

Outline

I. Introduction to Ephesians 6:10-23

- A. Common misconception: Just a "spiritual warfare" passage
- B. Actual purpose: Practical guide for living fruitful, peace-filled lives in a hostile world
- C. Culmination of entire book of Ephesians

II. The Foundation: Be Strong in the Lord (v. 10)

- A. Building on Chapters 1-3 (who we are in Christ)
- B. Building on Chapters 4-6 (how we walk it out)
- C. "Be strong" - passive voice, receiving God's power
- D. Being plugged into a power source, not self-generated strength

III. Put On God's Armor (v. 11)

- A. "Armor of God" - armor that belongs to God
- B. Connection to Isaiah 59 - God wears His own armor
- C. Main command: "Stand" (repeated four times)
- D. Not charging into battle, but holding the line in victory already won
- E. Military strategy: Take ground, dig in, hold gains, mature, move forward

IV. Understanding the Real Battle (v. 12)

- A. Not wrestling against flesh and blood
- B. Close-quarters struggle (pale - wrestling)
- C. The real enemies: rulers, authorities, cosmic powers, spiritual forces
- D. People are not the enemy - they are captives
- E. Satan's manipulation: Getting us angry at people instead of the real adversary

V. The Adversary and Accusation

- A. Old Testament meaning of "Satan" - adversary
- B. Zechariah 3:1-5 - Satan as accuser
- C. Internal accusation: shame, condemnation, guilt, regret
- D. "The evil day" - seasons of intense pressure and temptation
- E. The question: Will you still be standing when the evil day passes?

VI. The Five Pieces of Armor

A. The Belt of Truth (v. 14a)

1. Holds everything together
2. Truth as reality defined by God
3. Orders our thoughts and emotions
4. Hebrew "emet" - firmness, reliability
5. Leaning our full weight on what God says

B. The Breastplate of Righteousness (v. 14b)

1. Isaiah 59:17 - God's breastplate
2. Covers vital organs, especially the heart
3. Both credited righteousness (justified status) and practical righteousness
4. Protected by Christ's perfect record
5. Obedience closes doors the enemy exploits

C. The Shoes of Gospel Peace (v. 15)

1. Roman sandals with hobnails for traction

2. Stability and mobility
3. Isaiah 52:7 - bringing good news
4. Peace with God and being peacemakers
5. Bringing peace into every situation

D. The Shield of Faith (v. 16)

1. Large door-shaped shield (thyreos)
2. Extinguishes flaming darts
3. Flaming darts: shameful memories, suspicious thoughts, cynical ideas
4. Faith as specific reliance on specific promises
5. Barrier between you and incoming lies

E. The Helmet of Salvation (v. 17a)

1. Protects thoughts, perceptions, interpretations
2. Whole saving work: justification, sanctification, glorification
3. Reorienting our understanding
4. Failure doesn't unsave; success doesn't justify; suffering doesn't cancel resurrection

F. The Sword of the Spirit (v. 17b)

1. Machaira - short sword for close combat
2. Rhema - spoken, applied word
3. Specific Scripture for specific situations
4. Holy Spirit authors, brings to mind, and empowers Scripture

VII. Conclusion: Incorruptible Love (v. 24)

- A. Grace with all who love Christ with incorruptible love

B. Aphtharsia - unfading, not spoiled by time or trial

C. Armor protects love for Jesus that doesn't rot under pressure

VIII. Three Life Changes This Week

A. Name the battle - identify spiritual struggles daily

B. Intentionally use one piece of armor each day

C. Link shields with another believer - mutual prayer for boldness and perseverance