



Ephesians 6:12-24 (1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

“Put it on and Pray”

Pastor Patrick Bowler

12-5-2021

Consult the Scriptures:

Ephesians 6:12-24

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

*(See also: 1 Tim. 1:18-19; Eph. 2:14-17; Is. 52:7; Heb. 11:1, 4:12-13;
1 Thess. 5:16-18; Rom. 8:26-27)*

Discuss:

1. On Sunday, we wrapped up our study of the book of Ephesians. Take a moment and share some of the highlights of the study as a group. What stood out to you? What challenged you? What encouraged you?
2. Read 1 Cor. 1:26-31 and discuss. What is Paul saying here and how does it relate to the story of God as a whole? And why did Pastor Patrick want to start here before looking at the armor of God?
3. The late pastor and scholar, John Stott, once wrote: “Wobbly Christians who have no firm foothold in Christ are an easy prey for the devil.”¹ What does this mean and how does it relate to Eph. 6:12-20?

¹ John R. W. Stott, *The Bible Speaks Today: The Message of Ephesians* [Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 1979], p. 275.

4. Read Eph. 6:12-20 and discuss. Concerning the various pieces of armor, scholars have varied in their opinions as to Paul's exact meaning with each individual piece. Talk through each piece of armor working to identify some of the differences sense with regards to meaning (e.g. "belt of truth:" 1. Doctrinal truth and 2. Sincerity or truth of heart)
5. Which particular piece of armor either challenged you or encouraged you the most? Why?
6. Read Eph. 6:18 and discuss. Some scholars have suggested that prayer is the seventh piece of armor, though Paul doesn't do so explicitly. Do you agree or disagree? Regardless, how does prayer relate to the armor of God and spiritual warfare on the whole?
7. Read Eph. 6:21-24 and discuss. How important is the community of faith in general, and then in particular, to the spiritual battle we are in as Christians? What does it mean to you personally for someone to truly know how you are doing and to encourage your heart (v. 22)? Do you provide that for others? Where could you grow with regards to connecting within the community of faith?
8. What challenged you with this week's sermon? What questions do you still have? What's your next move?