

The Epistle to the Ephesians

“United by a Moment”

The Armor of God Eph. 6:10 – 6:18

KNOW YOUR ENEMY (v. 10-13)

He first tells us WHY it is so important to be strong in the Lord. (v. 10-12) We are in a war and the battle we are in is vast and subtle.

In the very beginning, Satan tempted Eve to question God’s character and authority (Gen. 3:1-4). He used this same approach with our Lord during the wilderness experience (Luke 4:1-13). In both instances, Satan tried to undermine God’s clearly revealed will. If he used this tactic with others in the past, it is not too likely that he will spare us in our day. What specific mindset is behind our disobedience when we disobey God’s will (whatever that particular revelation may be)? Is it not unbelief?

The enemy has schemes. He has a plan. What are your points of weakness? (Laziness, pride, lust etc.) His plan is to exploit that weakness – with lies – with deceitful promises etc.

Remember in the fight my enemy is attacking and trying to get me down; to get me to not trust in my Lord etc. We must resist his lies and stand firm in Jesus and our new identity and in His greater promises that are true and better.

We are at war. We need strength from our Lord. To this end our Lord has provided for us – this armor is all from Him.

KNOW YOUR FRIEND (v. 14-18)

- **Belt of Truth:** Truth – centered on the gospel of Jesus itself.

Lying is the devil’s first language. He is adept at it. He has mastered the art of lying and deception. If we believe his lies – there will be much damage done. We combat the lies with truth. Jesus is the truth. We need the truth of Jesus and His gospel – the truth about God – the truth about us and life and reality.

- **Breastplate of righteousness:**

How effective is our personal righteousness against Satan’s assaults? This is the very area where we are most vulnerable. When Satan reminds us of how miserably we have failed to live up to God’s standards, how can we argue? He is right; in fact, we are worse than he knows. We need a righteousness that completely meets God’s standards. Jesus is our righteousness.

- **Feet shod with gospel of peace:**

This third piece of armor provided for us is connected to the gospel of peace. Again, this is in Christ and in him alone. The opposite of peace is enmity. Who else can remove the enmity that exists between God and us because of our sin? Who else can silence the taunts of Satan? He would tempt us to disbelieve that God is at peace with us, and would keep us from prayer through the means of fear. The fear that God is angry with us is a powerful incentive to avoid God at all costs, but this is

no way for children of God to live! Christ has purchased our peace with God by removing the grounds of God's wrath against us. This is what the word propitiation means (Rom. 3:25; 1 John 2:2; 4:10). God's wrath against our sin is satisfied because he poured it all out on the one who bore that sin in our place. There is no wrath left to fall on us; God spent it all on Jesus. This peace is God's work for us. We do not always feel this peace, but it is as real as Jesus Christ is real. It exists, even on those occasions when Satan would tempt us to doubt it because we do not feel it internally. God has spoken peace through his Son, and his word cannot be broken.

- **Shield of faith:**

Our enemy showers down arrows to extinguish your faith. (You are not loved, or needed, or progressing – attacks coming to discourage and depress you). And this gets tiring and exhausting because the flaming arrows just keep hailing down upon us. We need to trust God – God does care. We trust God's Word. All our trust, all our hope, all our faith must focus and center on Christ alone. All that he accomplished is undisputedly ours; and Satan does not have enough flaming arrows to burn up Christ's work of salvation!

- **Helmet of salvation:**

Salvation is your helmet. Apart from salvation you are exposed to the enemy and that is deadly. If you don't have Christ, your head is up with no helmet. It is only a matter of time – and you're dead.

In Isaiah 59, verses 16 and 17, we read, “[The Lord] saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head” (NIV). Here are two pieces of God's armor, worn by God himself! We cannot accomplish salvation for ourselves, but we can remind ourselves that salvation is Christ's work

- **Sword of the Spirit:** The Bible

Satan also uses this sword. He twists God's Word. He did it in the Garden and He did it to Jesus. You need your sword. It is a war. You need the Scriptures – that's where truth is found – direction for righteousness – the message of salvation – the gospel of peace – that which grows your faith.

We need the sword – not just for information but for transformation. We use this sword to cut the sin and folly from our lives – to cut the bitterness, the blame, and the self-justification out - and to walk with Christ and know and relate to this wonderful, amazing God.

Satan can use our changeable emotions to cause us to doubt anything and everything that our minds can conjure up as truth about Christ, but God's word is unshakeable. He has spoken the truth through Christ, and, in the Scriptures, he has given us the truth about Christ.

God's armor is the person and work of Jesus Christ, and it is sufficient. Put on Christ!

- **Prayer**

Lastly He tells us to pray: Pray for each other. Why? Because there is an enemy aiming for the heads of your brothers and sisters. He is walking about trying to destroy them. He is trying to ruin their marriage and lead this one into false teaching and corrupt this one with lies. So pray for one another – for grace and discernment and faith.