

Studies in Ephesians – The Christian’s Armor

Ephesians 6:10-20

Introduction:

1. Ephesians 4:17 through Eph. 6:24 constitute the practical section of Ephesians; that is, this section deals with life in the everyday world. In these verses the apostle dealt with such matters as:
 - a. The manner of life which ought to characterize God’s people, Eph. 4:17-5:21.
 - b. The responsibility of wives to their husbands, Eph. 5:22,24,33.
 - c. The responsibility of husbands to their wives, Eph. 5:23,25-33.
 - d. The responsibility of children to parents, Eph. 6:1-3.
 - e. The responsibility of parents to children, Eph. 6:4.
 - f. The responsibility of servants to masters, Eph. 6:5-8.
 - g. The responsibility of masters to servants, Eph. 6:9.
2. This lesson is entitled “The Christian’s Armor, and it is based upon Eph. 6:10-20.
3. Observation. These verses introduce another aspect of the Christian’s life; namely, **warfare!** This goes against the grain of our modern politically correct society.
 - a. In today’s world, religious people are expected to be pacifists, not fighters.
 - b. Whereas Jesus often identified different religious groups by name, and exposed both their teachings and their hypocrisy, modern preachers are expected to “go along in order to get along.”
4. However, in the New Testament, the life of a Christian is repeatedly portrayed metaphorically in terms of warfare.
 - a. I Tim. 1:18, “...that thou by them mightest war a good warfare.”
 - b. I Tim. 6:12, “Fight the good fight of faith...”
 - c. 2 Tim. 2:3, “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”
 - d. 2 Cor. 10:4, “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God....”
 - e. 2 Tim. 4:7, “*I have fought a good fight.*”
 - f. Rev. 19:11, “*And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and true, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war.*”

Discussion:

I. Introductory Instructions, Eph. 6:10-11.

- A. “*Finally, my brethren,*” Eph. 6:10.
 1. A transition verse, also a connecting link between what has been said and the conclusion which follows.
- B. “*Be Strong in the Lord,*” Eph. 6:10.
 1. “*Be strong*” is in the present tense and imperative mood (which signifies personal responsibility).
 2. One cannot be “*strong in the Lord*” if he is not “*in the Lord!*” cf. Gal. 3:27.
- C. “*Put on the whole armor of God,*” v. 11
 1. Paul, at that moment, was “*an ambassador in bonds,*” Eph. 6:20. He was able to bear first hand witness of the armor of the Roman soldier, and he drew comparisons between the armor of a Roman soldier, and that of a soldier of the cross.
 2. He stressed “*the whole armor of God,*” v. 11.

II. Why is it so important to be “*Strong in the Lord?*”

- A. “*That ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil,*” V. 11.
 1. “*Wiles*” is from *methodeia*, denoting methods or trickery. Satan is evil and he is filled with cunning devices designed to ensnare the unsuspecting victim. Cf. 2 Cor. 2:11.
- B. “*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood...,*” Eph. 6:12.
 1. Wrestling involves close contact with the enemy!
 2. We wrestle against “*principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places,*” Eph. 6:12.
 - a. This includes Satan and all his allies! Cf. Jude 6; Col. 2:14-15; 2 Cor. 4:4
 - b. Satan approached the first couple in the garden of Eden, Gen. 3:1-6.
 - c. Satan approached the babe in Bethlehem, Rev. 12:4.
 - d. Satan approached Jesus in the wilderness, Matt. 4:1.
 - e. Satan only left Jesus “*for a season,*” Luke 4:13.
 - f. And Satan has us in his sights too! I Peter 5:8-9.

C. *“Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day,”* 6:13.

1. *“And having done all to stand,”* 6:13. God wants us to “stand!” We must not retreat!

III. The Christian’s Armor.

A. *“Having your loins girt about with truth,”* Eph. 6:14.

1. “The belt or girdle was the foundation garment among the items of armor. It tied the clothing of the soldier to his body. It held in place his sword and other parts of his regalia,” Caldwell.

2. *“Truth”* is paramount! John 8:32; 17:17.

3. Satan is a liar! John 8:44. We can only defeat him with the truth!

B. *“Having on the breastplate of righteousness,”* Eph. 6:14.

1. The breastplate protected the heart and covered the body from the neck to the thighs.

2. Righteousness is moral uprightness. Cf. Rom. 6:13; 14:17; 8:4; I John 3:7; I Thess. 5:8.

C. *“And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace,”* Eph. 6:15.

1. The shoes of Roman soldiers were of such nature that they provided good footing in forced marches.

2. The soldier must be ready to fight, ready to march, ready to move, ready to do what it takes.

3. Our hearts must be filled with a knowledge of the gospel, and we must be ready to go and share it.

4. **Note:** it is *“the gospel of peace,”* the gospel which enables those alienated from God to be made at peace with God. Cf. Eph. 2:12-13,16.

D. *“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts...,”* 6:16.

1. The shield was approximately four feet by two and one half feet; it was solid; it often had a metal liner.

2. The shield was able to repel fiery darts, lances, and spears.

3. The shield of faith! Faith used both objectively and subjectively.

a. Objectively. Making sure that one is adhering to *“the faith,”* Jude 3.

b. Subjectively. Making sure that one has complete confidence in the power of the gospel!

E. *“And take the helmet of salvation,”* Eph. 6:17.

1. The Roman helmet protected the head from blows and enemy missiles.

2. Note also I Thess. 5:8. In this verse “hope” is directly connected with the “helmet.” Cf. I John 3:3.

F. *“And the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God,”* Eph. 6:17.

1. The one directly offensive weapon.

2. But God’s word is enough! Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Matt. 4:1-11; Isaiah 40:8.

3. But we must know how to use the sword of the Spirit, which we can’t do unless we are well acquainted with it! 2 Peter 3:18.

G. *“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit...,”* Eph. 6:18.

1. Praying is the general word for prayer.

2. *“Supplication”* is a petition, or a cry for help. We need help! Phil. 4:6,19; I Thess. 5:17-18; Rom. 12:12; Luke 18:1. Note: He said *“praying always!”*

3. Two other important items connected:

a. *“Watching.”* Being on the alert. I Pet. 4:7; Col. 4:2.

b. *“With all perseverance and supplication for all saints,”* Eph. 6:18.

(1) *“And for me that utterance may be given unto me...”* v. 19

(2) That *“I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak,”* v. 20.

Note: Paul needed their prayers for him both as a man and as a preacher. If he needed the prayers of the saints in his behalf, surely all preachers today who sincerely strive to serve the Lord and further His saving gospel are in need of the prayers of the saints in their behalf!

Conclusion:

1. With this lesson we conclude what has been an on-going series of studies on the book of Ephesians.

2. A review of all the lessons, at this time, is impractical. However, it is well to stress again certain basic facts:

a. All spiritual blessings are in Christ, Eph. 1:3.

b. *“In”* Christ we can obtain that glorious *“inheritance,”* Eph. 1:11.

c. People *“dead”* in sins can be made alive in Christ, Eph. 2:1.

d. Reconciliation is in the *“one body”* which is the church, Eph. 2:16; 1:20-21.

e. Jesus is the *“savior of the body,”* Eph. 5:23.

3. Are you in *“in Christ?”* Are you member of that *“one body?”*

--Bobby Witherington, March 15, 2015