

Grace Bible Church
Adult Elective Winter 2017
Topic: Ephesians
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Textbook Recommended: Living Insights - Ephesians by Chuck Swindoll

Ephesians 6 Part II

- 6:10-13
 - Satan and the demonic forces of evil desire to totally destroy believers and the church (any way possible!).
 - Paul, writing with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit desires that believers stand firm until the end.
 - The only way believers are able to resist the devil is via the power of the Holy Spirit living within us!
 - This section (vv. 10-13) is a call to battle. Essentially, it prepares us in a ready stance with full protective armor (all from God!).
 - The enemy is Satan and his demons (see Ezekiel 28:12-16, Job 1:6-12, Luke 22:31, Jude 1:9, Revelation 12:7, Zechariah 3:1-2 and 1 Peter 5:8 for descriptions of Satan and his relationship to God and people).
 - Right knowledge and right living will assist us (with the Holy Spirit's power) to resist Satan and stand firm against evil.
 - REASONS WE NEED ARMOR:
 - Satan is a spiritual being and fights in a way different from our earthly experience. As such, we need to move away from our fleshly abilities and into/over to our spiritual strength in Christ.
 - Satan's forces are pure evil. We can hardly imagine the pure depravity and wickedness which characterizes Satanic forces.
 - In and of ourselves we are powerless against Satan. However, God has ultimate control over Satan and the victory is guaranteed. (cf. Luke 22:31)
 - EFFECTS OF THE ARMOR:
 - Allows believers to stand firm in Christ.
 - When we resist Satan in God's strength/power, he will flee. Cf. James 4:7
 - The armor allows believers to discern Satan's wicked schemes. Note that the Greek here is *methodeia* and is plural - Satan has numerous schemes to ensnare us....
 - But, with God's power (His armor worn by believers) believers are able to withstand anything (literally, anything).
 - KEYS:
 - Satan is NOT stronger than God.

- Satan will NOT be victorious over God or the church.
- 6:14-20
 - The power of God's arsenal:
 - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
 - Romans 8:37-39
 - 2 Peter 1:3
 - Military uniforms were commonplace in Paul's day.
 - Paul likely calls upon Isaiah for his imagery:
 - Isaiah 11:5 - belt of righteousness and faithfulness
 - Isaiah 59:17 - righteousness like a breastplate
 - Isaiah 52:7 - feet of those who pronounce good news of happiness, salvation, and God's kingdom.
 - BELT OF TRUTH
 - heavy belt which secured the tunic, breastplate and weapon/sheath
 - for the believer, this is God's Word (cf. John 17:17) as God is truth and He is fully revealed in His Son and the written Word
 - this supports and anchors all else
 - BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
 - large piece of bronze, leather, or chain mail covering vital organs
 - for the believer, this is positional justification before God
 - this basis for our relationship with God gives us firm ground on which to live (with the Holy Spirit's power) in order to live out God's plan for us (and fight the good fight).
 - BOOTS OF PEACE
 - strong, leather shoes laced up the legs which gave firm footing
 - for the believer, the firm footing against Satan is the peace we have in Christ
 - no temptation or taunting or hardship from Satan can interfere with us if we rest in Christ and rely on Him fully
 - SHIELD OF FAITH
 - leather, wood, and metal plate which protects from arrows and attacks
 - for the believer, his/her faith provides impenetrable protection against evil
 - HELMET OF SALVATION
 - thick leather and metal protecting the skull and face
 - for the believer, assurance of salvation and relationship with God ensures that we will survive and persevere to the end (cf. John 10:28, Romans 8:37-39 and 1 John 1:8-10 for passages on eternal security)
 - SWORD OF THE SPIRIT
 - offensive weapon to attack
 - for the believer, the spoken Word (Gk. *rhema*) effects positive change for the good (God) - practical speaking and living our faith

- NOTE: Gk. *logos* is written Word (content) and Gk *rhema* is spoken word (expressed message)
- 6:18-20
 - Praying in the Spirit gives total control over to God. The Holy Spirit engages us with God's power and even helps us properly request (cf. Romans 8:26)
- 6:21-24
 - Personal greetings and encouragement are found in the final words of Paul.
 - Tychicus is seen in Acts 19-20, Ephesians 6, and Colossians 4.
 - Paul believes in "teamwork" and is never working alone.
 - Paul values personal relationships as much as doctrinal/pragmatic instruction.
 - SUMMARY: God's love is the foundation for our right doctrine and practice. We are to keep our first love (NOTE: Revelation 2:4-5 was written decades after Paul's letter to the Ephesians and notes that the Ephesians had left their first love...)!)