

ENCORE | Ephesians 6:10-17: The Whole Armor of God

01) Read Ephesians 6:12. What is this describing?

02) What was America's attitude and commitment as we fought World War II?

03) Has America's attitude changed?

04) If we had today's attitude during World War II, would we have won the war?

05) What attitude do you need to adopt in spiritual warfare (1 Thess. 5:6-8)?

06) Read II Timothy 2:3-4. What does this statement mean?

"No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life."

07) If you knew you were about to be sent into combat, how would you prepare?

08) How important would it be for you to be well equipped?

09) What does it mean to "be strong in the Lord" (v. 10)?

10) How is verse 10 significant as it relates to spiritual warfare?

11) Discuss "the whole armor of God."

a) Belt of Truth (v. 14) -

b) Breastplate of Righteousness (v. 14) -

c) Shoes of Peace (v. 15) -

d) Shield of Faith (v. 16) -

e) Helmet of Salvation (v. 17) -

f) Sword of the Spirit (v. 17) -

12) How do you "put on" this armor?

13) How can we hope to win a battle against spiritual foes?

Looking Ahead | Ephesians 6:18-24: Caring for One Another

Monday (v. 18) What is the main command in verse 18? How does this command to pray “always” relate to the previous verses about the whole armor of God and spiritual warfare? Make a list of the key terms Paul uses to describe the prayer he is calling you to. In your own words; how would you describe the attitude (or stance) we are to adopt as we pray?

▪ Daily Bible Reading: Exo. 7-8; Matt. 25:1-30

Tuesday (v. 19) Now it gets personal; Paul asks the Ephesians to pray for him specifically. Life in Christ and the spiritual realities of that life are no different for us today than they were in Paul’s day. If we want to have victory, if we want to see God working, if we want to change and grow, if we want to be effectively used by God we are going to have to pray for each other. We are also going to have to make specific petitions for each other and on behalf of each other. Noting that the apostle Paul asked for others to pray for him, how important is it that we pray for each other?

▪ Daily Bible Reading: Exo. 9-11; Matt. 25:31-46

Wednesday (v. 19-20) Notice now what Paul asks them to pray for; that he would be bold to speak. Wow! Even the apostle Paul needed prayer for boldness. What does that tell you? I don’t know about you but it seems to me that the apostle Paul was one of the boldest proclaimers of the gospel of Jesus Christ I have ever read about. Now if he needed prayer for boldness, what does that say about you and I? It can seem cliché to ask for open doors and boldness (we have heard this so often) but we cannot let that deter us! Paul understood the sinful bent of his flesh and the real possibility that he would fail to speak when God was giving him a clearly open door. Ask God for boldness to share the gospel with those around you, and more than that ask God to give others here at Blair Ridge boldness to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

▪ Daily Bible Reading: Exo. 12-13; Matt. 26:1-35

Thursday (v. 21-22) Paul cared deeply for these brothers and sisters at Ephesus. He didn’t want them to worry about him. He even sent one of his trusted companions, Tychicus, to encourage and inform them. Tychicus was one of Paul’s companions to Asia on his third missionary journey (Acts 20:4). Paul also sent Tychicus to Colossae (Col. 4:7), again to Ephesus (2 Tim. 4:12) and he is mentioned as a helper in (Titus 3:12). Tychicus was “of Asia” and may have been from Ephesus its-self. Tychicus was evidently a very close and dearly loved friend of the apostle Paul. When you think about life in Christ, or more specifically, when you think about relationships in church we need to remember that God’s will for each one of us is that we would form and grow very close and loving relationships with one another. Much of the book of Ephesians has been about the spiritual realities of life in Christ and one of the key principals from Ephesians is this: we need each other.

▪ Daily Bible Reading: Exo. 14-15; Matt. 26:36-75

Friday (v. 23-24) These verses are Paul’s conclusion to his letter to the Ephesians. Notice his farewell wishes: “Peace to the brethren”, “love with faith”, “Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.” Paul had a deep love for his brothers and sisters in Christ. You can see his heart as he writes the many admonitions found in the book of Ephesians. It can be easy to approach the word of God as a long list of do’s and don’ts or stern warnings from God-the-mean-overlord. Paul wrote the many warnings found in Ephesians not out of a mean spirit or desire to burden us with a bunch of rules, but to help us understand life! He wants us to know God, and to know how we can live in the way which is most pleasing to Him. Paul wants us to know that life should be filled with joy. He writes to us with the earnest care of one who has a true love for the people of God. He writes to us as a man who understands God’s heart.

▪ Daily Bible Reading: Exo. 16-18; Matt. 27:1-26

Saturday (Acts 8:1-3; 20:17-38) Paul had spent a great deal of time in Ephesus (over 2 years) and during that time he had personally taught many of the pastor’s who would plant churches throughout the whole region (Acts 19:9-10). Now in Acts 20 we find Paul calling the elders (pastors) together to give them a farewell message. You can see his deep love for them and their deep love for him in this short passage. It is important to understand that the love, unity, and care for one another that Paul calls us to in the book of Ephesians is the same love and care that he had already demonstrated during his time in Ephesus. One of the most beautiful truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ is that it is not a theory or a philosophy, the gospel of Jesus Christ is real life! As we live and study the Bible we can see real people, with real lives, who have really been changed.

▪ Daily Bible Reading: Exo. 19-20; Matt. 27:27-50