

Sermon Supplement

Ephesians 6:10-24

The War Against the One New Man

UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

1. **Main Idea of the Passage:** Paul closes his letter to the Ephesians by recognizing that walking in a way that pleases the Lord and engages in the mission of the church isn't easy. There are powerful supernatural forces that are constantly on the attack. Because of this reality, God makes his power available to believers so they can resist the attacks of the enemy and advance the kingdom of God. Believers are called to use the gifts God has given them, to persevere in doing good and in prayer, depending on the Holy Spirit to work through them.
2. **Melodic Line of the Letter:** The two become one for His glory. God the Father, through God the Son, by the power and presence of God the Spirit, is making a multi-ethnic people for the purpose of His glory, based in his eternal plan, in this final age.

KEY WORDS

1. **Be Strong** (*endunamoō*) **v. 10** – to become able to function or do something, usually of inner or moral strength; strength that comes from the Lord; see also, Phil. 4:13; 2 Tim. 2:1.
2. **Stand** (*histēmi*) **vv. 10, 13, 14** – to stand up against, resist; it is the main imperative of this passage and is done in the strength of the Lord and by putting on his armor; see also, Ex. 14:13.
3. **Evil** (*ponēros*) **vv. 13, 16** – pertaining to being morally or socially worthless; wicked, bad, base, worthless; can refer to things or beings, in our passage it refers to both the days in which we live (see also, 5:16) and the devil, the evil one (see also, some translations of the Lord's Prayer, Mt. 6:13, 'deliver us from the evil one').

STRUCTURE/OUTLINE OF THE PASSAGE

- I. Spiritual Warfare (**vv. 10-20**)
 - A. The War (**vv. 10-12**)
 1. The war is ultimately spiritual
 2. How the devil attacks
 3. How we are to respond
 - B. The Three P's (**v. 13-20**)
 1. Protection
 2. Power
 3. Prayer
- II. Final Greetings (**vv. 21-24**)

GOSPEL CENTRALITY

Fighting this spiritual battle, we stand firm in the gospel, knowing that our strength to stand firm is in the Lord. The armor of God is gospel armor; the power to stand is gospel power; and our prayer is gospel prayer. It's all the gospel – content and power.

KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN

- How does Paul's initial imperative to "be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might" intersect with your life right now?
- Do you believe the cosmic powers and spiritual forces are actually impacting your daily life? Name one subtle and one obvious way you see them at play.
- What do you need prayer for in this fight against darkness? Where are you vulnerable against the schemes of the devil?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

- Thank God for the protection and power He provides through the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God for a posture of humility in our prayers, that we would always be mindful of the spiritual battle raging around us, and that we would persevere in our prayers.
- Pray for gospel unity in our church and in other churches.
- Pray for gospel workers: missionaries, pastors, your life group, friends, family, and our church.
- Pray for the gospel to have victory in the context of affliction.