

THE WARFARE OF THE BELIEVER

Eph. 6:10-20

- Intro: Spiritual Warfare: the believer's life is a battlefield - There is a constant struggle, an unceasing fight, an unending war.
- The believer is a soldier in conflict - hard conflict with foes within and foes without
 - There is a constant struggle against corruptible lusts of the flesh and temptations offered by the world and Satan.
 - A struggle against corruption that follows one to the grave.

I. THE BELIEVER'S CHARGE (10,11)

- There is but one way to conquer the enemies who stand so violently opposed to the believer...and unless the believer heeds the charge and message of this passage..he will cave in to the evil and sin that Satan and the world will bring and will walk through life just as most people do?
 - not experiencing the abundance and joy of life
 - not experiencing the power and deliverance, care and concern, love and fellowship of God's daily presence.
 - not having the confidence of being accepted by God
 - not being assured of living forever with God.
- (1) Be Strong in the Lord and in the Power of His Might:
- strong= power, might, strength
 - power= unlimited, Godly dominion and overall power
 - might= strength, force, ability
 - * This is not human strength..not strength of anything within this world. It is in the Lord..a living, dynamic relationship with Him.
- (2) Put on the Armour of God:
- being strong on the inside, strong heart, ready to fight, a sense of the presence of God..only then can the believer begin to put on God's armour...all of it.

II. THE ENEMY OF THE BELIEVER (11)

- The enemy is the devil and his strategies (wiles= methods, deceits, craftiness, trickery)
 - Satan will do anything to deceive and capture man.
- (1) Strategies that Appeal to Our Senses:
- food, attractive people, possessions, positions, authority, power.
 - the believer is doomed unless he is clothed with the FULL armour of God.
- (2) Satan will Send False Leaders Our Way:
- People who appear to be truthful, even righteous but whose messages appeal to the flesh, to self:
 - human goodness and works - ego and self-image- personal development and growth - self-improvement and correction - mind and will.
 - Again, the believer is doomed without the full armour of God.

- The war a believer fights is not human or physical, but SPIRITUAL.. (as two wrestle, one is pinned to the floor and has his eyes gouged out).
- (1) -The believer's struggle is not against people, but spiritual beings.. forces with unbelievable powers:
- (2) -principalities - powers- rulers of darkness - spiritual wickedness.
- evil forces - numerous, all struggling against the believer.
- (3) -organized into a government of evil with ranking spiritual forces with enormous authority, position and rule.
- (4) -rulers of the darkness of the world (ignorance of light, ignorance of the truth - ignorance of the real nature and purpose of the world and life.

-BLINDERS OF MEN'S MINDS.

- (5) Spiritual forces of wickedness..seeking to take from God men's loyalty, devotion..seeking to indwell that part of man that belongs to God
- If they can capture a man's spirit they can lead him into eternal separation from God.
- Look at what they have accomplished:

division - prejudice - favoritism - anger - hate - pride - war - killing - arguing - selfishness - immorality - arrogance - stealing - lying - cursing - bitterness....etc...

DOESN'T MAN KNOW BETTER? Yes! Why not change things then? Because we "wrestle ;not against flesh and blood (v12).

IV. THE DUTY OF THE BELIEVER (v13)

- The believer is to take the whole armour of God and put it on.
- The evil day is TODAY..it is ANYDAY..it is THAT :DAY of unusual temptation and trial
- We must withstand the day of evil..but we cannot unless we have taken the whole armour of God.

V. THE ARMOUR OF THE BELIEVER (vv14-17)

-Paul had much opportunity to study the uniform of his guards..from his study comes his comparison of the believer's armour.

- (1) The Belt of Truth: belts were used to hold the clothing close and to hang other useful items from.

a. TRUTH - not as men see it..not taught in religions..not things thought out by man..not from any human resource..

- Truth as Christ - put on Christ
- Truth as God's Word - Put on the Word of God
- Truth as a way of life - Speaking and living by the Word of God.

b. Truth does much for the believer:

- it holds him close to God - it keeps him from being drawn away, or tossed here and there by the enemy's attacks..
- it keeps him from becoming entangled in the affairs of this life.
- it supports him in the battles of life

- (2) The Breastplate of Righteousness: Protection of the vital organs..
- the Heart of the believer is the Righteousness of Christ..not his own..
- it keeps the believer's heart from losing its focus and enables the believer to: strive after being like Christ - to live like Christ..

(3) The Sandals of the Gospel: Stability and maneuverability were essential to the safety and victory of the soldier.

-the believer needs to have sure footing..all the rest of the armor is useless if he can't stand firmly.

-the gospel is the basis of all the reason for the christian soldier.. to take the good news to every person...the Gospel is what the christian life is all about.

(4) The Shield of Faith: Total protection behind which the soldier is safe from whatever the enemy hurls at him.

-things which might cause the believer to:

question his salvation - question his calling - question his worthiness- question his ability to serve - question, doubt, and wonder - burn with passion and desire..

-Faith that is a complete and perfect trust that God will put down the attack of evil..this is the shield of faith.

(5) The Helmet of Salvation: The core of a man's being is his brain..

-Thinking determines victory or defeat

-the believer needs protection of his mind and thoughts..to be able to keep thoughts focused upon Jesus Christ.

-Salvation is that which protects the believer's mind.

-the unsaved see nothing wrong with pursuing all that the world can give..to give way to all the body desires...to live self-centered.

-not so with the believer..the mind is the mind of Christ..the mission in life is to spread the gospel and live like Christ.

*..knowledge and hope..knowing we are saved and hoping for that glorious day of going to heaven..THIS IS THE HELMET OF SALVATION..KNOWING CHRIST!

(6) The Sword of The Spirit is the Word of God: defensively or offensively. to protect or attack...

-The Word of God is the weapon of the believer..by living in the word, the believer protects himself and fights and wins day after day the battles brought upon him by Satan and the world.

-THE WORD OF GOD IS SHARPER THAN ANY TWO EDGED SWORD..thus ;mightier than anything Satan or the world can hurl at the believer.

VI. THE SUPERNATURAL PROVISION - CONSTANT PRAYER! (18-20)

1. Always praying: constant, unbroken consciousness of God's presence and protection...thus assurance, confidence and courage.

2. Praying in the Spirit: No one else can help..the only one is the Holy Spirit..God's omnipresence..God's omnipotence..

3. Sleepless in Prayer: Concentrate, perseverance..never slacking up. never lose contact..constantly in prayer

4. Pray unselfishly: You and I are not the only soldiers God has fighting a daily war..every child of God is equally involved in battle as hard as ours..if not harder...

-side by side, back to back, our brothers and sisters are in the same battle with Satan and the world...we are to protect one another.

5. Pray for God's Leaders: God has administrators, teachers, trainers, to help his soldiers stand in battle..they too are fighting daily battles as well as being accountable for the training and preparedness of those assigned to them by God..

CONCLUSION:

1. Satan is at war with YOU..because you belong to God.

2. You have no choice but to fight..if you are God's

3. You have all the protection and weapons you need to win over Satan