

Session Nine (Ephesians 6:10-24):

Armor of God (6:10-20)

1. What kind of conclusion is Paul offering to his letter: closing arguments of a defense attorney, or a general exhorting his troops before they go into battle?
 - a.
2. Consider Luther's quote:
 - a. (And he [Paul] acts like a pious and true field marshal, who gives a battlefield speech to his people who are arranged in battle formation and admonishes them to stand fast and to defend themselves boldly and confidently; ... For he shows here that those who are baptized into Christ and would cling to him must and should be warriors and must always be armed with their weapons and armor..." (Winger, 724).
3. But, are we fighting, or is the battle already won? See Eph. 6:10-11.
 - a.
4. Consider this quote from *A Martyr's Faith in a Faithless World*: "Paul is describing a soldier who is on guard duty, and each one of us is stationed in our vocations."
 - a.
5. Considering the present state of the battle, to what does Eph. 6:13-14 refer?
 - a.
6. What is the armor of God?
 - a. Belt of truth:
 - i.
 - b. Breastplate of righteousness:
 - i.
 - c. Gospel shoes:
 - i.
 - ii.
 - d. Shield of faith:
 - i.
 - e. Helmet of Salvation:
 - i.
 - f. Sword of the Spirit:
 - i.
 - ii. But how do we wield the sword of the spirit? See Ephesians 6:17-18
 - 1.
 - iii. How does Paul ask the saints in Ephesus to pray for him? See Eph. 19-20. What does this mean for us as we wield the sword of the spirit?
 - 1.

Armor of God as a Closing Image:

7. How is Paul also summarizing his teachings?
 - a. Armor of God:
 - i. Compare 6:10 with 1:19, 3:7, 16, 20
 - 1.

- ii. Compare 6:11, 14 with 4:24
 - 1.
- iii. Compare 6:11 with 4:14
 - 1.
- iv. Compare 6:12 with 4:18
 - 1.
- v. Compare 6:13 with 4:12
 - 1.
- vi. Compare 6:14 with 4:21, 24
 - 1.
- vii. Compare 6:17 with 2:5 (cf. 1:13; 2:8; 5:23)
 - 1.
- viii. Compare 6:16 with 2:8 (cf. 1:15; 3:12, 17; 4:5, 13)
 - 1.
- ix. Compare 6:17 with 1:17
 - 1.
- x. Compare 6:17 with 5:26 (cf. 1:13)

Final Greetings (6:21-24)

1. Who likely brought this letter to the Ephesians? See 6:21.
 - a.
2. What is Eph. 6:21-22 doing?
 - a.
3. How do Paul's last words relate to his first? See Eph. 1:1-2 and 6:23-24.
 - a.

Reviewing Ephesians:

1. Remember that Ephesians begins founded on all that Christ has done in 1:3-14.
 - a. This informs the entire letter by showing us that Christ is the actor.
2. With that foundation, it makes sense that Christ is again the actor even in the "armor of God" section in chapter 6.
3. God has broken down the wall of hostility through Christ – Jew and Gentile and all sorts of people are one body under Christ, who is our head.
4. God shares Christ with us through our vocations (as husbands and wives, parents and children, masters and bondservants).
5. We are armed because in our baptism we have been and still are joined to Jesus, our champion.

Take Home:

1. I urge you not to forget these meditations on Christ's work as Paul presents them in Ephesians. They are grace-filled, Christ-centered words we could consider every day to our benefit.
2. Stand firm in your baptism. Though the victory be won, Satan continues to prowl like a lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, you truly are rich in grace because of everything Jesus has done for us. When we fear the strength of our truth, speak your truth to us. When we fear our own righteousness, dress us in the impenetrable righteousness of Jesus. When we hear the Gospel, let us hear it as the victory it is in Jesus, our champion. When our faith weakens, fix our eyes on the strong object of our faith – Jesus, our cornerstone. When our we try to protect our minds with our own helmets, don on us the helmet of salvation bloodied by Jesus at the cross. When the devil deceives us, flash forth your brilliant weapon – the sword of truth, you Holy Word, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In his mighty name we pray, amen.