

Ephesians 6:10-24 – 16 October 2022

“Fully Equipped For The Darkness”

Introduction

*Ephesians Outlined

*Chap 1-3 – **The Position of the Christian**

*Chap 4-6 – **The Practice of the Christian**

*Chap 4 began speaking of our practice as Christians as that of having *vibrant unity* within the Church

*Chap 5's 1st half looked at our role-model, Jesus, having us *mimic Jesus* by power of the Holy Spirit

*Chap 5:21-6:9 we looked at mimicking Jesus by fulfilling our *roles in family & society*

*He closes the book w/ a call to arms, to be on guard

*Read II Tim 2:3-4 - (Heavily recommend Josh 5-6)

*Praise God, that He's fully equipped us to walk thru this dark world to shine His light of salvation!

***Today we see 3 principles of spiritual warfare**

1st Principle is that we're in an environment of darkness (Chap 6:10-13)

Read Vs 10

1. Thru all the Kings we read, “and the rest of the acts of XXX, and all his might, and how he did XXX, are they not written in the book of the...”
 - a. Their power comes, reigns & dies!
 - b. God's power is everlasting!
2. We now have access to the power of God that raised Jesus from the dead (Eph 1:19-20)

Read Vs 11

1. Put on the WHOLE armor – need it all
 - a. If soldier has 1 piece missing, they're weak
2. Put it on and stand – it's not for attacking the devil, but to not fall for his tricks and pitfalls
 - a. Devil is in charge of this world plotting the Christian's undoing
 - b. He's looking, as a lion for who he can consume

Read Vs 12

1. 'We wrestle' – we will have conflict
 - a. We must know & avoid the tricks of the devil or we've lost the conflict
2. He allures same way every time
 - a. Read I John 2:16-17 – Same 3 always
 - b. Garden of Eden – Read Gen 3:4-6
 - c. Temptation of Jesus – Matt 4:3-10
3. Notice, the conflict is spiritual, mental, not physical (Read II Cor 10:3-5)
 - a. The darkness of sin is even in our brain and needs rooted out by God's power

Read Vs 13

1. We are to spiritually, mentally prepare today, for the hard day that is coming
2. In the day of hardship, it's hard to think clearly without emotions making the decisions
 - a. Prepare now so we're strong then

2nd Principle is that God has completely equipped us for it (Chap 6:14-18)

Read Vs 14

1. Belt of Truth – holding it all together in the ready position
 - a. All else is secured by God's Word
 - b. Notice the sword is holstered in the belt
2. Breastplate of righteousness – rightness at your core b/c of His righteousness within us

Read Vs 15

1. Gospel of Peace Shoes – Always ready to go and present the good news to lost souls
2. Christ is the firm foundation under our feet that when the rains come, we stand sure!

Read Vs 16

1. Shield of Faith – Our belief in God will eliminate all the attempts of the devil to stop us
 - a. Soak shields in water to stop fiery arrows
 - b. Be washed in water of the Word (Eph 5:26)
2. Faith doesn't always go the way we plan

- a. Read Jos 5:1-2 – prime time to attack?
Wrong, God has other plans
3. ‘Above all’ – This is more important than all other pieces of armor

Read Vs 17

1. Helmet of Salvation – Roman helmet identified a soldier by the color of plume
 - a. We have been delivered into God’s family!
 - b. Read Eph 1:13
2. Sword of the Spirit – The only thing to fight with is spiritual
 - a. Words of eternal life, not of this earth
 - b. Quote Heb 4:12 & Matt 10:34
 - c. Temptation of Christ – “Man shall not...”

Read Vs 18 – *4 conditions of prayer*

1. Pray always – in all occasions
2. Pray with ‘worship & petition’
3. ‘Pray in the Spirit’ – Don’t just pray considering your body, or mind, but consider your spirit
4. ‘Watching’ – Stay alert & continue in prayer, asking God for what you need

3rd Principle is that we have a job to do thru it (Chap 6:19-24)

Read Vs 19

1. Paul knows he needs spiritual power in order to open his mouth & speak of Christ
2. Sees his duty to unveil Good News to others

Read Vs 20

1. Paul sees himself as a constrained representative of Jesus, constrained by what? Chains? No, love!
 - a. Read II Cor 5:14, 20
2. Paul wants the people to see God's power coming thru his confident words

Read Vs 21-22

1. Tychicus was brother & servant, wonderful!
 - a. Do we have friends alongside us serving?
2. On 3rd MT, Paul spent 3 months w/ Tychicus & others in Ephesus (Act 20) developing disciples

3. Tychicus delivered this letter: Rome to Ephesus
 - a. (No need to read) II Tim 4:12
4. Boldly speak to the lost (vs 19-20) and also comfort the saints (vs 21-22)

Read Vs 23

1. Paul has nothing to offer them
2. He offers them the reminder of what God has for them
 - a. Peace, love and faith

Read Vs 24

1. Whom do we give grace to? Same as Jesus.
 - a. Do good to all people, but especially unto the ones who are seeking to honor & love Jesus
 - b. In all their imperfections, offer them grace
2. Dealing w/ a sceptic?
 - a. They need grace – it's like heaping coal of fire on them (Rom 12:20)
 - b. But they also need the Law (I Tim 1:9) to bring the knowledge of sin (Rom 3:20)

Conclusion

So we're looking at true spiritual warfare. How many here would agree that...

1. **We're in an environment of darkness**
 - a. Satan runs this world
 - b. But there's everlasting world coming ruled by God & His perfect righteousness!
2. **God has completely equipped us for this world**
 - a. We don't earn them; He's given them to us
 - b. If we vulnerable; ask God to show you the strength of HIS might thru his gifted armor!
3. **We have a job to do thru it**
 - a. Prayer is a real & effective job!
 - b. Bold witnessing is needed & changes lives!

Turn to Ecc 4:9-12 – The Romans knew this – they used the tortoise formation to secure the victory!

We've each been given the Armor of God, but how much better when we function together!