

THE CHRISTIAN WARFARE EPHESIANS 6:10-20. Part 2

INTRO:

- This section in Ephesians is a call to arms, a battle cry.
- My task or goal in going to these scriptures are twofold.
 - 1) To do all I can to awaken in us the reality that we have an enemy and we are at war.
 - 2) Give instruction and encouragement so that we would be victorious in this battle, overcomers.
- These verses, 6:10-6:20, are a culmination of all that Paul has preached in the previous chapters.
- Last week "strong in the Lord and the power of His might! (continuous)
 - Paul 2 Cor. 12; Acts 9,
 - Brokenness, humility, the crucified saint...
 - As a branch separated from the vine, as a limb severed from the body, so is a Christian separated from the Lord.
- Basic to the effective Christian life is preparation.
- The unprepared, ignorant believer becomes the defeated believer.
- He will find it a mistake serve the Lord in his own wisdom and strength.
 - The church at Ephesus lost her strength in the Lord (FIRST LOVE) and leaned on the arm of flesh. **Rev. 2:1-4**
- For the strength of the overcoming believer is being strong in the Lord and power of His might. This great power which is found at the foot of the cross.
- When we are most empty of self, we are most full of God.
 - Gal. 2:20; ²⁰ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.
- Strong in relationship and communion with God.
- We need to be strong in the Lord not only for our own benefit and success, but we bear the name of Christ. We carry the name of Christian with us, on us. Let us not dishonor Him, not taking His name in vain.
- The church in Ephesus was marked as a church born in adversity, in war,
 - 1 Cor. 16:8, 9; ⁸ But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. ⁹ For a great and effective door has opened to me, and *there are* many adversaries.
- Paul warned them that after his departure many attacks would come.
 - Acts 20:29, 30; ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse/misleading things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

THE WARFARE:

- **Rev. 12:12; ¹² Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."**
- **The true Christ exalted Christian who is described in chapters 1-3, and who lives out the faithful life described in chapters 4:-6:9, can be sure he will be in the spiritual warfare described in 6:10-6:20.**
- **This is a war between the soul of the saint, the world, flesh and the devil.**
- **It is the most serious, sobering, deadly war man will ever face.**
- **Our eternal souls and destinies are at stake, not just our bodies.**
- **The fight and war of the Christian life is wider more intense, more constant than ever before.**
- **100 years ago a man's home was a great sanctuary, but today it is the world's thorough fare.**
 - **Radio, TV, internet, smart phones, I pads, etc. All attacking the mind and soul of God's people.**
- **It is an all-out 24-7 onslaught on the soul of a man. The battle for "MAN SOUL."**
- **The Spirit of God through Paul is calling us and preparing us for battle**
- **He is not calling us to a remembrance of a past war, or a history of a war, but awaking us to the fact that we are at war. Now!**
- **We must remember that this blessed life we now live is lived out on hostile grounds...WE ARE BEHIND ENEMY LINES!**
- **It is the life of a military camp in the enemy's territory.**
- **We are strangers, pilgrims and sojourners.**
- **When we consider the life of Christ, his public ministry began in battle with the enemy and ended in a battle in Gethsemane to Calvary.**
- **Whether we know it or not, the entire life of a Christian will be one of warfare, satan contesting every step of obedience taken and lived out.**
- **Many may show up for a battle, but few willing to fight. To enter the arena.**
 - **Sam. 17:2, 24..David and the armies of Israel.**
 - **To be willing to spill their blood on the battle field.**
- **A Christian who has fallen either into sin or into complacency, a Christian who knows of no conflict, is a Christian who has retreated from the battle and already surrendered to the enemy.**
- **We must be courageous, intentional, resolute: Josh. 1:6, 7, 9.**
 - **Dan. 11:32b; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out *great exploits*.**

Let us re-think, renew and ready our minds of the reality of the war....

AT WAR BUT VICTORY IS ASSURED:

- The outcome of the war is certain; our victory has already been won. It has been won by our great Redeemer, our wonderful victorious wounded, crucified risen Warrior Jesus Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah.
 - Rom. 8:37, We are more than conquerors through CHRIST!
- Paul was a greater danger to, and victor over satan as he sat in prison.
- Our powerful enemy has been defeated, but the victory is only in Christ.
 - 1 Cor. 15:57; ⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Rom. 16:20; And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.
- Remember God it is Who fights for us, the battle is the Lords.
 - He is the Man of war. EX. 15:3
 - Ex. 14:13, 14,..... **2 Chron. 20:15, 16..**
- Yet we are called to fight. Nothing passive here. But God is our strength and Captain.
 - Ps. 144:1; 144 Blessed *be* the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, *And* my fingers for battle—
- 1 JN. 4:4; ⁴ Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.
- 1 JN. 5:4, 5; For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
- **Josh . 10:22-26**
Ex. 23:20-22; ²⁰ “Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. ²¹ Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name *is* in Him. ²² But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.
- Rev. 20: 9-10; ⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- **Dt. 20: 1-4;**

“Let none take your crown from you, sharpen your courage at the throne of grace, (Heb. 4:16) Go forth up the hill of promise to see and bring back to the certain news of Christ coming to you and an assured victory with Him.”
(William Gurnall)