

EPHESIANS

Bible Study 6:10-24

Questions will be posed and space will be allowed for a written response. Make every effort to answer the questions before looking below for the answer. **The answers will be in bold print at the end of the “questions” section.**

The Armor of God – Ephesians – 6:10-20

1. What is Paul asking the Ephesians to do? (6:10)
2. Read 6:11. How does Paul in this verse enlarge what he said in verse 10?
3. Read 6:12-13. Why does Paul urge them to be strong?
4. Read 6:14-17. These verses list the various weapons that the Ephesians and us have available to them.
 - a. 6:14 – What two pieces of armor are listed in this verse? In what way are they valuable?
 - b. 6:15 – What piece of armor is given in this verse? How is it helpful?
 - c. 6:16 – What piece of armor is given in this verse? How is it helpful?
 - d. 6:17 – What two pieces of armor are listed in this verse? How are they helpful?
5. 6:18-20 – These verses deal with prayer. What are some requests the Ephesians are to address?

Final Greetings – Ephesians 6:21-24

6. 6:21-23 – What is Tychicus to do?
7. What is verse 24?
8. What is your favorite verse/phrase in this section?

Some Answers to the above Questions:

1. **The Ephesians and we are “to be strong in the Lord and in His Almighty power.”**
 - **This implies that human effort is inadequate but God’s power is invincible.**
 - **The might is Christ’s but by faith it becomes our strength.**
2. **The Ephesians were “to put on the whole armor so they could stand against the devil’s schemes.”** Paul is not calling upon the Christian to seek a strength within, but to find it in God and where he has promised to give it.

- **This was the complete outfit of a heavily armed soldier.**
- **“To stand” gives a picture of defensive posture. Christ defends us against the devil on our behalf.** The order to “stand” teaches them that the battle is the Lord’s. They are to stand back and watch him win the victory for them.
- **“The “devil’s schemes” are the tricky methods he uses to lead us away from God.**

One who has been baptized into Christ is therefore “in him” wherever he is and in whatever he has done. Galatians 3:27 states: “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

3. In verse 12 the Ephesians are to “struggle.” They will not face “flesh and blood” humans. They will be up “against rulers, authorities and powers of this dark world.” Lastly, they will be confronted by “spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”

- **“Struggle” came from a wrestling match. It was a fight characterized by trickery, cunningness and strategy. This struggle, however, is no mere sport.**
- **Paul says “not against flesh and blood.” It is a caution against lashing out against human opponents as though they were the real enemy and also against assuming that the battle can be fought using merely human resources.**
- **“Rulers, authorities and powers of the dark world” are earthly representations that oppose the Christian Church. What Paul is saying is that the gods of the Roman Empire are malignant spirits of great power. The irony in this statement is that these “sun-gods” do not bring light but instead are rulers of darkness.**
- **“Darkness” closely characterizes these hostile powers. The realm in which the demons rule and exercise lordship over the world is the darkness that surrounds us, the world of sin steeled against God.**
- **“Evil forces in heavenly realms” are actively evil. Think of what Satan did to our first parents, King Saul, Solomon, Judas, Peter and countless others. The people just mentioned began so well but who were later trapped so miserably. Never say: "It won't happen to me."**

In verse 13 Paul urges the Ephesians to “put on the full armor of God so that when the day of evil comes they may be able to stand their ground.”

- **Satan constantly tempts them to think that they can stand in their own strength. They cannot. They must be reminded again and again as in verses 11 and 13, to take up the "whole armor of God."**
- **To be sure, as long as the Christian lives in this evil world, there are for him many “evil” days. The Christian’s life goes from battle to victory, from victory to a new, and ever more furious battle.**

4 a. The “belt of truth is buckled around their waist.”

- **A belt holds loose clothing in preparation for moving quickly. God’s truth alone can counter the devil’s lies.**
- **Only he that is a Christian in deed and in truth will engage in the battle with all seriousness. Only he will gather matters of every-day**

life and hold them together and evaluate them in the light of God's Word.

They also have the "breastplate righteousness."

- This is the metal piece of protecting the chest's vital organs, especially the heart. Here it represents Christ's righteousness with which God clothes us.
- This is the righteousness of Christ put on by faith. No righteousness of our own could protect us against Satan.

4 b. Here we find the "feet fitted with readiness that comes from the gospel of peace."

- A Roman soldier wore half boots studded with nails, to help him stand firm. The preaching of the Gospel of peace has ironically, prepared us for battle.
- The Christian's best defense in battle is the knowledge that peace has already been attained! "Nothing is more precious than peace, by which all war, both in heaven and earth, is brought to an end." "Have no fear, beloved, the victory is already won. This is the good news."

4 c. In this verse we have the "shield of faith" listed.

- It describes the large Roman shield covered with leather, which could be soaked in water and used to put out flame-tipped arrows.
- This shield is long and covers the entire body.
- This is an allusion to our baptismal refuge.
- A Christian armed with faith, can overcome Satan. The fiery darts here represent the doubts, lusts, temptations, fears, etc. which Satan uses against us.

4 d. "The helmet of salvation" is given here.

- The helmet both protected the soldier and provided a striking symbol of military victory. The winner was the one whose helmet was still on his head.
- The Christian, wearing future salvation as his helmet, can and should hold his head aloft cheerfully and confidentially.

"The sword of the Spirit which is the word of God" is the last piece listed.

- The term refers to the sharp, short sword for close combat. The Spirit gives the Gospel Word its effectiveness. Luther sang of the devil, "One little Word can fell him."
- Committing the Word of God to memory and having it ready for use places the Christian in an offensive mode.

5. V. 18 They are to "pray in the Spirit."

- Prayer is not part of the armor (which is entirely God's work), but a transition to Paul's concluding words. In our weakness, the Spirit leads our prayer.

V. 18 "With all kinds of requests."

V. 18 "pray for all the saints."

- Praying properly always leads finally to intercession. Christians should with all endurance, with all persistence pray and intercede for one another, for the entire congregation.

V. 19 “Pray for Paul.”

- **Christ promised that the Spirit would direct and strengthen the apostles’ testimony before kings and councils.**

V. 20 “Pray that he (Paul) may declare it (the gospel) fearlessly.”

- **Paul wants to declare the gospel exactly in accordance with the Lord's will. Not only the substance but also the manner of speaking is very important.**

6. This letter was a circular letter. It needed someone to take it to each group and that is Tychicus was to do. On top of that he was inform the Ephesians as how Paul was doing considering that Paul had had to flee for his life.

7. It was a standard blessing.