

"The Practice of the Believer"

Ephesians 4-6

Part 28

Introduction: In our study of Ephesians last week we were looking at verse 12.

I. Understand our Enemy

Notice Ephesians 6:12

Two weeks ago we looked at the importance of Ephesians 6:10.

Notice Ephesians 6:10

We looked at the importance of being strong in the Lord and the power of His might. There are many who skip this and want to move right on to the armour, but the armour does no good without being strong in the Lord and without having His power.

Let us notice something that happened to David.

1 Samuel 17:38-39

³⁸ And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail.

³⁹ And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.

David could not use Saul's armour because it did not fit. In a similar way we cannot wear the armour of God if we are not strong. It just will not work. So we need to be strengthened in the Lord. We must know His Word and we must be surrendered over to Him so that He can work His power through us. This now brings us to where we are today.

II. The Armour of God

Part 1

The messages which we are going to look at the next couple of weeks are very important for each one of us for the day in which we live. Before we get to the armour, I want to draw your attention to something which Paul says here.

A. The Believer's Position

Notice Ephesians 6:11-14

Three times in these verses Paul uses the word STAND. Let us understand that we are called to STAND against the attacks of the enemy. To STAND is to oppose the attacks. There are many believers who do not want to get involved in the battle, but I want you to know that from the day you were saved until today you are in the battle. You have no choice. You will either STAND against the attacks of the enemy or you will be complacent and expect someone else to do what you are called to do. It makes no difference how old you are, you are called to STAND against the demonic forces that are against the church and the Word of God.

Listen to the words of another on the word STAND:

- *It means that we are going to be attacked.*
- *It means that we must not be frightened.*
- *It means that we must not droop or slouch; nor be uncertain or half-hearted in the fight (no self-pity is allowed).*
- *It means that we are at our position and alert.*
- *It means that we do not give even a thought to retreat.*

Notice the exhortation that Paul gave to Timothy.

2 Timothy 2:3-5

³ *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

⁴ **No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.**

⁵ *And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.*

B. The Need for the Armour

Notice Ephesians 6:11-13

In these verses we are exhorted 2 times to put on the whole armour of God. The fact that we are told twice tells us just how important the armour is.

Now we had talked about how some people desire to skip over verse 10 and look only at the armour of God and that is a big mistake. But there are others who get so focused upon the power that they never consider the armour of God. This too is a great mistake. Let us understand that the power is OFFENSIVE for the believer and the armour is DEFENSIVE for the believer.

Let me explain in military terms so that you can understand just how important the armour is. Let us consider an army that is very powerful, and they are able to advance on the enemy, but they have no defense. In other words they can push the enemy back with their power but when the enemy understand that they have no defense the enemy will circle around and attack then from behind or at another point of weakness and they will be defeated. Any military that is going to be successful in war must have a defense to guard against the subtle attacks of the enemy.

This is also true of the believer. We can be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might but if we have no defense we are going to be defeated.

Let me give you an example:

Let us say that you are skilled in the Word. You get up every day and you read your Bible. You can quote Scripture from many different places in the Bible. You know Doctrine and you know about the power of God. This is all great but if you are not clothed in the whole armour of God, you will be defeated.

Here is how it happens. You are strong in the Word, but Satan knows you are not clothed in the armour. He knows your weakest point. Let us say that your weak point is worry. So you enter a trial, and you can quote verses that help you in the trial but here comes Satan and he shoots a fiery dart of worry about something, and you did not have your helmet on, and it gets into the mind. It is worry about health, conditions of the world, your spouse, your children and so on. You begin to worry, and it continues to increase and now it is consuming you. The problem before you is all you can think about, and it is all you can talk about when you talk with others. Guess what? The enemy has just rendered you useless for the battle. You have been defeated. You are so consumed with the situation you are dealing with that you are in no condition to stand against the attacks.

It can happen with fear, worry, or many other things. It can be an attack against your heart if your heart is not covered with the armour. We need every single piece of armour if we are going to be victorious.

2 Peter 1:2-4

² Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Now I want to explain something that we all need to know.

1. Satan knows our weaknesses.

Let us notice how Satan tempted Jesus.

Matthew 4:1-3, 5-6, 8-9

Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

² *And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.*

³ *And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*

⁵ *Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,*

⁶ *And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.*

⁸ *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;*

⁹ *And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

If Jesus would have had a weak point Satan would have found it. We do have weak points and he knows exactly what they are and if we have no defense/the armour of God we do not stand a chance. Let us again be reminded of Amalek and how he attacked Israel.

Deuteronomy 25:17-18

¹⁷ Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt;

¹⁸ How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.

2. Satan knows when we are the most susceptible to temptation.

The time when we are the most likely to fall is after a victory of after we have witnessed God's mighty hand in our lives.

2 Corinthians 12:1-7

It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

² *I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.*

³ *And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)*

⁴ *How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*

⁵ *Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.*

⁶ *For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me.*

⁷ *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

Genesis 12:5, 7, 10

⁵ *And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.*

⁷ And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

¹⁰ And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.

Let us be very careful.

1 Corinthians 10:12

¹² Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Let us now get back to the armour.

Notice Ephesians 6:11-13 again.

III. Only for Believers

This is the armour OF GOD. This armour will only fit a believer. If you do not know Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have no defense against the Devil. If he wants to use you to fight against the plan of God, then you are completely helpless. You have no means to defend yourself. Let me show you what the Bible says concerning you.

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

² *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

³ *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

If you are not saved you are an enemy of God. The armour is not for you because it is the armour OF GOD. It is spiritual armour, and you are spiritually dead. Because you have no defense against the Devil, he has somehow deceived you into thinking that you do not need Jesus Christ at this time.

He has convinced you:

- a. To wait until a better time.
- b. That Jesus will steal away all the joy that you know.
- c. That Jesus will place difficult restrictions upon you.
- d. That your friends have more to offer than Jesus does.
- e. That you have lots of time left.

The Believer:

We who are believers must understand that this armour is provided for us by our God, and He requires that we put on each piece of the armour.

Notice Ephesians 6:11, 13

We cannot miss that we are exhorted to put on the *WHOLE* armour of God. We need every single piece of armour and if we let one thing out, we will be defeated.

We need the girdle, the breast plate, the shoes, the shield, the helmet and the sword.

Conclusion:

Much of the problems in the church today are because the armour is neglected. Many do not understand the armour and how essential it is. When we are finished with this section you will know the armour and you will understand how much you need it.

God has provided the armour and so we have no excuse when we fall to the demonic attacks.