

The Invisible Creation



Demons – Ephesians 6:10 – 18

Sermon Discussion Guide

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STUDY NOTES

Be strong . . . in His mighty power (6:10). Paul uses the same three words here as he used in 1:19, when he first described God's power. In order to wage successful warfare against Satan, the Christian must draw upon God's power.

Put on (6:11). It is not enough to rely passively on God's power. The Christian must do something. He or she must "put on" God's armor.

The belt of truth (6:14). The leather belt on which the Roman soldier hung his sword, and by which he secured his tunic and armor (so he would be unimpeded in battle). The "truth" referred to is the inner integrity and sincerity by which the Christian fights evil. Lying and deceit are tactics of the enemy.

In his message, Matt described how Satan and his demons are waging war against you. They have a three-fold plan of attack. 1) They attack your *mind* with false teaching. 2) They attack your *will* by tempting you to rebel against God. 3) Finally, they attack your *body* by trying to possess or oppress you. However, Satan and his demons do not have infinite power and have already been defeated. In our passage from Ephesians 6:10 – 18, we will find that God has equipped you to battle against Satan and his demons.

Read Ephesians 6:10 – 18

1. Paul said that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood," but against "spiritual forces" (v. 12). For what goal was Paul struggling?
 - Ephesians 3:8 – 10
 - 2 Corinthians 10:3 – 5
2. As Christians, what are some of the struggles to which Paul may be referring?
3. How might the following affect us if we allow them:
 - Non-believers
 - Social Media
 - Current Events
 - Family
 - Other _____
4. What do you think it means to "be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (v. 10)?
5. What is Paul's counsel in verse 11 (also verse 13) for engaging in the struggle defined in verse 12?

The breastplate of righteousness (6:14). The breastplate was the major piece of armor for the Roman soldier. Made of metal and leather, it protected his vital organs. "Righteousness" refers to the right standing before God that is the status of the Christian, out of which moral conduct and character emerges.

Feet fitted (6:15). These are the leather half-boots worn by the Roman legionnaire, with heavy studded soles that enabled him to dig in and resist being pushed out of place.

Shield of faith (6:16). A large oblong shield constructed of layers of wood on an iron frame, which was then covered with linen and hide. When wet, such a shield could absorb "flaming" arrows.

The helmet of salvation (6:17). A heavy, metal head-covering lined with felt or sponge, which gave substantial protection to the soldier's head from all but the heaviest axe blow.

Sword (6:17). A short, stabbing sword used for personal combat. The sword is the only piece of offensive equipment in the armor.

6. Why must we put on the "full" armor of God? List the armor parts here:

Which parts of the armor are defensive? Offensive?

What is the purpose of each?

- Belt
- Breastplate
- Feet Fitted
- Shield
- Helmet
- Sword

7. If you evaluate the current condition of your spiritual armor, what are your strongest? What are your weakest?
8. Consider the following scriptures that suggest helpful ways to strengthen our armor as we battle with Satan and his demons:
- 1 Corinthians 6:18
 - James 4:7
 - Proverbs 21:17
 - Hebrews 10:24 – 25
 - James 3:17 – 18
 - Psalm 1:1
9. How does your small group help you stand firm? What can your group do better?