

The Armour of God (An Introduction)

Ephesians 6:10-13

Pastor Jeremy Cagle, May 2, 2021

Before we started the sermon time this morning, I just want to brag on you guys for a moment. It's been quite a year, as you know, it's been quite a season for our church because we've changed locations now three times. This year we've gone from meeting inside doing things online, and then to meeting in the gym with the children, and now we're doing this meeting on a farm. And you all stuck with it. You guys have been faithful to the ministry. And I want to say thank you for that, just to commend you for being faithful. They say there are three rules of change in a church. One is that people don't like change. Number two is change is hard. And number three is people don't like change. And we've just been changing all over the place here due to the circumstances. And our church has handled it so well. And I just want to say commend you and show appreciation to you for that.

With that said this morning, I would invite you to open your Bibles to the book of Ephesians. We're opening our Bibles to a book that talks about the church and has a lot to say about how the Lord builds his church. And so we're going to look in Ephesians chapter six. The Lord builds His church in times of adversity. He builds it in times of struggle, which is good, because that's what we have going on nowadays: time of struggle. And with that in mind, we're coming up to one of the most famous passages in the Bible on the issue of struggling and warfare which is on the armor of God.

I just want to read this to you before we get started. In Ephesians 6:10 Paul writes,

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one, and take up the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

We've been in the book of Ephesians for some time now as a church. We've been in it for about a year and a half, which means that this is the longest running series that we've ever done. This is the longest running study which is important for this passage, because if you notice, in verse 10, Paul begins with the word "finally." "Finally, be strong in the Lord." In other words, this is the culmination of all he said so far. This is a summary of what he's told us in the book of Ephesians. You need to be strong. The Christian life is not for wimps, it is not for those who want to take a gravy train to heaven. You need to be strong. Verse 11 adds more detail when it says, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might and put on the armor of God" because that's where your strength comes from. That's where the power is from. It comes from Him and not from you. I'll say a few words about this passage in a moment. We'll walk through it and talk about what it says but the word "armour" here. It's the Greek word *panoplia* which is a compound word from "pan" or "all" and "oplia" or "armor", it means put on your complete armour.

Put on your full armour. Because that's how bad the battle is. That's how bad the fight is. It's going to come at every angle of view. It's going to come in every crevasse and nook and cranny. So you need to be protected, you need to put the armour over all of you to put on the complete armor of God. The enemy is not going to attack you at just one point, he's not going to attack you in just one direction. So you need to have full and complete armour. And if you notice the armour, it's called the armour of God because that's the source of it. That's where it comes from. It comes from God Himself, straight from the throne of heaven. This is not a man-made battle. It's not a battle on the earthly realm. It's a battle in the heavenly realm and the spiritual realm. And so God provides you the armour, and verse 11 says it is given to guard you against the schemes of the devil. That's what you're facing in the battle. That's who you're up against. In this passage, you're up against Satan, the great enemy of God. When you became a Christian, you switched positions on the battlefield. Before you were saved, you are on the side of Satan, you are on the side of the devil, you are on the side of the world. And when you got saved, you went to the other side. You went to the opposition, and now you're fighting him. It's pretty serious passage and then start talking about the devil things he really serious. And people often wonder what the devil is up to today, they often wonder what he's trying to do, especially nowadays with all this chaos going on in the world around us. But it's not hard to figure out what he's up to. He's doing this: he's trying to get you to sin. He's trying to get you to stop doing all the things Paul has written about in the book of Ephesians. He's not trying to get you to do some grand thing, like, you know, go out and murder somebody. I mean, that's part of what he does. The church-going folk, it's way more subtle than that. He just wants you to stop being a good husband. That's it. That's all. He wants you to stop being a godly wife or a godly mother or godly father. And Paul says here, you can't let him do that. You can't let him keep you from doing all these things. You're going to have to fight him, you're going to have to put up a resistance.

Paul goes from talking about in chapter five different things such as, “be imitators of God”. And “put off immorality and impurity and greed”. And he tells you to “be careful how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise” in all of these things. And then he goes into talking about the armour of God because the devil doesn't want you to do those things. The devil standing in your way. And you have to recognize that and fight him. Several scholars have said that Paul would have been chained to a Roman soldier as he wrote this, he would have been sitting next to one which means he would have been sitting next to an enemy, he would have been sitting next to a threat that he could see and reach out and touch: his weapons and his armor and all that stuff. But Paul says you can't do that here. You can't do that with this enemy. So the only way to defeat him is with God's help. The only way to defeat him is to put on the armor of God. You know, one commentator says it this way: he says it is God's plan to create a new society. He wants to create a new people called the church. But as He does, you can bet the devil will try to stop him. You can bet the devil will do everything to stand in His way. And you can't let him do that, you're going to have to put up a fight. I mentioned this because we tend to forget this today, don't we? We tend to forget that we're involved in a battle in the Christian life. We're involved in a fight. We have it so easy nowadays, when we have it so simple, and we complain when we have to stay home in an air conditioned house with a refrigerator full of food. But the reality is you are involved in a war as a Christian. I also mentioned this because we tend to forget this as well. We tend to forget that we have an enemy in the Christian life. We tend to forget that there is someone who is against us, because we go through life saying, “Why are things so bad right now? Why are things so hard?” Well, I'll tell you why they're so hard. They're so hard because there's a devil. They're so hard because he's real, not a figment of your imagination. We didn't just make him up.

You have a living, breathing creature who wants to destroy you and kill you. And this whole passage says you can't let them do that.

If you notice, Paul is very balanced in this passage, he's very positive and helpful in the way he puts this because he doesn't hold back the thread here, he doesn't hold back the danger. Notice that six times in this passage he says something is against you here. On six separate occasions, he says something is standing in your way. But at the same time, Paul says you can win. You can defeat him. Because God is on your side. You can't defeat the devil on your own. There's no way, but you can with the power of God. You know, I think this is a big deal for us today. It's important for us in our community, because if you look at the town of Chilliwack right now, you might think that the devil has left us alone here. Right? You might think that he's left us because we're doing so well. We're making money, the economy's growing, everybody's happy. But then you open up a newspaper and you see murders. You just turn on the news and you see rape and violence and crime. Prostitution is everywhere. Why? Because the devil is still here. He hasn't left our town. He hasn't gone anywhere. So you're going to have to fight him, which is what we're going to talk about this morning. This morning, if you're taking notes, in Ephesians chapter 6, we're going to look at three introductions to the armor of God. In Ephesians 6:10-13, we're going to look at three introductions to the armor of God. We're just going to introduce it because this is such an important part of Scripture. It's so essential that we don't want to rush. We want to take our time. The Puritan William Garner wrote about 1000 pages on the armour of God. He wrote three volumes and he preached on it for I think, a decade or something, I'm not going to do that to you guys. We're not going to go that long. But what we are going to do is we're going to look at this armour piece by piece in the weeks to come. We're going to look at it one piece at a time because this is so important for us. And this morning, we're just going to give an introduction, we're just going to wet your appetite for this subject.

But looking at three introductions, the first one is this: this armour was given to you for strength. The first introduction to the armor of God is that the armor was given to you for strength, which means it was given to help you fight the battle because you can't do that on your own. You don't have the power all by yourself. But God does. You know, when you think of a soldier or a warrior, you think strong and powerful. I come from the United States, and I've met several US Marines and I'll tell you, they're not normal people because you don't want normal people doing that job. They're the first ones in and they are strong and a little bit crazy. That's the idea here, you need the power of God to do this. And if you read in verses 5- 10, just above this, it says,

Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

And masters do the same things to them and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

Just to say a few words about that, as Paul comes to the last part of the book here, he's talking about relationships. He's talking about the bond that we share with other people: husbands and wives; masters and slaves. And he goes right into this. He goes right into the armour of God because as you know, relationships are hard, aren't they? Relationships are difficult. You would think that as he's talking about the armour of God here, he might be talking about storming the gates of hell or about doing some tremendous thing, but it's way more simple than that. He's just talking about getting along with people. Because you need God's help to do that. And in order to wear the armour, this is what he says you have to do: you have to be strong in the Lord.

Just to explain that the word for “strong” here, it's *endynamoo* in Greek. It's a military term, that refers to the act of holding on to a position or holding your ground. In other words, you already have a position in the battle, you already have a foothold in, and you just need to hold on to it. You are seated in the heavenlies with Christ, you are there with the Lord near the throne, you just need to stand with that. And to drive this point home, he says, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength. That's another word for the same idea here, because it's the Greek word *kratos*, which means “power, or muscle”; it refers to the muscle that it takes to do this, and the power that it takes to stand because God has given you that as well. Not only do you have a position, but you've been given the power to hold on to it, nothing can take it out of your hands. And then he writes, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.” And that's the word *ischys*, which refers to ability or skill, because God has given you the skill to do that. He's given you the ability to wield a weapon. It's one thing to have muscle, but it's another thing to have the brains in order to use the weapons and you have that as well. In other words, God has thought of everything. He's taking care of everything for you. Because he's given you the power, the power, the power to do this. He's given you strength, strength. You can almost look at this as a pep talk from Paul. You read all the stuff in the book of Ephesians. And you wonder, Lord, how am I going to do all this? He says in chapter five, Wives, submit to your husbands, Husbands, love your wives as Christ loves the Lord. Children, obey your parents. Fathers Don't provoke your children. How am I going to do all this? You're going to do it in the power of God, Paul says.

And I might add to this that this is in the continuous tense to say that this is a continuous thing. God is continually doing this; He's giving you this power over and over and over again. And Paul puts it at the start of this passage, he puts it at the beginning, because this sets the tone for the rest, because this is not about you. This is about God. This battle is not about you and your strength and what you can do. It's about what He can do in His power in history. And my friends, let me just stop right there and just pause for a moment and say, if you don't get anything else that we say this morning, you need to get this. If you don't hear anything else, you need to hear this. This battle is not about you. It's not about you being smart enough or strong enough or wise enough to beat the devil. It's not about you being good enough or godly enough or holy enough, because you're not let's just make that clear this morning. You can't beat the devil. He's been doing this for 1000s of years. He's deceived people that were far greater than you. So if it was up to you, you would lose you would be defeated. But that's okay because the battle is not about you. This is about God. He provides the strength; he provides the armor, all you have to do is put it on and wear it.

I've been told that in the military weapons are a big deal. Whoever has the biggest guns wins. Whoever has the biggest weapons defeats the enemy. You have the biggest weapon: God is on your side. This is so important and it's such a big deal because I meet so many people who tell me they feel anxious today; they feel afraid and worried because they keep giving into sin. They keep giving into temptation. It's like a vicious cycle for them or a roller coaster. You know, they do well, one day they do bad the next they; do well one day they do bad the next to

the point that they can't get any relief. I've been talking to people who want to pack up their bags and head somewhere else but friends I want to tell you the problem is that won't work. It won't help you because the battle will find you there; your sin will go with you. It's a spiritual battle, which means changing locations doesn't change the battle. And to add to that, that won't give you any victory either because the only way to have victory is to do this: you need to cry out to God. You need to call out to Him because He's the only one who can defeat your sin. It was said that ancient warriors would often fight under the banner of a lord; they would often fight under his standard, and they would go into the battle and shout his name. They would cry out for King James or for King Edward. They would do that because they thought the name gave them strength and power, and friends, you fight the same way. It's the same way with this battle: you shout the name of your God and He gives you strength. By the way, to encourage you, if you remember from last week, remember the context: this was written to slaves. In verse five, right above this, it says this was written to people who were the weakest people in the world at the time, they were the most helpless of all people. Which means that if they could do this, so can you. If they can put this armour on, then you can do the same. In fact, slaves at this time couldn't afford any armour. They wouldn't be able to buy any because they didn't have any money. It's too expensive. Paul says they can have this and you can have this armour no matter who you are, no matter where you're from, if you just believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, which brings us to another point to consider.

The first point is that the armour was given to you for strength. It was given to help you fight the battle. You don't have the power on your own, you don't have the strength, but God does. So you can come to Him, and He will help you. Another introduction to the armor of God is that it was given to help you stand. The armour of God was given to help you stand, which means it was given for a specific purpose. It was given for a specific task, and that is to help you fight and resist the enemy. As we go through this armour, one thing you're going to notice is that there was no armor to protect your back. There was no armour to help you retreat. Because you're not supposed to retreat. You're not supposed to run away. You need to stand against the enemy, and face him head on. If you look in verse 10, Paul writes and says, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armour of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

As Paul goes on writing here, he tells you why this armour is necessary. He tells you why it's so important in the first place. And he says in verse 11 that it's so you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. In other words, this is the enemy that you're up against. This is the opponent that you're facing, you're facing the devil or you're facing his schemes. You're facing his tricks. You may not be facing him personally, or face to face. In fact, there were only a few people in the Bible that were facing the devil face to face that we're aware of. Eve in the Garden of Eden met the devil face to face. Jesus had that experience. Jesus tells Peter the devil is going to sift him like wheat. But for most of us, you're not going to face the devil like that; you're going to be up against his tricks. The Greek word for "devil" is *diabolos*, which means slanderer or defamer. The idea is he is the one who stands in the courtroom and slanders us. He's the one who stands in the courtroom and says, "Look at what he did: look at what she did. Send them to hell. In fact, this word *diabolos* is just one of his many names in Scripture. There's other ones as well. For instance, he's called the "accuser". It's very similar to the other one: he accuses us before God. He's called the "adversary" or the "enemy" or the "tempter". He's been called "murderer", a "liar" or "the father of lies" because Jesus says he invented the idea of lying. But the idea is that he's a terrible creature. He's the worst one there is. The Bible says he was originally an angel. He was called "Lucifer" or the "morning star" because he was so beautiful. He was so glorious, but he rebelled, he sinned against God. And as a

result of that, he was thrown out of heaven, along with a third of all the angels who became his accomplices. They became demons, which is what verse 12 goes on to refer to when it says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." That all sounds very mysterious, and it sounds very deep. But if you notice, these words are all pluralized. Here, the word rulers and powers and forces are in the plural, because they're referring to more than one ruler, more than one power, because it's referring to the demons. The ones who do Satan's bidding. Satan is not omnipresent. He can't be everywhere at once the way God is. And so he sends out his emissaries to help him. He sends out rulers and the idea of rulers there is in this world, they have some element of control, they have some element of power. A day is coming when they won't. A day is coming when God will send the devil and all the demons to hell. But for now, they have some sense of control, we don't know much about them. In this passage, the Bible doesn't say much, which is why you always want to be careful when you're talking about this subject. So many bad ideas floating around out there about it. You know, if you study spiritual warfare nowadays, there's all kinds of books being published on the topic. And they talk about breaking generational curses. And they talk about reclaiming spiritual territory, and binding the devil. But here, the basic idea is just summed up at the beginning. It says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood." That means our struggle is not against the things that you can see. It's not against the things that you can reach out and touch. Because you can't touch the demons. You can't see them. They're invisible. But the end of verse 12 says, they are found in the heavenly places. They're up in the air all around us. And Paul says, in order to deal with him, here's what you have to do, you have to stand. You don't have to reclaim spiritual territory, you don't have to break generational curses and know all that kind of secret stuff. You just need to stand. Hold your ground. Don't move an inch. Any good soldier will tell you that the only way to win a battle is to hold on to your territory, you need to hold on to your position.

And it's the same way here, you need to stay put and stand. One scholar said there are several ways to do this. There are several ways you can stand against the devil. One is by showing some discernment. You need to show some discernment, because after all, he is scheming. The devil is trying to trick you. So in order to fight him, you've got to be able to tell right from wrong. You got to be able to tell truth from error. Now, I heard someone say that the church today is one of the most gullible places on earth. Christians today will believe just about anything. And you can do that. every spirit is not a good spirit. We just read that in 1 John, "For every messenger is not a good messenger." So you've got to be able to filter it. And he also said another way to stand is you have to stop compromising.

Another way to stand up to the devil is you've got to stop giving in to sin. Because here's how the enemy operates. Here's what he does. He makes you look at sin and say, well, it's not that bad. It's not so dangerous. It's okay I can give into a just this one time and as you do that, off you go. What did he do with Eve in the Garden of Eden? He said, "Has God not said?" The whole history of the human race was changed in that moment.

And another way to stand up to the devil is you need to be courageous. You need to have some courage, because after all, this is a battle. This is a war and the only way to win a war is to grow a backbone. This is a big deal. This one here because so many people are scared right now. Like we said a moment ago, they are so afraid of sin and temptation and things going on right now in the world, with the government and the virus to the point that some of them won't leave their house. Some of them are so afraid that they won't go anywhere or do anything. And I understand that needs to be caution with this whole thing. There needs to be some concern, but I'm not talking about that. I'm not talking about caution. I'm talking about fear. Some people are terrified. And when you read this

passage, one thing you see is that it's telling you not to be that way. You can't be terrified as a Christian. You can't live your life in fear. Because that's all of the devil. The devil likes it when you're afraid. He wants you to be so scared, you can't leave your house. But God wants you to stand. James chapter four verse seven says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." And that's a very simple passage there. It's very straightforward. Because James says if you stand, he will flee. If you resist, he'll run away from you. You don't need to face the devil. You don't need to talk back to the devil. You don't need to know all the secrets about the devil you just need to stand. One of my professors in seminary told us about the time he was watching one of the charismatic stations. And this guy on TV, this charismatic preacher was praying this way he was praying, "Devil, we hate you, devil, we can't stand you. Devil, we want you to go away." And my professor said in that moment, it kind of struck him that that man was praying to the devil. Friends, you don't want to pray to the devil. You're not on his side. You pray to God and you stand against the devil. That's what you do. That's how you fight the battle.

Which leads to one more point to consider this morning. One more introduction to the armor of God. And just to review the other ones. The first one is that the armor was given to you for strength, which means it was given to help you fight. And second, it was given to help you stand. A second introduction to the armor of God is that it was given for the purpose of helping you resist the enemy and fight him. It wasn't given to help you run away. It wasn't given to you to flee. It was given to you to fight.

A third introduction to the armor of God this morning is that it was given to be put on, which means God has given you this armor to wear it. He's given it to you to use in the battle. He wouldn't give it to you to stare at it and admire it from a distance. He didn't give it to you to put it on the shelf, let it collect dust. He wants you to wear it in the battle. If you read on in the text, it's here Paul writes,

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything to stand firm.

I won't say much about this last one for the sake of time because it repeats a lot of the things that we've already said. But if you notice Paul gives us three commands in this passage. Again, this is the third command that he gives, and that is to take up the armor of God. In verse 10, he tells us to be strong, be powerful. Verse 11, he says put the armor on and now he tells us to take it up, which means you need to take it into the battle.

Don't just stare at it. Don't just look at it. But strap it on and get some scratches on it. Get some bruises on it because you need to wear it in the battle. Obviously this time a soldier would not have his armor with him at all times. He wouldn't wear it every moment because it was too big and bulky and heavy. So he would take it off at night; he would take it off when he was resting, but Paul says you can't do that here. You can't do that with this armor. Because you don't know when the enemy will attack. So you have to always keep it on.

When I was in Israel several years ago, one thing that strikes you when you first get into the country is how many weapons are there: how many guns and tanks. If you ever wonder why people don't visit Israel then just visit Israel. And you'll see, I mean, you go into McDonald's and eat a hamburger, you'll be sitting next to a guy with an

Uzi sitting on his lap while he's munching on his fries. But one reason they do that is because they never know when a battle is going to come. So if you're a soldier in the Israeli army, you always have a weapon with you. You could be wearing shorts and a T shirt and flip flops. But you'll strap an M 16 around your shoulder because you don't know when you'll get called up. It's the same idea here. Paul says, as a Christian, you've got to be ready to fight at any moment, at any time. First 13 says "so that you will be able to resist in the evil day." And that means the evil day of temptation or the evil day of sin. It's not referring to one specific day or one moment. It means any time because that's when the devil could attack you. He could come anytime. I think it was John Owen, the Puritan, who said that Satan is a coward and he likes to attack you when you're tired. He likes to come at you when you feel weak. So that's when you need to have your armor on. And be ready for him. To be ready for the battle. Again, Paul is talking to soldiers here. He's talking to warriors and one sign of a good warrior is action. They're decisive. He can't pause in a battle. You can't hesitate or it might cost you your life. And so Paul says here, you need to stop hesitating.

And be ready. I think this is so important for us as a church, it's so important for us to talk about. Because after spending several years here, I would say that one of the greatest challenges we have as Christians in Canada is that we're so passive, aren't we? We're all so nice. I'm nice. You're nice. We're all nice. We're polite here, which is nice in a in some settings. But what I mean is, if you ask the average Christian in Canada, when's the last time you read your Bible? They'll say, "I don't know." Then if you ask him, "what are you going to do about it? When are you going to start?" They'll say, "I don't know." It's like their favourite thing to say, like a mantra for some Christians here. What's your name? I don't know. How old are you? I don't know. When are you going to pray? When are you going to call out to the Lord? When are you going to go to church? When are you going to turn from your sin? When are you going to make things right with your wife? When are you going to make things right with your husband? All the whole thing is just the same answer. I don't know. But as you read this, I want you to tell me where do you see that in here? Where do you see Paul talking like that? You don't, because he's describing a battle. He's talking about war. And there's nothing nice about a war. There's nothing polite about it. In a war, when you see a conflict, you jump in. Period. When you see a struggle, you engage. You don't walk away, you don't try not to hurt people's feelings. You just go at it. And it's the same way here. So if you know you need to pray, then pray. Just do it. Don't hesitate. Don't think about it. Do the right thing before the Lord. If you know you need to read your Bible, then read it. Pick it up. If you know you need to go to church, go to church. If you notice, you need to turn from sin. Do it but don't hesitate, do it right away. You need to put your armor on. You have to wear it.

It's been said that the greatest dust storm in American and Canadian history will be when Americans and Canadians take their Bible off the shelf and dust it off. Right? That Bible doesn't do you any good on a shelf. You have to read to put your armor on. You know I've known a few soldiers in my life, just a handful friends in the army. And they've all told me that nobody likes going to war. Nobody likes fighting because it's scary. You don't know what's going to happen. But you do it anyway because there are some things worth fighting for. You do it because there's some things that are worth giving your life for. And it's the same way with this, friends. Our God is worth fighting for. Our God is worth giving your life for; there is no sacrifice too great for him. The story is told at the time that Alexander the Great wanted to show how great his power was to a friend. And so he turned to 100 of his soldiers, he turned to a handful of them to his right hand side, and he said, walk off that cliff for me. And they did. They did it without hesitation because they thought he was worth it. They thought he was worthy of such an honor. Friends, I would say if they would do that for a man, how much more should we do for the Lord? If they would do that for a false god like Alexander the Great, how much more should we sacrifice for the true

God? Friends, you need to fight. You need to make this kind of sacrifice for him today, because He's worth it. So will you do that this morning? Will you fight for the Lord? Let me pray that you would. Let's go to Him in prayer.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the things that we've learned today and the things that we've studied. But at the same time, we do come to a passage like this after reading it and put our hands on our mouth and say that we have not done this the way you've commanded. Lord, we're all guilty of being too passive in the battle. We're all guilty of being too cowardly and afraid. So Lord, I pray for my brothers and sisters in Christ. This morning, I pray for our church and the other faithful churches around us, Lord, that the Christians would develop and do what Paul says here, and we would stand firm against the enemy. We would turn away from our sins, we would pursue that the holy things before you, we would make things right with each other, but we would fight for the glory of God. Lord, thank you for those who have come before us, for men like the Apostle Paul who showed us what this looked like they fought the good fight of faith. And they were faithful until the end. Lord, we want to do that today. As things have been crazy in our country, and things have been just so backwards. What we need to remember there is a greater thing to fight over. And that's the things of You. Help us to do that, Father, help us to have our priorities set on heaven. Would you go with this now as we do? Thank you for our Lord Jesus Christ, the One who died that we might wear this armour and the one who died and gave us victory that we would have a position in the battlefield through Christ. We pray this all in His name and we stand and fight in His name. Amen.