

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Prison Letters
Ephesians 6:13-24

Last week...after having been instructed to sit with Jesus in the heavenlies and to walk with Jesus in this world, came instruction in standing with Jesus... in spiritual warfare in this world and in the heavenlies

Part 1: the baseline, the power base from which we fight our spiritual adversaries

1. Being strong in the Lord
2. Being strong in the power of His might
3. Putting on the whole armor of God

This week...Part 2, that armor of God (our defensive armament, v11 in more detail) and the offensive weapons the Lord has given us for spiritual warfare

v13 Wherefore...therefore, in order to

- wrestle with spiritual enemies in the strength of the Lord and in the power of His might
- be able to stand against the wiles/tricks of the deceiver/destroyer

Take unto you the whole armor of God...take and put on what the Almighty God has given His soldiers – full body armor, defensive armament for offensive action in the fierce spiritual battles

The objective of God's full body armor: that we will be standing at the end of the day
The day is evil (Eph 5:16) and getting increasingly evil as the world marches steadily toward the Day of the Lord

The spiritual battles in the days like the Days of Noah and the Days of Lot before the day when the Son of Man is revealed (Luke 17:26-30, Rev 6-19) will get more fierce the closer we get to that Day

Precisely why we are to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
(Heb 10:25)

The Lord, to Whom the battle belongs, equips us with defensive armament for offensive action to

- withstand, resist, stand against (meaning we will be facing),
 - the wiles/tricks of the devil (v11)
 - the evil that the Church is currently restraining/”holding down” (2 Thes 2:6-7)
- fight unto the very end
An “Honorable Discharge” comes not with a time of service but after our last breath on earth
- stand

Luke 21:34-36 *And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass (Rev 6-18), and to stand before the Son of man.*

Without the whole armor of God, we will NOT be able to resist, fight, stand in the evil day

Without the Lord’s defensive armament, we are vulnerable, mincemeat and fodder for spiritual beasts in the raging battle

So, the wise follower of Jesus Christ will take and put on the armor of God every day for every circumstance as he/she ministers unto the Lord

2 Cor 6:4-7...

The God-issued full body armor (all on the front, none for the back, Matt 16:18):

1. Truth
2. Righteousness
3. The Gospel
4. Faith
5. Salvation (from the just wrath of God and eternal death)

The God-issued offensive weapons (2 Cor 10:4):

6. The Word of God
7. Prayer

v14a Stand therefore...”certainly, accordingly” (different Greek word than v13)

having your loins girt about...with a belt around your waist, ready to move, to “Charge!”

Prepared/trained spiritually just as are prepared/trained mentally

1 Peter 1:13 gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ

Belts

- common belt: to keep one's garments securely in place
i.e. to keep your pants from falling down and revealing your shame (soldiers of lies were shamed in Gaza this week)
- weightlifting belt: to increase abdominal pressure by giving core muscles something to brace against, providing stability for lifting heavier weights
- tool belt: to carry tools and weapons for productive working/fighting

Whichever belt, cinch it tight...with Truth

"What is truth?"

A1 (the Alpha and Omega supernatural answer): the Word of God

A Person

John 1:1, 14

John 14:6

John 18:37

Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. (To which Pilate philosophically asked, "What is truth?")

Absolute, pure

Ps 12:6

The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Ps 19:8

the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes.

Prov 30:5

Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Unchanging and Uncompromising

Heb 13:8

Matt 24:35

Matt 5:18

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Without fault or blemish

Ps 19:7

The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul (our God) *He is* the Rock, his work *is* perfect: for all his ways *are* judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right *is* he

Deut 32:4

Eternal

1 Peter 1:25

the Word of God endureth forever

Precious

Ps 119:72 The law of thy mouth *is* better unto me than
 thousands of gold and silver

John 17:17

Life-giving

James 1:21b the engrafted Word which is able to save your souls
1 Peter 1:23 being born-again by the Word of God, which liveth
 and abideth forever

A2: (natural answer): Truth is an undeniable fact, the actual state of a matter
Facts are denied or twisted or re-written in the hands of a liar
In our spiritual battles, we fight against the father of lies and all liars
(malice, guile/deception, hypocrisy, envy, evil speaking)

Last week, we fight the spiritual battles of

1. liberal humanism

Is “man” the center of all things, the be-all-and-end-all?
How big is “man” compared to the universe?
Is man able to control the weather?
Is man evolving into a “better version” of himself?
Does “You Do You” yield peace and joy and contentment?
Can man solve the problems facing the world today?
(Politics has NO answers, only rhetoric)
Can man govern himself for the good of all?
Does man know the future or the day of his death?
What is man’s answer to death?
Has any man conquered death?
Can man stand against his Creator that he denies even exists?

“Truth” of liberalism is as man – a vapor

2. our children, grandchildren

a. abortion

“Healthcare” is killing a precious and defenseless life?
Are there not 2 heartbeats?
Does not ultrasound technology reveal a child...face, lips,
 eyes, mouth, ears, arms, hands, fingers, legs, knees,
 feet, toes...and gender!?

So...Truth is NOT the agenda for the abortion industry,
 a wicked agenda is

- b. Education system: public schools and universities
Biology: There are only 2 genders; no confusion in biology!
In Illinois this week trans cyclists took gold and silver at a major female competition
My suggestion for fair athletic divisions:
1. Men's
 2. Boys who cannot act like men
 3. Women's

Math: $2 + 2 = 4$ (only and forever) and that is not racist

History: facts from the past that cannot be changed are "changed"

So...Truth is NOT the agenda in the Education system but promoting/indoctrinating an untruthful agenda

- c. Teenage and Young Adult confusion, depression, suicide
Does liberal humanism have answers?
Is society that expelled the Living God from public education and Gov't interested in Truth?

3. Radical Islam

We MUST know the Truth if we are to fight the lies!

Can people who

- desire and pursue death
- celebrate lies and unimaginable human depravity

possibly be worshipping the same God of people who

- desire and pursue life
- celebrate truth and human decency,

as is claimed by the people who pursue death and celebrate lies and human depravity?

On 11/18/23, in Israel a Palestinian baby boy received an organ transplant from a dead Israeli soldier.

The baby's mother: "Jews value life. For us life is zero. Life is worth nothing."

After the infant recovers she wishes him to become a martyr (kills self and others) when he grows up

Comment: and maybe, to his mother's great pleasure, he will murder and rape some men or women and burn a pile of babies before he "enters into Paradise"

“This is our land, we were here first, Jews are the invaders.”
The Word of God (Truth) says that God promised that land
to AI&J about 3900 years ago

Where is “Palestine” mentioned in Islamic writing?
It isn’t. The Quran says that the land belongs to the
sons of Israel.

Arabs from Judea & Samaria are horrified to find out that
instead of proving the lies they’ve been told, DNA
exactly shows who they are: the descendants of
economic migrants who came from Syria, Egypt
and Lebanon between 1890-1930.
(time of Zionism, the devil’s counterattack)

The Palestinian flag being waved so prominently across the
world today (Fresno yesterday) only came about in
1964, nearly 20 years after the state of Israel was
born.

Peace: The only solution is a 2-State solution, the unending cry of
the nations (aka “Land for Peace” denying Joel 3:1-3)

In 1937, the Peel Committee, (a Royal committee formed
by the British government during the British
mandate) offered a state to the Palestinians.
The offer was turned down by the Palestinians.

In November 1947, the U.N. offered a state to the
Palestinians. (The Partition Plan, resolution 181).
It was turned down by the Palestinians.

In 2000, Israeli PM Ehud Barak offered the Palestinians
(Yassar Arafat) a state with Gaza, Judaea and
Samaria (all Biblical lands).
It was turned down by the Palestinians.

In 2007, Israeli PM Ehud Olmert, offered a state to the
Palestinians.
It was turned down by the Palestinians.

Camp David Accords in 1978 and Oslo Accords in 1993
(“Peace in the Middle East”) failed because of...
the Palestinians

The plan of the Palestinians has never been a 2-State Solution, a peaceful co-existence with Israel; their plan has always been to have it all.

When the Palestinians scream, "From the river to the sea", that is exactly what they mean – all the land and Israel gone and Jews annihilated

A survey by UC Berkley professor of Political Science: 250 students in the US who sympathize with the phrase "From the river to the sea", showed that:

- 53% don't know which river and sea
- 25% never heard of the Oslo Accords (Clinton)
- 10% thought Yasser Arafat was the first prime minister of Israel
- Had never seen a map of Middle East nor knew the history of the Middle East.
- After learning a few basic **facts** about the Middle East, 68% changed their view, and rejected the popular phrase (hope: a “wasted mind” can be educated/transformed).

More from the “wasted minds” of America:

A sign hoisted at a protest against Israel:
“Trans Liberation Cannot Happen Without Palestinian Liberation”

Liberal LGBTQ+/Trans college kids would be beheaded in Gaza

Qatar , the main funder of Hamas, is also the leading funder of American universities. Why Harvard, MIT, Penn and many other top US universities have turned into Hamas mouthpieces. (Truth compromised)

Back to the 2-State Solution: Arab leaders are not enthusiastic about a Palestinian state solution... they have their past history with the Palestinians

- In the early 1950s, the Palestinian leadership collaborated with the Muslim Brotherhood, terrorizing Egypt, their host country.

Muslim Brotherhood assassinated Anwar Sadat in 1981 for making peace with Israel

Muslim Brotherhood ruled Egypt from 2012 to 2014 when they were rejected and forced underground

To this day Egypt will not tolerate any Palestinians coming into their nation, will accept NO Palestinian refugees

- In the mid-1960s, the Palestinian leadership terrorized Syria, their host country.
- In 1968-70, the Palestinian leadership triggered a civil war in Jordan, attempting to topple their host Hashemite regime.
- In 1970-82, the Palestinian leadership instigated a series of civil wars in Lebanon, aiming to take over their host country.
- In 1990, the Palestinian leadership collaborated with Saddam Hussein's invasion and plunder of Kuwait, which was for decades the most generous Arab host of 400,000 Palestinians.

So should the host nations in Western Civilization be concerned when they hear from Radical Islam in our cities:

“Globalize the intifada!”

“All Jews should die!”

Sweden: Muslims are threatening an intifada in all of Europe if Israel does not leave Gaza.

NYC: A pro-Palestinian group posted a picture of a map with multiple locations in NYC that it considers to be associated with the "genocide" in Gaza.

btw...who wants to commit genocide?!

NYC: A notorious U.S. Muslim Warns: “We will not stop until Islam enters every home, the Ummah (Islamic messiah) depends on this.”

Chicago: A Palestinian convoy (today from Amir)

England: In an interview with Piers Morgan on British TV, a British Islamic leader called Winston Churchill a war criminal for leading Britain to victory against Nazi Germany.

What is the short answer to Victor Mordecai's question in 1997:
Is Fanatical Islam a Global Threat?

A: Categorically, existentially!
Because so few know the truth about Radical Islam!

Politics is not about peace, but about votes and power
Biden: "Embarrassed of myself" and apologized to Muslim leaders

Peace is only possible when the Prince of Peace returns to earth as
God's Conquering King

Truth:

- our common belt to keep our pants from falling down and revealing our shame
- our weightlifting belt, giving our core spiritual muscles stability for lifting heavier weights
- our tool belt to carry tools and weapons for the battle

v14b breastplate....to protect our heart

of righteousness...justification, the benefactors of "just-as-if-it-never-happened"

1 Cor 1:30 put on Jesus for heart protection

Rom 8:28-39

v15 your feet shod...shoes that will never wear out (Deut 8:4) as we

- Go
- Walk/live
- Stand and fight

with the preparation of the gospel of peace...beautiful feet prepared here, but go there!

Rom 10:13-15 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Eph 2:1-10, 17

A Divine plan whereby enemies of God are reconciled with God and by grace thru faith given the power from on high to be made the children of God

James 3:18 the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace

v16 Above all...most importantly

the shield...protecting the entire body/being from “Incoming!”, the barrage of missiles/arrows from Satan and his gang (demonic and human)

As Iron dome intercepts the barrage of Hamas missiles, so does our shield

of faith...believing and trusting, nothing wavering, not double-minded

- the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen
 - by anyone (Creation)
 - by Noah (Flood, judgment)
 - by Abraham (to pick up and go to a Promised Land)
 - by Moses (seeing Him who is invisible)
- whereby a good report is given from God
- without which it is impossible to please God
- the faith of Christ, the faith which is in Christ Jesus (2 Tim 3:15, Acts 26:18),
Who is the Author and Finisher of faith (Heb 12:2)

Faith is doing what you say you believe (James 1:22, James 2)

Faith is active and, therefore, can be seen by others

Faith is evidence of 2 Cor 5:17

v17a the helmet...to protect our head and mind

Phil 2:1-16a

of salvation...Eph 2:8-9

The just shall live by faith

Now the two offensive weapons the Lord has given us to...use and become skilled with!

v17b the Word of God...integral to the whole armor of God is also a weapon

the sword of the Spirit

Heb 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Matt 10:34 divisive

Phil 2:16a The Word of life

v18a Prayer

- pray always, without ceasing
- pray believing
- in the Spirit
 - in the name of Jesus Christ
 - with groanings which cannot be uttered
- the sweet savor ascending up to God on His throne in heaven
 - worship (focus is Who)
 - petitions/requests (focus is What)

v18b-20 Man your post!

Military jargon that signifies where you have been positioned to be on guard, watching and waiting for enemy encroachment and to be ready to retaliate

Praying (worshipping, requesting) and watching (on guard, alert during the battle) for

- all saints...for each other, interceding
 - if each of us pray for only ourselves, there is one person praying for us
 - if we apply the Royal Law to prayer, we have MANY praying for us
- for me...the Apostle Paul but certainly applicable to each of us
 - that utterance/reasoning/words
 - may be given...by the Holy Spirit
 - Luke 12:11-12 *take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say*
 - Mark 13:11 *But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.*

- that we may open my mouth boldly/frankly/plainly/confidently
(lovingly, not obnoxious)
Acts 4:18-31

Naturally, we are like sheep
Supernaturally, we are like lions

- to make known the mystery (of God, revealed eternal Truth of God) of the Gospel (1 Cor 15:3-4)
 - given to all dead people
 - dead is dead, there are no degrees in “dead”,
whether the leader of Hamas or the sweet Grandma who thinks she is a good person and God loves her and will let her into heaven because she has done more good things than bad things
- in chains/prison or not, we are ambassadors of the Kok and Lol
 - 2 Cor 5:20-21 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
 - ambassadors do not spout their opinions or their philosophies, they proclaim the message of the King, and that boldly, which is only fitting and proper

v21-22 Paul planted this church
He loves this church
This church loves Paul

Acts 20:36-38 And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all. And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him, Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more.

So Paul will send this letter via a letter carrier named Tychicus so they will know how he is doing in “prison” and to comfort them

Acts 28:30-31 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Tychicus is a beloved brother and a trustworthy servant of the Lord that accompanied Paul on his 3rd Missionary Journey from Ephesus to Jerusalem (Acts 20:4)

He will also deliver a letter from Paul to the church at Colosse after delivering this letter to the church at Ephesus (our next study will be Colossians)

v23-24 Now, inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul closes this letter with treasures from our Father and our Lord:

1. peace...quietness of the soul irrespective of circumstances
2. love...agape, Self-less, Self-last
3. faith...a measure of the faith of Christ that is tested and strengthened in us with trials
4. grace...that which we do not deserve, the justifiable forgiveness of sins

All those treasures to those who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity

- genuine
- unwavering
- incorruptible
- also proven by trials

Last word: Amen...So be it!

Soldiers in the Lord's army: strong and weak

1 Sam 14:6 And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for *there is* no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.

Rom 15:1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Gal 6:1-2 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

1 Thes 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*.

Lest we think more highly of ourselves than we should

1 Cor 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

2 Cor 12:8-10 His grace is sufficient for us
His strength is perfected in our weakness
When we are weak, we are strong (Eph 6:10)

2 Cor 13:4 For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

Put on the whole armor of God!

Man your post!