

## EPHESIANS 6:10-24

One of the greatest things about studying the bible is that we get to see the heart of God in how He speaks through those who are writing His words. We also get an insight into ourselves because the words we read are the words of the One who created us and knows us perfectly – infinitely better than we know ourselves.

In this letter so far, written to a church 2000 years ago in the city of Ephesus, God (through Paul) has shown us many things about Himself and about us. And He has shown us things about the world we live in that would cause us to despair were it not for the encouragements we have also read in this letter. It always strikes me at how similar the struggles that the people of God have suffered and endured throughout the millennia are not so different than the things the people of God suffer and endure today.

In this last section, Paul reminds us that we are in a battle, but he also reminds us that we have a victorious King leading us into that battle, and He has fitted us with armor and weapons to aid us as we go!

Welcome to the army!

1. Paul starts verse 10 with the word “finally”. He has made many points throughout this letter, and now, he has one last thing to tell them
  - a. What is Paul’s final command to the Christians at Ephesus?
  - b. Read the following
    - i. Deuteronomy 31:1-8
    - ii. Joshua 1:12-18
    - iii. 1 Chronicles 28:20-21
    - iv. 2 Chronicles 32:1-8
    - v. Psalm 27
    - vi. Psalm 31:21-24
    - vii. Romans 4:18-22
    - viii. 2 Timothy 2:1-2
    - ix. 1 John 2:12-14
  - c. How are we to be strong?
    - i. Read Psalm 28
  - d. In what ways have you been strengthened by God?
2. After Paul tells us to be strong in the Lord, he gives us another command.
  - a. What is this next command?
  - b. Warriors wear armor. Warriors wield weapons. Do you see yourself as a warrior?
  - c. Read
    - i. Romans 7:15-25
    - ii. 2 Corinthians 10:1-6
    - iii. 1 Peter 2:9-12
  - d. What kinds of things are we at war against?
  - e. Why are we to be outfitted for war?
3. In verses 11 and 12, Paul tells us who we are at war against.
  - a. Read 1 Peter 5:8-11
  - b. What kind of enemy do we face?
  - c. Given the readings so far about who and what we are at war with, what kinds of weapons do we need? How can we possibly be victorious?

- d. Do you see yourself as a target of the devil (or his minions)?
  - e. Have you experienced this kind of attack before? Did you feel equipped to fight it?
  - f. How were you victorious?
4. Remember our discussions about how Jesus was received by His people. What kind of enemy were they expecting Jesus to defeat? How do these few verses describe the enemy Jesus came to defeat?
5. In verse 12, what word does Paul use to describe the kind of fight we are in? What does this word make you think of?
6. Verse 13 starts with *therefore*.
  - a. What is the command Paul gives us after the *therefore*?
  - b. So what is the *therefore* there for?
  - c. Why are we to arm ourselves?
  - d. Read the following
    - i. Psalm 9:7-10
    - ii. Psalm 77:1-3
    - iii. Proverbs 16:4
    - iv. Nahum 1:6-8
    - v. Ephesians 5:15-17
  - e. What does this armor result in for us?
7. Verse 14 begins the description of the armor we have at our disposal
  - a. ... belt of truth (read John 8:31-32; 17:14-19)
  - b. ... breastplate of righteousness (read Isaiah 11:1-5)
  - c. ... shoes of the gospel of peace (read Romans 10:13-15)
  - d. ... shield of faith (read Psalm 91:1-6)
  - e. ... helmet of salvation (read Isaiah 59:16-19)
  - f. ... sword of the spirit (read Hebrews 4:11-13)
  - g. Whose armor is this?
8. Verse 18 tells us how we are to use this armor
  - a. What are we to do to use this armor?
    - i. Mark 13:32-37
    - ii. Romans 8:26
  - b. Part of the battle is praying for one another
    - i. Why would this be so important in our battle?
9. In verse 19, Paul asks for prayer for himself
  - a. What does he request?
  - b. Read Acts 4:23-31
  - c. What is the mystery of the gospel?
10. In verse 20, Paul describes himself
  - a. Define *ambassador*
    - i. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20
  - b. What does Paul mean that he is *in chains*?
  - c. Paul uses the word *ought* to describe what he needs to do. What does this show you about how he views his mission?
11. As is often true with Paul's writings, he closes with a greeting.
  - a. How can his final greeting be an encouragement to us today?
  - b. What stands out to you in his closing?
  - c. Reread Ephesians 1:1-2

- i. How is Paul's closing similar to his opening?
  - ii. What does Paul start us with?
  - iii. What does Paul leave us with?
12. What must we rely on to win the battle we are in?

Friends, we are in a battle, not against foreign nations, but against something far more sinister. As we read in this section:

**Ephesians 6:12 (12)** *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (ESV)*

There are physical battles you will fight for sure. But Paul's main concern is not that someone may slander you, assault you, or even kill you for being a Christian. No, his concern is the spiritual battle that is waged against the forces of evil in the heavenly realms. The war is real.

But the battle is already won.

**John 16:31–33 (31)** *Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? (32) Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. (33) I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* (ESV)

And because we need it, God has given us not only the victory in the end, but weapons and armor for the daily battles we fight now. Christian, the battle is already won, but our enemy is still fighting.

And because of that, Paul ends this letter with a great encouragement to the church at Ephesus – an encouragement that we should hold fast to and claim even today – that being that we do not go into the battle neither alone nor unarmed.

There is one final homework assignment for this study, and that is to simply remember what God has done for you, remember what God has provided for you, and keep your eyes on Jesus as your priest, your prophet, and your King. He will never leave you nor forsake you. He will save you to the uttermost as you draw near to Him. He is preparing a place for you in heaven.

And He will return to reign in paradise restored forever.

So, to kick start that, remember what we have read during this study. Think about the things you have learned about God and about yourselves. Remember the encouragements. Remember the struggles. Now, write down some of those things so you can use them as a way to remember all that God has done for you, with you, and through you.

**Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (4)** *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. (5) You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. (6) And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. (7) You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (8) You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. (9) You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (ESV)*

It is good that we remind ourselves of this!