THE BATTLE

Discernment and Standing Firm

RECAP

- God has called us back to restored communion with Him and His people for the mission of rescuing as many as possible from slavery to sin as we repel internal and external forces against us.
- 2 Corinthians 4:4
- In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-6

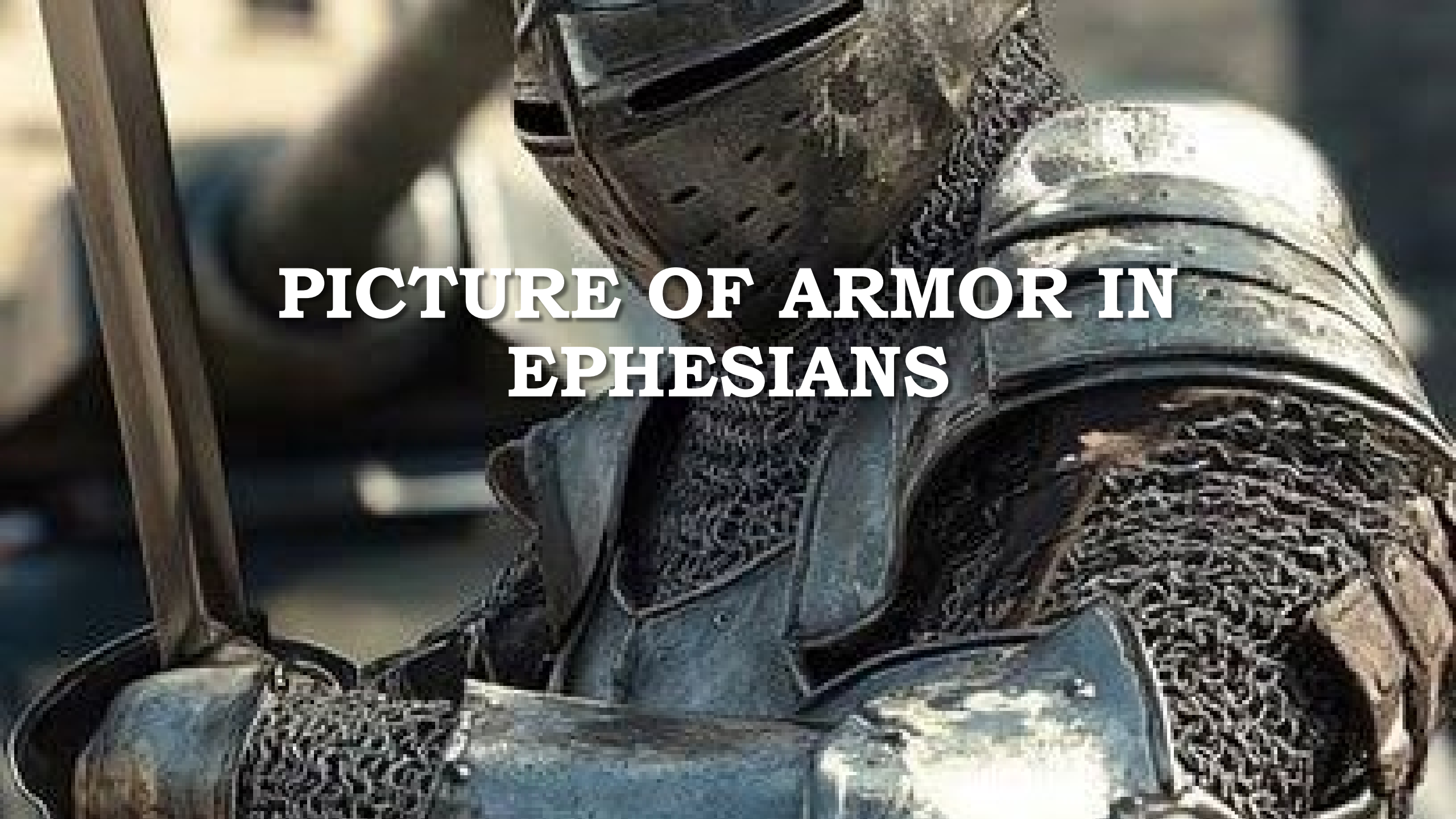
- 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, 6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

- Romans 12:2
- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- Passing every thought through the filter of His Word which is always truth.
- Is this thought drawing me toward obedience or disobedience to His word?
- What other content am I consuming besides the word?

SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

- Thought Scenarios:
  - I feel like God is not with me and why would He be because…..
  - I can't believe God allowed this to happen to me, if He really loved me then…..
  - I want to forgive them, but I can't because…..
  - Everyone would be better without me because……
  - I knew it the whole time but nobody asked me so……



PICTURE OF ARMOR IN EPHESIANS

EPHESIANS 6:13-18

- 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

BATTLE PLAN

Know the Word

Pray continually

Walk in Obedience

Hold tight to the Gospel of peace

Live a life submitted to God and the Holy Spirit

Walk by faith and not by sight

If something causes us to sin get rid of it

Seek humility and reject pride

SELF DENIAL

- Luke 9:23 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.
- Disciplining ourselves to pray, fast, study the word, walk in discipleship relationships to help us discern wants from needs.

PEOPLE AT YOUR SHOULDER

Titus 3:9-11

But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. 10 As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

Proverbs 27:6

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

Corinthians 15:33

Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

SNAKES IN THE GRASS

- 1 Peter 5:8
- Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.



STICKS IN THE GRASS

- If we are not careful sticks can look like snakes.
- Being alert or watchful is not the same as being afraid!
- Many time we can think something is the work of the enemy, when it is just the result of our inmaturity or foolish decisions.
- Romans 8:28-29
- 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,or those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

KEEP THE GRASS SHORT

- What bad habits do you give yourself to?
- Any pre-existing conditions or injuries?
- What medications are you taking?
- When was your last checkup?
- What is your family history like?

