

EPHESIANS STUDY WEEK 9

Ephesians 6:10-18

Part 1

In life we face battles both seen and unseen. We have a real enemy, the devil, who seeks to kill, steal and destroy. To fight these battles we must depend on God's strength and utilize the armor He has given us. This armor is not for a select few "special people" it is for every single believer in the body of Christ. We all need to be suited up and as we battle we must remember this... our power comes not from human weapons but from the filling of the Holy Spirit!

We use the NLT translation for our study.

Ephesians 6:10-18

PREPARATION

Before we get into the individual pieces of armor, Paul sets the foundation for every battle. Read Ephesians 6:10, what does this tell us about our battles?

- Answer: **In the Lord**
 - This tells us how victory is achieved; by His power and His strength. We cannot win this fight by our own power and weapons.
 - Read the following verses
 - 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - James 4:7

ALL THE ARMOR

We are engaged in a spiritual battle. We will all find ourselves subject to the devil's attacks and schemes at some point. Paul makes it clear, we need to put on all of the armor to stand firm against the devil.

- Read Ephesians 6:11-13, how do the following verses relate?
 - Ephesians 1:21
 - Ephesians 2:2
 - Ephesians 3:10

- Acts 26:18

Although we are assured victory in Jesus, the battle is already won, we must engage in the battle! The devil is at constant war against believers, and we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and clothed in His armor to stay strong! Remember Jesus' words to Peter...

- Read Matthew 16:18

SUIT UP!

Read Ephesians 6:14-17, name the pieces of God's armor.

- **BELT OF TRUTH (Verse 14)**
 - The devil fights with lies and often his lies sound like truth. We as sons and daughters have God's truth, which defeats the devil's lies. The soldier's belt was the item of armor strapped on first; as well as protecting him, it supported much of his other armor and equipment. It was arguably the most important piece. This does not refer to our sincerity or our telling the truth as opposed to telling lies. If we were dependent on these for our protection we would be in trouble. It refers to God's truth, that is, the sum total of the truth that God has revealed in the written word. This truth is all about Jesus.
 - Read the following verses
 - John 1:14
 - John 1:17
 - John 8:32
 - John 8:36
 - John 14:6-9
 - John 17:17
 - Colossians 2:3
 - This truth is what sustains, protects and directs us. It is this truth that sets us free from the dominion of the Devil.
 - What do the following verses teach us about the protective and liberating power of God's truth?
 - Psalm 40:11
 - Psalm 43:3
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:10-13
 - Titus 1:1

- James 1:18
 - So what is the devil's plan? How does he knock people off track? How do those who have been duped by the devil act?
 - Romans 1:18
 - Romans 1:21-23
 - Romans 1:25
 - Romans 1:28
 - 2 Corinthians 4:2-4
 - Galatians 5:7-8
 - Colossians 2:4
 - Colossians 2:8
 - 1 Timothy 6:3-5
 - 2 Timothy 4:3-4
 - Against these and other deceptions of the evil one God's truth protects us, and by God's truth we are delivered from them. To live without the protection of God's truth is to ensure your life will be a mess.
- **BODY ARMOR OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (Verse 14)**
 - This body armor or breastplate covered the soldier's heart and lungs, his most vital organs. The devil often attacks our hearts, which holds our emotions, self-worth, and trust. God's righteousness, not ours, is the armor that protects our hearts and ensures His approval. He approves us because He loves us and sent Jesus to die for us.
 - Read the following verses and note this righteousness is a gift and not of our own doing.
 - Isaiah 45:24-25
 - Isaiah 54:17
 - Isaiah 61:10
 - Isaiah 64:6
 - Jeremiah 33:16
 - Romans 5:17-21
 - 1 Corinthians 1:30
 - Philippians 3:9
 - The devil can throw his worst accusations against us but they are powerless. No accusation or condemnation can be legally put forth. Not because they are not true, but because the legal requirements of God's law concerning those accusations and the appropriate condemnations have all been met and fully dealt with by Jesus our substitute. This is the righteousness which protects us and delivers us in the presence of the devils attacks.

- **SHOES OF PEACE TO GO SHARE! (Verse 15)**
 - The devil wants us to think that the sharing of the gospel is worthless and hopeless. He will get us to believe lies such as we are not qualified to tell the good news of Jesus and that we are just one person... how can I make a difference? But know this, the shoes from God give us the motivation to go out and preach the good news of the gospel! The soldier's shoes had two purposes: to protect the soles of his feet against injury, and to give him a firm footing. They were more like sandals which were bound by throngs over the bottom and around the ankle, and the soles were studded with spikes. This provided a firm footing in an attack. The firm foundation or firm footing that keeps us strong under the attack of the devil is the gospel.
 - How do the following verses relate to the Good news/Gospel of peace?
 - Isaiah 9:6
 - Isaiah 52:7
 - Isaiah 53:5
 - Luke 2:14
 - John 14:27
 - John 16:33
 - Acts 10:36
 - Romans 5:1
 - Justification/made right
 - Justification is an act of God. It does not describe the way that God inwardly renews and changes a person. It is, rather, a legal declaration in which God pardons the sinner of all his sins and accepts and accounts the sinner as righteous in His sight. God declares the sinner righteous at the very moment that the sinner puts his trust in Jesus Christ. By what means is the sinner justified? Sinners are justified through faith alone when they confess their trust in Christ. We are not justified because of any good that we have done, are doing, or will do. Faith is the only instrument of justification. Faith adds nothing to what Christ has done for us in justification. Faith merely receives the righteousness of Jesus Christ offered in the gospel.
(<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/what-are-justification-and-sanctification/>)
 - This is our sure foundation when the evil one tempts us to doubt and fear our salvation. This is our foundation when he pushes, provokes and pressures us to give up on our faith: That we have peace with God. In Christ we have that which the whole religious world is seeking.

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

- Did you know we are in a spiritual battle?
- What does it look like to be engaged in this battle?
- What would it look like to use the belt of truth?
- What would it look like to use the body armor?
- What would it look like to use the shoes of peace?
- In your own words, explain justification.