

The Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-20

Introduction:

1. The apostle Paul spends the first half of his letter to the Christians in Ephesus reminding them who they are in their union to Jesus Christ. The second half of the epistle is spent telling how those who are called are to walk in Christ. We are to live in a "manner worthy of our calling" (Ephesians 4:1). As we live out this calling, Paul tells us that we can expect opposition. We have an enemy. We are at war. We ignore or neglect this fact at our own peril. God, in His mercy, has not left us unprotected in this battle. He has provided His armor of truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, and the gospel of peace. These are enough for us. So why do we enter this battle every day in our own armor? Why do we forget that we are at war in the first place? We are at war every day and God has provided for us. Will we engage in this battle and will we trust His provision for us?
 2. Read Ephesians 6:10-20.
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1. We Are at War—

- a) Did you hear the sobering truth...that we are at war? It is a reality clearly taught throughout Scripture and we ignore it at our own peril.
- b) 1 Peter 5 describes the conflict in this way, "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."
- c) The Christian life is war. There are a few things we need to understand to help us engage in this war:
 - First, in this war, the enemy is Satan and his kingdom, not your unbelieving friend or neighbor. Our enemy is the devil and the "spiritual forces of evil" (v. 11-12).
 - Second, this war will be fought on the battlegrounds of our own individual lives/hearts and the broader fields of churches, cultures, and nations. There will be war "in here" and "out there" because Satan seeks to advance his kingdom in both realms.
 - Third, in this war, we have nothing to fear. Listen to God's Word, "Greater is He who is within us than he who is in the world, Jesus will build His church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it, He will never leave us nor forsake us, nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, salvation and power and glory belong to our God, the Lord our God the Almighty reigns."

2. The Armor Of God—

At the risk of stating the obvious, note that it is the armor "of God" (v. 11). We do not go in our own strengths, strategies, or skills. We go dressed in and protected by the armor of God. God gives us five pieces to this armor:

- a) First, there is the "belt of truth" (v. 14a). A belt fortifies us and holds the upper and lower parts of the armor in their place. The enemy is a liar. He seeks to destroy our souls, our churches, and our world with lies. So, how do we fight lies? → With truth!

- b)** Second, there is the “breastplate of righteousness” (v. 14b). A breastplate protects our hearts and our vital organs. The enemy is an accuser. He seeks to destroy our hearts with accusations. Our only protection will be the righteousness of Christ. Answer these accusations with the truths of Ephesians 1, “I am a saint, chosen before the foundation of the world, being made holy, beloved, forgiven, redeemed, adopted as a child of God, and sealed by the Holy Spirit.”
- c)** Third, we have “as shoes for our feet the readiness of the gospel of peace.” (v. 15). What do shoes do? → They get us places. We are called to go into this world with the gospel of peace. We go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).
- d)** Fourth, God gives us the “shield of faith” (v. 16). Paul has in mind the large rectangular version of the shield, which side by side in a phalanx would be an impenetrable wall. The enemy is a tempter. He shoots his fiery darts of temptation to destroy our souls. Our protection is the shield of faith.
- e)** Fifth, there is the “helmet of salvation” (v. 17). A helmet protects our heads, our minds. By “salvation”, Paul has in mind the salvation that is to come, our full and complete salvation (see 1 Thessalonians 5:8, “hope of salvation”). Our enemy confuses and discourages. We are protected from these as we keep our eyes fixed on the hope of our coming salvation.

3. The Sword of the Spirit—

- a)** 6:17—This is the one offensive weapon God gives us: The Word of God, and it is all that we need.
- b)** Hebrews 4:12 says, “The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It judges the thoughts and attitudes of our hearts.”
- c)** This Word converts the rebel soul. It brings new life to the dead. Romans 10:17 says, “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ.” Others will not be won to Christ by our charisma, by our perfect example, by our passionate worship, or by our clever church growth strategies. Faith will come by hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ.
- d)** C.H. Spurgeon once said, “The Word of God is a lion. It does not need to be defended. It simply needs to be let out of its cage.”

4. Conclusion—

- a)** Oh, that God would wake up our sleepy souls and send us into this battle, that we would go dressed in truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, and the gospel of peace! And that He would send out His people of Covenant Presbyterian armed with the Word of God to advance His kingdom in this world. This is our calling as Christians, and nothing less.
- b)** Pray.