

## EPHESIANS 6b

### THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

This letter to the Ephesians has been so filled with wisdom, hasn't it? We have read of the **WEALTH** of the believer... WHO we are in Christ.

We have read about the **WALK** of the believer... HOW we are to treat one another... Husbands... Wives... AND Children too.

And now Paul ends his letter by talking about the **WARFARE** of the Believer.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

- Be strong how?
- "In the power of His might."
- Think of it... We are in a spiritual battle with an enemy who has been defeated. So, in the power of the One who defeated our enemy, be strong! Satan cannot steal your soul – Only you can lose it by denying Christ.
- Let's get ready to rumble...

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles (**scams**) of the devil.

- GUZIK - This ancient Greek word for **armor** is used in only one other place in the New Testament. In Luke\_11, Jesus speaks of the *strong man* who is *fully armed*, but is stripped of *all his armor* when a *stronger* one comes and defeats him. We know that Jesus disarmed all principalities and powers (**Col 2:15**).
  - "Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."
  - Spiritually speaking, we have nothing to fear of our enemy's power. BUT our enemy is a liar and a thief, and he is coming at us with lies and deceit!

- THIS is why we stand for the truth of the Gospel, and this is why we get fired up when our government or ANY institution tries to tell our kids that the Bible is NOT true.
  - **That** was the lie of the serpent in the garden of Eden.
  - It is the lie of the false teachers of old.
  - AND... it is the lie of the modern-day preachers teaching a watered-down gospel – that the Bible is an ancient out of touch book.

**IT IS NOT! Our Bible is the word of God. It is the WORDS of God.**

### **THE BATTLE IS SPIRITUAL**

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- **Chuck Smith** warns to **NOT** let Satan draw us into a physical battle mentality – where HE has the advantage... But... To remain in a spiritual battle where WE have not only the advantage, but the VICTORY!
- When trials come our way – remember the three “R”s (Smith)
  - 1. **Recognize** that this is an attack from the enemy.
    - Satan uses coworkers, family, & strangers. Let the Lord defend you! Don't get angry and in your flesh... The victory is spiritual!
  - 2. Respond by **refusing** it!
  - 3. **Rejoice** for the attack. It means you are on God's side!

### **Recognize... Refuse... Rejoice**

### **THE BATTLE IS ON**

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

- The armor is NOT physical armor... Why not? Because our battle is not a physical battle. Since the battle is spiritual, put on your spiritual armor!

## THE FIRST PIECE OF ARMOR - TRUTH

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth,

- There was a chilling exchange between Jesus and Pilot recorded in John 18. Listen:
- 18:37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."
- 38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"
  - He SHOULD have asked, "WHO is truth?"
  - In **John 14:6** Jesus said, "I am the way, **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. "

Jesus IS truth... His word is absolute truth... Deny this at your own peril because Jesus warned that if you deny Him in this life, HE will deny you in the next life.

## SECOND PIECE OF ARMOR

14b ...having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

- WHOSE righteousness CCSV? Not ours!!!
- Jesus is how we are ever righteous! It is a false accusation of Christianity that we feel we are better than others.
- We are not better because we say we are Christians.
- We are Christians because we are forgiven! THAT makes us WANT to be better... And that desire to become better gets misinterpreted sometimes as "Holier than thou."
- We need to be humble about being forgiven. We need to be careful NOT to condemn people who haven't accepted the forgiveness offered by Jesus... YET.

## THIRD PIECE OF ARMOR

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

- **Isaiah 52:7** How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"
- Listen to this message - It is possible for mankind to have peace with God!
- SO... be ready to be able to share the Gospel with others. Have memorized the Romans Road...

## **Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9**

### **THE SHIELD**

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

- Think of the riot gear that police everywhere use. Those shields that repel everything from bullets to bottles.
- Two things to remember here:
  - 1. Those shields work best in groups... Stay in fellowship!
  - 2. Expect darts. They are perhaps in the air now!

### **THE HELMET**

17 And take the helmet of salvation,

- When one of the nicest and most righteous men alive came to ask Jesus how HE could know beyond all doubt that he was going to heaven...
- "Jesus answered and said to him, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* **John 3:3**
- Friend, if you don't become born again, Satan is going to hammer you – and you will be defenseless.

## THE SWORD OF THE LORD

and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

- Now we go on the offense!
- In Matthew 4 as Jesus was being tempted by Satan himself... Jesus kept saying something over and over.
- **"It is written..."** And then Jesus would use the Word of God to defeat Satan. That weapon still works against Satan. It is why some of us still struggle to get into the word every day. He will distract us at every opportunity.
- **David sang**, "Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You." **PSALM 119:11**
- We had an Elder at our church who was saved NOT by arguments, but because his believing girlfriend gave him a bible and asked him to read the Gospel of John. By the time he finished John, he was a believer too. They are having grand children now.
- **Beloved, get the sword on board!**

## PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,

- **COURSON** - If you can't engage in hand-to-hand combat, if you can't give an exacting word because your kids have moved away or your neighbor is no longer speaking to you, you can still go to them in prayer. One of the neat things about prayer is that I can visit missionaries all over the world. I can pray blessing upon them in the Spirit. I can join with what they're doing. I can stand by them by using the long-range artillery of prayer. So, too, even if you're separated by physical or emotional distance, you can speak exacting words to the Lord through prayer on behalf of your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and fellow students.
- "Praying in the Spirit" means different things to different people. If you are gifted with a prayer language – use it!
  - If not – God will assist you with your prayers... Have you ever been praying and suddenly there is the name or face of someone you

haven't prayed for in a while? THAT is the Holy Spirit! GUESS WHAT?  
You are praying in the Spirit...

## PAUL'S SHAMELESS REQUEST

...being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

- When some might be offended at God for allowing them to suffer in prison – Paul gives himself the title of “Ambassador” of cell block C.
- Am I the victim of the building project, or am I the Ambassador of Suite #10?
- Are you the suffering employee at your job, or are you the Ambassador of the gospel in your department? THAT is up to you... **SPEAK BOLDLY!**

## FINAL GREETINGS

21 But that you also may know my affairs *and* how I am doing, Tychicus, (**Tie-chee-cus**) a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you; 22 whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and *that* he may comfort your hearts.

23 Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

Next week we start another one of Paul's Prison Epistles. 19 times in Philippians will the Apostle encourage us to rejoice in the Lord!

From prison... Paul is rejoicing...