

“The Content of the Armor of God in the Spiritual Struggle”

Ephesians 6:14-24 4/5/2020

Sermon Series: *Living out God’s Riches for God’s Glory*

Matt 16:18

John 14:30

Matt 28:18-20- EPH 1:18-23

Big Idea- Paul has been teaching us about the awesomeness of God’s actions on our behalf (Ch.1). We have been rescued from the power of the enemy and given new life in Christ (Ch.2). We are God’s testimony to the seen and unseen realms and are now part of the “called out ones”- the Church (Ch.3). We are to walk worthy of this new identity and calling in various contexts (Chs.4-6:9). We will be involved in a real struggle with authentic spiritual enemies, but we have been thoroughly equipped through God’s unlimited power (Ch.6:10-20).

“Do not be afraid, For the battle is not yours, but God’s.” 2 Chronicles 20:15

Satan is a powerful enemy and he is perfect in wisdom (Ezek 28:12; Gen 3:1). He is the leader of an extensive kingdom and is a cunning, roaring lion always seeking whom he *may* devour (1 Peter 5:8). Our evil enemies sometimes attack us physically (Job 2), but often uses doubt, despair, discord, discouragement, distraction, disobedience, and deception (Gal. 5:21; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Matthew 7:21-23; John 8:44).

LESSON 1- Victorious spiritual wrestling understands our ARMOR Vv. 13-24

- A. Our first responsibility is to stand with an attitude of VICTORY
- B. God’s WHOLE armor begins with the belt of TRUTH
(doctrine and character- Jude 3; 1 Tim 4:1; Eph 4:14, 21, 25; 2 Cor 11:3, 14-15)
- C. The breastplate’s strength is according to our RIGHTEOUSNESS
(Jesus’ righteousness; our firm identity; Isa 59:2, 17; obedient righteousness)
- D. We are strong when we are always prepared to EVANGELIZE
- E. Our main defense is have a strong shield of FAITH (James 1:6-8)
- F. The helmet of salvation reminds us to be ASSURED of our salvation
- G. The greatest defensive and offensive weapon is the SWORD of the Spirit
(See Matthew 4:1-11 and Hebrews 4:12-13; Psalm 119:11)
- H. Our long-range weapon is that of PRAYER
(Paul speaks of frequency, variety of prayer, in the Spirit’s power, strategic, persistent, and focus on others- 6:18-19; 1 Thess 5:17- pray without ceasing).

Going Deeper God wants us to live out the armor moment by moment!

Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (Jn. 8:44 ESV)

Isaiah 11:5 Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist. (Isa. 11:5 NAU)

Ephesians 4:14 So we are no longer to be children, tossed back and forth by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching by the trickery of people who craftily carry out their deceitful schemes.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is not surprising his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will correspond to their actions.

Ephesians 4:24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵ ¶ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. (Eph. 4:24 ESV)

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 ³ For though we live as human beings, we do not wage war according to human standards,

⁴ for the weapons of our warfare are not human weapons, but are made powerful by God for tearing down strongholds. We tear down arguments

⁵ and every arrogant obstacle that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to make it obey Christ. (2 Cor. 10:3-5 NET)

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (Jas. 1:6 ESV)

Hebrews 6:12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (Heb. 6:12 NKJ)

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1 NKJ)

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Heb. 11:6 NKJ)

2 Peter 1:3 ¶ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.