

The Armor of God: An Introduction

(Ephesians 6:10-18a)

The Battles We Face

- We daily face things that seek to discourage & even destroy us
- Some of these are internal
 - Such as our sinful nature or lack of self-discipline
- Others are from external sources
 - Such as other people & spiritual forces
- In Ephesians, the apostle Paul encourages us to stand firm as we face these challenges (Eph. 6:10-18a)

The Battlefield

- Every battle we face is part of a larger war between good & evil
 - God vs. spiritual forces set against Him
 - The Devil/Satan being the figurehead of those forces
- Satan is a personal being
 - An angel who rebelled against God and works in opposition to God's purposes in the world (Dan. 10:13, 20–21; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Pet. 5:8; Rev. 20:1–3)
 - But he is not directly active in everything evil because he is not omnipresent
- He is used as a stand-in for all those powers that stand as God's adversary
 - *Satanos* = adversary
 - Satanic = in opposition to God's purposes

The Equipment to Wage War

- We **cannot** fight these battles on our own
- We need God's strength (Ps. 73:26; 28:7; 46:1; 59:9, 17; 68:35; 118:14; 140:7)
- We need God's armor
 - Paul's imagery is drawn from the prophet Isaiah, who describes the Lord armored and ready to defend His people (Isa 59:17; 11:4–5; 49:2; 52:7)
 - This whole-armor is not simply spiritual in nature; it is God's own armor
 - Which requires God's strength to wield (1 Sam. 17:38-39)
 - It is composed of the qualities of God that He instills in His people as they rely on His strength
- Paul utilizes the protective garb of Roman soldiers as an analogy for these qualities
 - Belt of Truth
 - Breastplate of Righteousness
 - Gospel-Peace Shoes
 - Shield of Faith
 - Helmet of Salvation
 - Sword of the Spirit
 - Prayer!

The Battle Belongs to the Lord

- Christ Himself has gained ultimate victory over all hostile powers in the universe.
 - That means that Paul's instructions about the spiritual battle are not given as a means by which we gain that ultimate victory.
 - Rather, we must apply the result of Christ's victory in our own lives

So What?

- Are we ready for battle, knowing victory is found in Jesus?
- Let's suit up!

Meditation Verse: *Ephesians 6:13*