

EPHESIANS 6:17b THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT THE WORD OF GOD

REVIEW/INTRO: Read Eph. 6

- The helmet of Salvation: Past (Justification), Present, (Sanctification), and especially Future (Glorification).
 - 1 Thess. 5:8, 9. As a helmet, the hope of salvation.
 - **1 Ptr. 1:3-13**
 - Rom. 13:11; And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed.
- This sword is inseparable from the shield of faith in verse 16 for this faith is backed by the word of God.
- The Word of God, the Sword of the Spirit.
- Three headings.

THE WORD OF GOD:

LIKENED UNTO A SWORD:

IT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE SPIRIT:

1) THE WORD OF GOD:

- THE WORD OF GOD:
 - **2 Ptr. 1:20, 21.**
 - **2 Tim. 3:16**
- The Greek word here in the phrase; the *word* of God, is the word "rhema" rather than the general word which is logos.
- It is the spoken or specific word or phrase of God.
- Used about 70 times in the NT.
- Here is a few of the examples of the use of the Greek word "rhema."
 - "*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word [rhema] that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*" (Matthew 4:4). Jesus also stated, "*The words [rhema] that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life*" (John 6:63).
 - When Jesus told Peter to cast the fishing nets on the other side of the boat, Peter answered, "*Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word [rhema] I will let down the net*" (Luke 5:5).
 - When the angel told Mary that she would have a child, "*Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word [rhema]*" (Luke 1:38).
 - Simeon recalled the promise that he would see Christ before he died: "*Now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word [rhema]*" (Luke 2:29).

- God gave John the message he was to preach as a forerunner to Christ: "*The word [rhema] of God came unto John*" (Luke 3:2).
- It speaks of precision which comes from knowing the scriptures.
 - 2 Tim. 2:15; Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth
- The spoken word of God is backed by all the power and authority of God.
- For this reason it is powerful and is also the target of satans onslaughts. (has God said?)
- This word of God is the scriptures which the Spirit uses to inspire and empower us in our daily lives.
- The scriptures help us keep us grounded and not be swept up in emotion and error and cause us to misuse them.
- The scriptures protect our vulnerability to be impetuous, impulsive or presumptuous.
- The scriptures give us a way of checking and examining.
- Am I using this word/phrase/verse biblically?
- The scriptures keep us in check, they keep our feet on the ground...
- Lest we float away into some carnal, or soulish, self-serving place.
- The word of God to us personally must be checked and in balance with the whole of scripture.
- Don't use the word out of context.
- The scriptures are the words of God, God breathed, they are our guide and will not conflict or contradict the will of God.
- The word is the source of growth;
 - 1 Ptr. 2:2; as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.
- It is the source of guidance.
 - Ps 119:105; Your word *is* a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.
- It is the source of patience, hope, and comfort;
 - Rom. 15:4; For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the ^[a]patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.
- And the guide to perfection and maturity;
 - 2 Tim. 3:16
- If ever, whenever, anything usurps or takes the place of the word of God in the church or in our lives whether it be human reason, science, government, traditions, commandments of men, culture we are at the mercy of the adversary.
 - Oh how firm a foundation ye saint so the Lord is laid for your faith in His excellent word!

2) LIKENED UNTO A SWORD:

- **Twice in Rev. we see Jesus with a sharp sword. Rev. 1:16, 19:15.**
- **The sword of the Spirit is unique in that it is the only offensive weapon, and it can also be defensive.**
- **This Greek word used to describe this sword is surprisingly not the broad sword.**
- **It is the small sword, from 6 – 18” in length.**
- **Used for all types of combat but especially fitting for close combat.**
- **One must be skillful in its use to know victory.**
- **Jesus often took up the sword of the Spirit when addressing his adversaries and His great adversary, satan.**
- **He took up the sword of the Spirit and quoted the word of God from the scriptures when satan came to tempt and deceive Him.**
- **3 Time Jesus quoted from Deut.**
- **Sometimes the word of God comes alive to us, jumping off the pages of our bibles, but be sure it is of the Spirit and not my wishful heart only.**
- **The devil quoted scripture to Jesus, but Jesus corrected the devil by quoting scripture. Jesus saw to the heart of the matter being more concerned about the will of His Father, than His own needs.**
- **Do I see the importance of knowing the scripture? Can I quote the scripture? Am I reading and studying the scripture?**
 - **Heb. 4:12, 13**
 - **PS 119:11; Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.**
- **This sword defends the saint and offends his enemies.**
- **“The bible is an armory of heavenly weapons, a laboratory of infallible medicines, a mine of inexhaustible wealth, a guide book for every road, a chart for every sea, a medicine for every ailment, a balm for every wound, to rob us of our bibles and our sky has lost its sun.” (Thomas Guthrie 1850)**

3) IT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE SPIRIT:

- The sword of the Spirit, that is, the sword which the Spirit gives.
- It is the Spirit who gives it. Who breaths it.
- This sword, the word of God, is the property of the Spirit.
- He owns it, He gives it, He empowers it.
- Is the Spirit of God teaching us, am I surrendering to Him as my Lord and teacher?
- Only the Spirit is able to lead and teach us in these things.
 - **1 Cor. 2:12-14** The Spirit teaching us.
- Truth is always spiritually discerned, not human intelligence, or mere study of man, but it must be revealed by the Spirit, given by the Spirit, our minds and hearts opened by the Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit knows best how to fight our enemy.
- How to wield the sword.
- He alone can and does empower the word. It is He who gives power to the word.
- God's word, spoken by Him, will not return to Him void.
 - **Isa. 55:11**; So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me ^[a]void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it

Conclusion/Application:

- To be a Christian and unskillful in the word is like a scholar without a book, a sea captain without navigation, a fisherman without a fishing rod, a hunter without a gun.
- No soldier would think of entering a battle without a weapon. The soldier needs a sword.
- We are to fight our foes, world, flesh and the devil, not by our power, or might but by His Spirit and the sword which He gives. The word of God.
- One of the difficulties of fighting with this sword is we often forget to use it,
- We approach everything in our own strength and abilities.
- Sometimes it is that we don't want to stop and pick up this weapon, or invest the effort.
- We are hurt or feel sorry for ourselves and on at the moment not willing to step out of ourselves, our self centeredness and so we sulk in our self-pity or anger.
- Rather than train our hearts and bring all things unto subjection to Him and His word.
- But the sooner we do take up the sword, the sooner we will know peace and growth and conformity to the will and the Spirit of God.