

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.
- Basic to the effective Christian life is preparation.
- The unprepared, ignorant believer becomes the defeated believer.
- 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.

THE WARFARE:

- **WE ARE BEHIND ENEMY LINES!**
- It is the life of a military camp in the enemy's territory.
- Many may show up for a battle, but few willing to fight. To enter the arena.
- A Christian who knows of no conflict, is a Christian who has retreated and already surrendered to the enemy and thus lost the battle .

AT WAR BUT VICTORY IS ASSURED:

- The outcome of the war is certain; our victory has already been won. Ex. **23:20-22; 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.**
 - Rom 8 31-39
- The Christian is safe, he is successful because he is spiritually right with Christ in God given truth and righteousness, because he is sure of Christ beneath his feet and as his panoply for his whole being.
- Christ is his truth, Christ is his breast plate, his righteousness, Christ is the covering of his feet as the equipment of the gospel of peace,
- Christ is his mighty buckler, the mighty shield of faith against the fiery volley of the wicked one,
- Christ is the covering of his head, his helmet of salvation in the day of battle,
- Christ's spoken word, the living powerful word making Himself His servants sword to cut the accuser down,
- And by praying in the spirit the Christian grasps Christ and holds Him fast!
- ***"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 the certain news of Christ coming to you and an assured victory with Him."***
(William Gurnall)

Eph. 6:10-13

- **BE STRONG:**
- **BE ARMED:**
- **BE WRESTLING:**
- **BE STANDING:**

BE STRONG:

- **Be strong IN THE LORD: Not self.**
- **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 and strong.**
 - **2 Cor. 12:**

BE ARMED: PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD! VS. 11 & 13

- **Notice: It is God's armor.**
 - **It is the armor that God gives.**
 - **Just as the strength we need is of the Lords so is the armor.**
 - **It is as invincible as the God who gives it.**
 - **From Him who is able to keep us from falling. Jude 24**
- **Notice it is the whole armor. To be wholly armed.**
 - **Not just some. We will fail and be defeated if we only put on some.**
 - **Refuse not any part of God's armor. God gives a full suit of it.**
 - **Paul would probably have in his mind the Roman soldier.**
 - **It is both defensive and also offensive.**
 - **The believer must not only defend himself, but also to attack his spiritual enemies and the offensive armor is just as necessary as the defensive.**
 - **One never won a war only being defensive.**
- **VS. 13 Take up/ put on, the armor.**
 - **Because our enemy is not human, but superhuman, and seeks to totally destroy and kill us, we must, to be victorious, to succeed, we must take up the whole armor of God. We are not enough outside of the aid of God.**
 - **If satan were not a supernatural foe, if he were only a man, human weapons, human strengths could be adequate, but our foe excels us in strength, intelligence, cunning, energy and so we need supernatural powers for the victory.**
 - **PUT ON: is to envelope in, to hide in, to clothe in.**
 - **A once and for all act of permanence. It is to be put on permanently.**
 - **The verb is in the imperative, and is a command given with military snap, a command to be obeyed at once and once for all. "To do and do it now!"**

- God gives His armor; we must take it up, from His hands and put it on.
- We must clothe ourselves with it. The Panoply, the complete covering.
- It is only any good if it is taken up and put on!
- It is no good on laying on the ground, or in our heads.
- To put on and to take up are both in the imperative.
 - Do it! And do it now! And leave it on!

BE WRESTLING:

- **WRESTLE:** A contest between two, which each exerts his all to defeat, pin down, render subdued his opponent.
- The defeated one, in the Greek games of wrestling had both his eyes gouged out or was put to death. (he only had one loss.)
- For believers in the Western world, especially America, where the church has generally enjoyed prosperity and ease, has led to complacency and has made us oblivious and dumb to the reality and seriousness of the battle, the war around us.
- We rejoice in the victories that involved no battles, no wrestling, and in a kind of peace that is merely the absence of any conflict.
- These are things of those who are not true soldiers or warriors.
- God gives His strength to them who obey.
- See **2 Cor. 10:3-5** For though we walk in the flesh.....
- Vs. 12 "spiritual wickedness" is better translated, "spiritual wickedness's." Wicked spirits
- **The evil day:** Pernicious, evil in active opposition to good, the church and the will of God.
- Because satan is God's enemy, we are satan's enemy, targets. His jealousy drives him to hate us and get to God, to try to hurt God, fight against god by coming after us. To destroy, slander, deface the image of God in us.
- Who is the enemy? This destroyer?
 - He was once the great angel who was most powerful and beautiful, gifted with great power, privilege and intelligence. **(Isa. 14:12-15)**
 - Even now transforming himself to be an angel of light to deceive multitudes of people, even God's people. (2Cor. 11:14)The whole world lies in his power. 1 John, 5:19, We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway of* the wicked one.
 - His names are many; the ruler of demons, (Lk 11:15) Ruler of this world. (JN. 16:11) the god of this world, (2 Cor. 4:4) the prince of the power of the air, (Eph. 2:2) that great serpent, (Rev) The father of lies, the father of evil men, the great dragon, the roaring lion, the tempter, the accuser of the brethren, the spirit working in the children of disobedience.
 - 52X mentioned as satan.
 - 35X the devil, the slanderer.

- Having deceived and convinced 1/3 of the blessed angels to rebel, revolt against almighty God, and follow him..... into hell.

BE STANDING:

- Stand in the **Evil Day!**
 - These are days of evil. Every day!
 - Ps. 49:5; Why should I fear in the days of evil,
- Stand against: A military term, Holding or to hold a critical position while under attack. A soldier's expression used for standing one's ground.
 - In contrast to taking flight, retreating.
 - See Rev. 2:25 "But hold fast what you have till I come,"
- **Wiles:** "Methodia." Methods, schemes, strategies, craftiness, cunning arts and trickeries and deceptions. To investigate by method and settled plan.
- The word was used of a wild animal that cunningly stalked its prey, then unexpectedly pounced on it.
- His schemes are built around stealth and deception.
- We will be able to stand only as we have obeyed and done all to stand.
- Having done all, our Captain has asked us to do, As on a battle field obeying the captain's command. Taking the position, the responsibility, the armor and the weapons, the actions He has directed us to take.

Martin Luther: After declaring that men are only saved by faith alone, in Christ alone, declared, "my conscience is captive to the word of God. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise!"

- When our race is one, or fight being over, when our earthly life has come to an end, may we be found standing. (2 John, 8) Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but *that* we may receive a full reward.
 - Paul remained firm, unmovable, unwavering in his stand for Christ, the gospel, and the church. He had run his race to the end and knew he would not lose his crown or be disqualified. 1 Cor. 9:27, 2 Tim. 4:6-8.
 - If we are not strong in the Lord, (weak in ourselves) if we are not taking up and putting on the whole armor, keeping it on at all times, we will not, we cannot stand against the wiles of the devil.
 - **BROTHERS AND SISTERS** let us be standing, let us at the end be found standing.
- **I want to die standing! How about you?**