

The Whole Armor of GOD (Part 1)
Ephesians 6:10-20

In the present age, the truth about spirituality and the reality of “spiritual warfare” must be shared and discussed at length. It is altogether important that the faith claims of the Christian faith be accented and lived out. In other words, those who claim to be children of GOD and followers of Christ are called to the carpet now to live that is professed. It is virtually impossible to do so without knowing being aware about the tactics and profile of our common enemy and, how to arm ourselves accordingly.

For Our Consideration:

The Nature of our Struggle (Verses 10-13)

- Paul’s appeal to the Church in Ephesus draws to a close as he appeals for them to be strong in the LORD and the power of His might.
- Our strength comes from GOD. We are empowered by GOD through the Lord Jesus Christ. AND, it is His might that produces His power.
 - This is significant because we must not assume that everyone who has power is “mighty” or has the might to wield or control such power. Thus, we live in an age where the abuse of power is at an all time high. The Lord being MIGHTY with respect to His power also asserts that the Lord is also RESPONSIBLE.
 - *This is good news!* Mainly because GOD will act mightily in THIS season by power and every challenge and issue will be responded to responsibly.
- The body of Christ (the Church) requires COVERAGE against the SCHEMES of the evil one. This coverage includes the whole armor of GOD.

- We are not each other's enemy! We do not contend, battle nor do we wage war against each other.
 - No, our battles (as people of faith) are largely spiritual. And so it makes sense then, that those we fight against are likewise spiritual -but not holy. No, they wicked -entry level, supervisory and executive levels of the evil enterprise. Their climate is darkness and their domain is death.
- Paul's mention of this is for multiple reasons:
 - (1) The Church has now, notable divisions and quarrel within itself AND, (2) As an apostle and their "spiritual father" must provide the truth behind and beneath their issues.
- Wearing this spiritual armor, crafted by GOD, enables us to be Resilient To STAND not necessarily in the literal sense but more so that on the side of trial and battle, we would remain "upright".

The Armor (Verses 14-18)

- **Belt of Truth (buckled around our waist)**
 - This is critically important. For above the waist/belt is the stomach. Within that region, is what we refer to as our "core". If a Christian's core is full of anything other than the truth, they are immediately weakened; compromised and subject to all manner of attack and illness.
 - When the core of a person is strong however, their immune system is strong and they have a greater level of balance as well as endurance.
- **Breastplate of Righteousness**
 - Righteousness is one of two pillars that support the very throne of GOD itself. (See Psalm 89:14)
 - If then righteousness is this important to GOD, then likened to the belt of truth, our hearts must be guarded by GOD's righteousness. Why?
 - In warfare, everything is "open game": our mind, emotions, health, finances, family, etc. And so,

- We must have hearts that covered -coated and shielded by that which transcends our logic, and our sense of goodness or “right-ness”.
- **Shoes of the ‘Gospel’ of Peace**
 - Be careful not to miss the language used in this particular piece of the armor:
 - This gospel of peace is one that is preparatory. In a real sense then, there is a continuum or an indefinite pursuit of the study AND the practice.
 - The Lord Jesus Himself is known as the ‘Prince of Peace’ and thus, all “loyal subjects” must adhere to the Kingdom (Reign-dom), posture.
 - *Be clear: ‘Peace’ is not TIMID! Rather, it is MEEK.*
 - Timidity is an attribute of those governed by FEAR.
 - Meekness is a fruit of the SPIRIT and denotes real STRENGTH.
 - As the prescription for what covers our feet, our “travels” (to include even of our choices and decisions, are to be supported by the good news of peace and that which offers –to us and to others.

-To be continued...