

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 46

Ephesians 6 - The Battle Against the Devil

INTRODUCTION: Ephesians 6 deals basically with putting on the armor of the Lord in our battle against Satan. For this lesson we will not discuss the typical meanings of the different parts of the armor. We will discuss some things about the battle in our fight against Satan for right and for Christ.

I. WE ARE TO BE STRONG IN THE LORD. Read Ephesians 6:10. In other words, we are to “be made powerful in the Lord” or to “be strengthened in the Lord and in the strength of His might.” In order to walk worthily of the calling and in order to fight the battle for God, we must be made strong in Him. The battle is His; the strength must come from Him. We cannot win the battle in our own strength; we must depend upon Him and His power daily in the battle against wrong.

II. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THE DEVIL IS OUR ENEMY. See Ephesians 6:11. It is interesting to note that this is the only place in all of the writings of Paul where he definitely mentions Satan. He constantly recognizes the fact of Satan’s existence and over and over again refers to the nature of the world over which Satan reigns; however, this is the only place where he names him. Here we are brought to the age-old conflict with which we are involved. It is a conflict between God and Satan, between those on the side of God and those under the mastery of Satan. We should recognize the fact that the Devil is our enemy. We are to fight him. We are not just to ignore him; we are to fight him! We are not just to refuse to accept his temptations; we are to launch an attack against him!

III. WE ARE TO WRESTLE. Notice Ephesians 6:12. The word “wrestle” here has to do more with the military than the athletic. As a matter of fact, it suggests “hand-to-hand fighting.” In other words, each of us is to fight the Devil for himself in the power of the Holy Spirit. Notice, however, the fighting is not against flesh and blood. This is not the realm of our conflicts. We are to fight against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against the spiritual host of wickedness in heavenly places. We are not to fight each other. We are not to fight individuals. We are to fight wrong. We are to love the sinner and hate the sin. We are to love the wrongdoers and hate the wrong. We are to love the evildoer and hate the evil. We are to love the one filled with error but hate the error.

IV. WE ARE TO PUT ON THE ARMOR OF GOD AND TAKE UP THE ARMOR OF GOD. Read Ephesians 6:11, 13. Here is an interesting play on words. “Putting on” the armor is dressing for a parade. “Taking up” the armor is preparing to fight. In other words, we are to do both. Verse 11 says we are to “put on” the armor of God, which means we are to let people know on Whose side we are. We are to wear the uniform; we are to show the armor. We are to let the world know that we are ready for battle, but then we are also to “take up” the armor of God. We are to fight the battle for God; we are to get in the war. Hence, we are to do both—fight and let people see our uniform and our armor. We should show people on Whose side we are, and we should fight for the right of that side.

We will not go into the armor in detail: truth for the loins, righteousness for the breastplate, readiness in the Gospel of peace for the feet, faith for the shield, salvation for the helmet, the Word of God for the sword, prayer and supplication which made the armor effective, etc. Whatever it is, we are to take it up and put it on.

You will notice in the armor that there is nothing for the back. All of the armor is for the front. God does not expect us to retreat but to keep going forward! He does not expect us just to resist the attack of Satan; He expects us to attack Satan!

V. WE ARE TO HAVE PEACE IN THE BATTLE. See Ephesians 6:23. He closes this discussion by mentioning we are to have peace. This is very interesting because we are in a war.

How can we have peace in a war? It does not mean here that we are to have peace with the Devil. It means we are to have peace when we fight the Devil. Peace describes the possible experience of all who are walking worthily and waging a conflict with the forces of evil. In the midst of this conflict, peace is given to these warriors. This peace is combined with love and grace, as is mentioned in verse 24. This word “grace” means, of course, that all the battle and all of our relationship with Christ is because of God’s grace and the salvation derived therefrom. (Teacher, spend some time discussing the plan of salvation as is given by the grace of God, by grace through faith. You could go back to Ephesians 2:8-10 for this. In other words, tell about the grace that God gives to those who are saved, and the peace that God gives in the battle to those who are fighting.)