

Episode #316 Ephesians 6 Part 2-The Armor of God

I. In Ephesians 1-3, the Holy Spirit revealed to us all the glorious things that are true of us “in Christ.” Now, in Ephesians 4-6, we are told of the “worthy walk” that we should live in love and gratitude to God for the glorious position we have received.

II. In Ephesians 5:21-6:9, we saw that we are to submit to one another in the fear of Christ, yet there are still situations where submission is particularly appropriate: wives to husbands, children to parents, and slaves to masters. Yet husbands, fathers, and masters have a proper response as well. Now we start to examine Paul’s closing words and the armor of God.

III. Ephesians 6:10. Beginning the concluding words of this letter. To live for God we must be empowering ourselves in the Lord and in the might of His strength.

- A. Even the disciples could not make it on their own. John 15:5. How much less can we?
- B. We need His help to make it in this world. The equipment the Lord provides for us is the armor of God.

IV. Ephesians 6:11. What is the armor of God?

- A. The armor of God is a complete set: a panoply. We need every piece for it to work. An enemy will target the least protected parts.
- B. The armor of God is something the LORD Himself wears! Isaiah 59:15-17. If He uses it to go to battle, we certainly need it as well.
- C. Satan’s (the Adversary’s) strategies are the thing we need to hold our ground against.

V. Ephesians 6:12. Whether or not we know it, we are part of a war!

- A. We each have our own individual battle to fight, “wrestling.”
- B. Adam and Eve brought this war to earth. Genesis 3:1-6, cp. 2:17.
- C. Taking the Lord’s side makes us part of the war. Matthew 10:34.
- D. The true enemies are not people around us, but unseen powers.
 - 1. Principalities. *Arche*=first ones, sovereignties. Those who are top rulers.
 - 2. Powers. *Exousia*=authorities. Have authority over places/things, delegated.
 - 3. World-rulers=*kosmokrator*, from *kosmos*, an orderly system or arrangement. World-rulers of the darkness of this eon. This world is dark from the lack of God’s light!
 - 4. “Spiritual” wickedness?
 - a. “Spiritual” is a nebulous word in English. We often use it just to mean something vaguely good.
 - b. “Spiritual” does not mean “invisible.”
 - c. In the Bible, it means something that comes directly from God, not by natural means. Yet God does not create wickedness!
 - d. Greek “spiritual of wickedness.” Supply a word. Spiritual forces of wickedness among the heavenly ones.
 - e. Among God’s most elevated beings, there are forces God created, but who have now rebelled. These are Satan’s forces.

E. Our enemies are Satan’s generals, his high authorities. We cannot forget!

VI. Conclusion: Our strength comes from the Lord, and our protection from His armor. Without the armor of God, none of us can hope to stand. The armor protects us against our foes: Satan and his high officials. Let us take to ourselves the armor of God, then, and make our stand for Him!