

Ephesians Sunday School
May-June 2011
Eph 6:10-24: Dressed for Battle

Context

Theme of Ephesians is the church and Christ the Cornerstone

- We have roles to play in the church: Paul has highlighted the mystery of being in Christ and laid out the expectations for believers living together, in the world, under authority

Spiritual Warfare

Why do we need to stand strong?

We are in a battle.

v12

“...not against flesh and blood”

“...against spiritual forces of evil”

The Armor

It is God's armor and his mighty power
Isaiah 11:4-5; 59:15b-19

The key thing to note here is that it is God's armor that protects us, not our skill or determination as warriors

God has always fought for his people:

Noah

Abraham

Exodus and entry into Promised Land

Gideon

David

Elements of Armor

Paul was in prison, so he would have been very familiar with the armor of a Roman soldier. The main point of the armor metaphor is that we are in a true war (spiritual) and just as in physical battle God gives his tools of protection to save his people. The armor metaphor is useful to show that God is victorious.

What are the ways the enemy attacks us in each element and how does God use each element to defeat the enemy?

Belt of Truth

- Lies about God (Does he exist? Is he for us? Can he be trusted? Is he Lord?)
- Lies about ourselves (Should we be in charge? Are we worthless/hated?)
- Jesus is the truth and the truth will set us free (John 14:6, 8:32)

Breastplate of Righteousness

- Wages of sin is death
- "a righteousness that is not my own, but that which comes from God and is by faith" (Phil 3:9)

Shoes of Readiness from the Gospel of Peace

- Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior (Col 1:21)
- But now reconciled through Christ's death (Col 1:22)
- Eph 2:11-22

Shield of Faith

- Flaming darts of the evil one
 - o In this world you will have trouble
 - o 1 Peter 4:12-19
- "So those who have faith are blessed" (Galatians 3)

Helmet of Salvation

- Romans 8:38 – powers are trying to take us away from God
- John 17:12-19

Sword of the Spirit (word of God)

- Did God really say...?
- Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord (Matt 4:4)

How do we put them on?

The church – sacraments and preaching

Means of grace – bible study, fasting, good works

Prayer

- v18-20
- the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective (James 5:13)