

"More Than Meets The Eyes"

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: How have you seen "evil" manifesting itself around us?

Q: Do you think evil is increasing or decreasing? Why?

Q: Have you ever felt that you're under a spiritual attack? What was that like?

Table Time....

READ: Ephesians 6:10-20 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 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, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak."

Q: According to verse 10 "whose" strength and "might" do we fight our spiritual battles?

Q: What are the "schemes of the devil"? How do you see them playing out in the world around us and against your life?

Q: According to verse 12, what do we "wrestle against"? What are "those"?

Q: Because verse 12 is our reality, what does verse 13 tell us to do? Why is THAT important?

Q: What does this kind of language tell us about the spiritual realities we face?

Q: According to verses 14-17 what does each piece of the armor of God represent?

Q: According to verse 18, what does prayer help us do in spiritual battles?

Q: According to verse 19, what are we to also pray for?

Q: What's Paul's desire according to verse 20?

Q: What does the fact that he was often in "chains" tell us about how the spiritual battle manifests itself in the physical realm?

Big Group Debrief....

Transition: Let's back up and read just before this. After Paul's teaching on submission within the context of Marriage as a "picture of Christ", scripture extends the idea of "submission" out to other contexts. So, scripture moves from marriage to children, then to "work" relationships. All earthly plane stuff. Then scripture moves to the Spiritual plan as we have already covered above.

READ: Galatians 6:1-4 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

Q: What's the instruction for "children"?

Q: What's the instruction for "Fathers" (i.e. parents)?

Q: Why is THAT important?

READ: Galatians 6:5-9 "Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. ⁹ Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him."

Q: How is this similar to the admonitions for children and parents above?

Q: How is submission to God and FOR Him an important characteristic in our life?