

God's Power to Withstand Evil

INTRODUCTION.

- A. The whole purpose of studying and understanding the purpose of the Armor of God is to understand that the Apostle Paul is encouraging God's people to fight the good fight. For that reason let us read once again the words of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:10-18.

I. HOW WOULD YOU IDENTIFY OR TO WHAT WOULD YOU COMPARE CHRISTIANITY?

- A. In the parables Jesus often said, "the kingdom of heaven is like...." or, "likened unto...."
- B. Paul compared the Christian life to an athletic contest. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
- C. Paul often compared the Christian life to warfare, and Christians are compared to soldiers. (2 Timothy 2:3, 4)
- D. The Apostle Paul also told Timothy to: *"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."* (1 Timothy 6:12)

II. NOW LET US CONSIDER THE CONCLUSION TO EPHESIANS.

- A. Ephesians reveals the great purpose of God for the church. (Ephesians 3:10, 11)
- B. The Apostle Paul closed Ephesians by saying, *"You are in a battle against evil"*.
1. Those who are blessed by God's purpose are still in a battle this very day. For that reason we must put on the Armor of God. We must always remember that God has provided this armor for a specific purpose and that is to *"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have*

confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” (1 Timothy 6:12)

III. PAUL PUTS THINGS INTO PERSPECTIVE.

- A. Paul puts some things in proper perspective in Ephesians. He brings to our attention God’s provision and we as Christians partaking of God’s Provision.
- B. In religion it is easy to have a distorted emphasis.
- C. We may go to the extreme of God’s provision and think exclusively of God’s part in our salvation.
- D. The other extreme is a type or “religious humanistic” approach whereby man becomes the measure of all things and saves himself by his own strength.

IV. EACH PERSON HAS AN “EVIL DAY.”

- A. Each person has an “evil day”. We are to “stand” and “withstand”. Withstand implies great opposition. Paul mentions these ideas three times in our text.
 - 1. In Ephesians 6:10 Paul says: *“be strong in the Lord”*.
 - 2. Paul tells us that: *Fol* (Ephesians. 1:3)
 - 3. Paul also tells us that we are raised to a heavenly place: *“and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,”* (Ephesians 2:6)
 - 4. Now Paul says in the battle with evil that we have the Lord’s strength available. (Ephesians 3:20, 21)
- B. Remember David’s words in his battle with Goliath. (1 Samuel 17:45) As Christians, we must have the attitude of David and come with boldness because is God is with us, who

can be against us.

- C. We get strength from the Lord’s example of His standing and withstanding in the evil day. (Matthew 4:1-11)
- D. We get strength by an active involvement in good works. (Ephesians 2:10)
- E. We get strength by becoming new. (Ephesians 4:17-24)

V. WE MUST KNOW THE TACTICS OF OUR ENEMY. *“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”* (Ephesians 6:11)

- A. The “devil” is a slanderer.
 - 1. The devil slandered God to man. (Genesis 3)
 - 2. The devil slandered man to God. Look at the book of Job
 - 3. The devil is an “accuser of the brethren”. (Revelation 12:10)
- B. Satan is man’s adversary. (1 Peter 5:8,9)
- C. We must not give place to the devil. (Ephesians 4:27,28)
- D. Satan is called “the evil or wicked one”. (Ephesians 6:16)
- E. We must know the “wiles” of Satan; that is we must know his schemes and devices.
- F. Satan uses “firey darts”: such as doubt, fear, disappointment, discouragement, distortion, lustful appeals. We must be able to defend against these “firey darts” or we will lose the battle against Satan.

VI. HOW SHOULD WE TAKE GOD’S ARMOUR? *“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”* (Ephesians 6:13)

- A. Paul tells us exactly how we are to take up God’s armor. Notice four important phrases

in the following:

1. Note verse 14: “*having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,*”
 2. Note verses 15 and 16: “*and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.*”
 3. These four phrases point out that while God has provided the Armor. It is up to us to put it on. When we do we must put it on with the assurance that we can and will defeat Satan.
- B. We must also take up God’s armor with Prayer. (Ephesians 6:18)
- C. Finally, if we are to take God’s armor, we must watch and be on guard as any good soldier would never desert his/her post in war.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Living the Christian life is a struggle. It is a constant battle to overcome Satan and the temptations that he puts before us. However, this is the reason that God has provided the Armor. We can win the battle if we fight to win.