Built For Battle

Ephesians 6:10-24

Main Idea:

God equips us for battle for the sake of standing firm on His truth and for advancing the Gospel.

Context:

Ephesus was a major hub for magic, sorcery, and occult practices, used to appease or control spiritual forces.

- Error #1: We view Ephesians 6 as the spiritual warfare appendix of the letter and the Bible.
  - Reality: Themes of God's power for believers (Eph 1:15-21, 3:14-16, 6:10) and Jesus's victory and authority over evil spiritual forces (Eph 1:21-22, 3:10, 4:8, 6:12) precede this teaching.
- Error #2: We misunderstand the main nature and purpose of spiritual warfare.
  - Command: Put on the whole armor of God = living all of life in accordance with God's truth
  - Purpose: Stand against the devil's schemes
  - The schemes of the devil – v 11
  - _____: Gen 3:1-5; John 8:44; 2 Cor 11:14; Rev 12:9
  - Anger/Bitterness/Disunity: Eph 4:26-27; 2 Cor 2:10-11
  - Intimidation: 2 Timothy 1:6-7
  - Accusation: Revelation 12:9-10
  - Discouragement: Hebrews 3:13
  - Temptation: 1 Peter 2:11
  - Distraction: Matt 6:24, 6:33, 8:22, 26:40-4; Luke 10:38–42
  - We stand in God's strength and on His promises:
  - Christ's finished work: Eph 1:3-14, 2:4-9; Galatians 5:1
  - Sound doctrine (the faith): Eph 4:13-15; Jude 1:3
  - Obedience to God: Eph 4:1, 17, 5:1
- Error #3: We view the armor of God as metaphorical imagery rather than metaphysical reality.
  - Reality: God's provision of real spiritual resources for the success and protection of His people: Isaiah 59:15b-17; Eph 1:11; 2 Pet 1:3; Eph 4:24; 1 Peter 1:4-5; Philippians 4:7
- Error #4: We envision spiritual warfare as single combat.
  - Reality: _____ our struggles (Galatians 6:2); Fighting for each other in prayer (Eph 6:18-19); Unity of the faith (Eph 4:13, 1:1)
- Error #5: We view prayer solely as a defensive (reactionary) element of spiritual warfare.
  - Pray in the Spirit (v 18) = Pray under the guidance, power, and influence of the Holy Spirit
  - The simplest, surest way to pray in the Spirit is to pray the very words of the Spirit from Scripture (Eph 6:17-18; 2 Peter 1:20–21)
  - **Prayer Goal #1**: Strengthening believers to stand (Ephesians 1:15-22, 3:14-21, 6:18)
  - **Prayer Goal #2:** The spread of the gospel (Eph 6:19-20; Colossians 4:3)

- Two lessons from the farewell – Eph 6:21-24
- The believers' affection for one another (v 21-22)
- The believers' prayers for one another (v 23-24)