Series slide!