



Ephesians: Masterpiece in Progress
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“Armor of God”
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Key Verses: Ephesians 6:10-20

Key Thought: Since only God can empower us to defeat our real Enemy— whose mission is to separate us from God and from one another, let's— together— utilize God's resources to withstand the attacks of Satan and his demons.

Points to Consider:

- Imagine your chances of victory: In the final game of the playoffs— you know nothing about your opponent, and your opponent knows everything about you. → One of Paul's motivations is to avoid this scenario when it comes to Christians and spiritual warfare.
- The “schemes” of the Enemy are geared toward separating us from God and from one another. ← (See Genesis 3:1-13, for a quintessential example.)
- While it is the power of God alone that can defeat the Enemy, we cannot be passive. Our choice is either to allow the Enemy to defeat us... or to utilize the resources of God to withstand the Enemy's attacks.
- God's resources (metaphorically, God's “armor”) foil the schemes of the Enemy: • **The Belt of Truth:** The truth exposes the Enemy's lies. • **The Breastplate of Righteousness:** Righteousness is a gift from God which protects our relationships by keeping us from sin. • **The Shoes of Peace:** Embracing the “vertical and horizontal” reconciliation that God has won for us readies us for Christian living. • **The Shield of Faith:** Trust in God keeps us from wavering due to deception. • **The Helmet of Salvation:** Submitting ourselves to Christ— our source of life— protects us from straying from the life of God. • **The Sword of the Spirit:** We expose the Enemy's lies with God's word (cf. Matthew 4:1-11).
- The real battle is against Satan and his demons— and not one another.
- Let's— together— utilize God's resources, of which another significant piece is prayer.

Discussion Prompts:

- Rate (from 1-5) your consciousness of spiritual warfare. → Who's been winning?
- How do we engage in spiritual warfare— but with God's power, not our own?
- Where have you been most vulnerable to the Enemy?
- Which piece of God's armor could fortify that vulnerability? Explain.
- Close with prayer for one another.