

Ephesians 6:10-23

Strength in Spiritual Conflict and Conclusion

1. In which event did Christ's "mighty power" (v. 10) become especially evident?
2. Paul twice exhorts us (v. 11 and 13) to "put on the full armor of God."
 - a. What do you learn by comparing this to words spoken about Christ in Isaiah 59:16-17?
 - b. What does this say about Satan?
 - c. What are some of his schemes?
 - d. Why is the armour called the "armor of God"?
 - e. Can we think of examples in our own lives, or the lives of others, when we did not put on the *full* armour of God? What happened then? What do you think of the saying, "The omission of a single piece of armor is dangerous, for the devil will soon discover the person's Achilles' heel"?
3. Read verse 12.
 - a. The word for "struggle" literally means "wrestling match." How does this change your understanding of this verse?
 - b. What does Paul mean by the "heavenly realms" where the spiritual forces of evil work?
 - c. What is the purpose of this verse?
4. In verse 13
 - a. Paul says, "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes..." What is "the day of evil"?
 - b. What does Paul mean with the words "after you have done everything"?
5. What is the promise in verse 13?
6. Consider the armour we are to put on. When discussing them, give practical examples of how to use the pieces.
 - a. What is meant by the "belt of truth" in verse 14? Note that in 4:14 Paul speaks about the "deceitful scheming" of wicked men.
 - b. What is meant by the "breastplate of righteousness"?

- c. What is meant by “feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace”? Note the irony: the peace that comes from the gospel readies us for war.
 Why is certainty of the forgiveness of sins so important for the battle against Satan?
 - d. What is meant by the “shield of faith”?
 - e. What is meant by the “helmet of salvation”?
7. Give examples of some of the “flaming arrows of the evil one” that can be extinguished with the shield of faith.
 8. Note the repetition of the word “all” in verse 18. (cf. Proverbs 3:6)
 - a. When do we tend to pray most, and why? Is this proper?
 - b. For whom do we tend to pray most and why? Is this proper?
 - c. Given that singing is prayer, what does this verse say about the CD’s we own and constantly listen to?
 9. What does it mean “to pray in the Spirit” in verse 18? (cf. 1 Corinthians 14:15-17)
 Paul exhorts us to “be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” Note that also on the night of his betrayal Christ exhorted his disciples to watch and pray. Do we pray enough for others, particularly other saints?
 10. Notice the contradiction, or irony, in the fact that Paul is “an ambassador” of the Lord of lords, and yet “in chains.”
 - a. Paul asks the Ephesians to pray to God that he may declare the gospel fearlessly “as I should.” Humanly speaking, does he not have reason to fear? He is the ambassador of the Lord of lords, and yet he is in chains. How should we today press on in bearing witness to the gospel as we face mockery and resistance?
 - b. Is declaring, or bearing witness to, the gospel *fearlessly* the same as declaring the gospel bluntly?
 11. What does verse 22 say about poor attendance of meetings where missionaries come to our church to speak? What are such meetings meant for?

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