

Master Your Weaponry

Spiritual Warfare ~ February 14, 2021 ~ Eph 6.10-18

“Know Your Enemy” Review

- ❖ Last Week’s topic was “**Know Your Enemy**”
 - ✧ Opposition starts with Satan who’s hated humans from day 6 & deceived them
 - ✧ He and his demons heavily influence world systems to oppose God & Christians
 - ✧ Sadly, our own hearts can serve as outposts in their attacks upon us
 - ✧ Yet “**He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world**”
- ❖ Today’s topic is “**Master Your Weaponry**”
 - ✧ Next: “**Engage Your Allies**” & “**Embrace Your Battle**”

Offense & Defense - An Overview

- ❖ Most competitive sports involve concepts of offense and defense
 - ✧ Baseball ~ Innings “**at bat**” or “**in field**”, 3 outs, same players do both
 - ✧ Football ~ specialists for each side (*fumbles and interceptions wild*)
 - ✧ Soccer, Basketball, Hockey ~ concepts apply but more fluid (*steal*)
- ❖ Some games tightly integrate offense and defense
 - ✧ Chinese checkers, backgammon, chess (*turn taking – offensive or defensive*)
- ❖ Advantages - Some sports alternate – Tennis (*going first*) / Wrestling (*being on top*)
- ❖ Boxers start out in corners – can only start punching when bell rings
 - ✧ Offense and defense are possible but entirely based on individuals
 - ✧ Referee ensures rules are followed – (*e.g., no hitting below the belt*)
 - ✧ III: 1997 Heavyweight title fight ~ E Holyfield & M Tyson –(*Tyson bit ear twice*)
- ❖ Referees exist in competitive sports to spot rule violations and enforce penalties
- ❖ Keep concepts of offense, defense, and rule violations in mind

Xition: Let’s first address the preface to putting on the armor in vss 10-13

Armor Preface (Read vs 10-13)

- ❖ **v10** ~ “be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might”
 - ✧ The armor we put on is God’s armor – “armor of God”
 - ✧ We didn’t make it / we couldn’t / we’re not that skilled / we just wear it
 - ✧ Armor was costly / It was a rare individual that owned a set of armor
 - ✧ God equips all of His children with invincible armor – if only we’d wear it
- ❖ **v11a** ~ “put on the whole armor of God”
 - ✧ We must put every piece of armor on / otherwise we’re vulnerable
 - ✧ Faulty beliefs we have of truth, gospel, righteousness, faith, Bible, or salvation
 - Piece of our armor may be missing or of our own manufacture
 - Adam & Eve put on fig leaves / God made them durable clothes
- ❖ **v11b-v14a** ~ 3 occurrences of word “stand” and 1 of “withstand”
 - ✧ “stand against”, “withstand in the evil day”, “stand”, and “Stand”
 - ✧ “You get the point?” / Paul wants us standing both before and after battle
 - ✧ This implies that some aren’t standing for battle (*before or after or both*)
- ❖ Note the words “be able” **v11**, “be able” **v13**, and “to stand” **v13**
 - ✧ Paul is telling us what we must do, to win the fight we’re to engage in

Defensive and Offensive Pieces of Armor

- ❖ Defensive – First five
 - ✧ “belt of truth” / “breastplate of righteousness” / “boots of gospel”
 - ✧ “shield of faith” / “helmet of salvation”
- ❖ Offensive & Defensive – Next two
 - ✧ “sword of the Spirit”
 - ✧ Some stop here with the 6 pieces of armor, but . . .
 - Prayer is obviously a primary weapon as well / “praying always”
- ❖ 8th weapon I’ll address last that’s not mentioned here

Xition: We start with the “belt of truth”

Belt of Truth (14a) ~ “having girded your waist with truth”

❖ Popular quotes on truth

- ❖ **Q:** Aeschylus – Greek playwright – “In war, truth is the first casualty”
- ❖ **Q:** Jonathan Swift (1700’s) – “Falsehood flies, and Truth comes limping after it”
- ❖ **Q:** Churchill – “A lie gets halfway around the world before truth get its trousers on”
- ❖ **Q:** Michael Jackson - “Lies run sprints, but the truth runs marathons”

❖ The Bible speaks to this topic of distinguishing lies from truth

- ❖ **Prov 18.17** ~ “The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him.”
 - It’s so easy for the first person to leave out important details . . .
 - Parents have to ensure fairness & justice between siblings
 - Some parents blame both kids for a fight when only one is to blame
 - Undermines justice in the home, and encourages retaliation
- ❖ **Q:** Justice - “The wheels of justice turn slowly but grind exceedingly fine”

❖ Bible clearly states that Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and the Bible are all truth

- ❖ Bible ~ **Ps 119:160** ~ “The entirety of your word is truth”
- ❖ Father ~ **Hebrews 6.18** says, “it is impossible for God to lie”
- ❖ Jesus said in **John 14.6**, “I am the way, the truth, and the life”
- ❖ Jesus said in **John 16.13** that the Holy Spirit will “guide you into all truth”

❖ It is no accident that truth is referred to as the belt of the believer

- ❖ It’s below the belt where Satan likes to hit us
 - Satan lies to us – seldom in whole, but nearly always in part
 - We guard against this by knowing, believing, and trusting what is true

❖ Being on guard against deception is at the heart of Christian duty

- ❖ Some of the worst attacks against Christians come from fellow Christians
- ❖ **III:** People’s Temple – Jim Jones – 918 died in Guyana (1978) – No Bible found

Xition: Next is the “breastplate of righteousness”

Breastplate of Righteousness (14b) ~ “having put on the breastplate of righteousness”

- ❖ Read Zech 3.1-4 ~ “Then he showed me Joshua .. clothe you with rich robes”
 - ✧ The metaphor breaks down – we see robes and not a breastplate
 - ✧ But it’s God’s righteousness that protects us – not our own garments
 - ❖ Breastplate protects vital organs (*hearts, lungs, stomach, liver*)
 - ✧ God’s righteousness gives us necessary & vital protection from enemy attacks
 - ❖ We have positional righteousness with God but must exercise volitional as well
 - ✧ David was righteous before God throughout the Bathsheba & Uriah incident
 - If David had died during that time he’d have gone to heaven
 - ✧ But, “did David act righteously, was his conduct consistent with his state?”
 - No, not by a long shot
- ❖ We must behave righteously to enjoy the protection of God’s righteousness

Shoes of Gospel of Peace (15) ~ “having shod your feet with the .. gospel of peace”

- ❖ Putting your shoes on means you’re ready to go – ready for action
 - ✧ If you have no shoes or boots on, then you’re probably not ready to go
 - ✧ III: Watched Micah’s family leave for Dykstra’s – shoes last to go on
 - ✧ III: Bowling shoes Thornton Bowling w/Bill – “Where the hell your shoes go?”
 - ✧ III: Amarillo late night stop – hot, thirsty, shorts only – “bugs everywhere”
- ❖ It’s a bit ironic that when dressed in armor our feet are shod with “gospel of peace”
 - ✧ This highlights the unique aspect of our warfare
 - ✧ We tear down Satan’s kingdom using instruments of peace and truth

Shield of Faith (16) ~ “taking the shield of faith .. fiery darts of the wicked one”

- ❖ The key word in this verse is “all” / It’s a word that’s hard to believe at times
 - ✧ But God gives us authority / ability to resist all of Satan’s lies
- ❖ This “thureos” shield covers the entire body
 - ✧ **Psalm 5:12**, “Lord, You surround the righteous with your favor as with a shield”

- ❖ **Heb 11.6**, “.. without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”
 - ✧ Without a shield, we are easy prey to any of our enemies (*world, flesh, devil*)
 - ✧ With a shield that we’re skilled at wielding, we can win every battle
- ❖ Your eyes must always be on guard to use the shield effectively
 - ✧ Be vigilant to anticipate attack / Missiles come anytime from any direction

Helmet of Salvation (17a)

- ❖ **v17a** ~ “take the helmet of salvation”
- ❖ The head is one of the most vulnerable of our body parts
 - ✧ **III**: Man at UP wrecked bike on what’s called the “**taco ride**” – brain damage
- ❖ Our heads hold our brains (most) – We suspect this isn’t true for some at times
 - ✧ **Q**: “**It’s a good thing your head is attached, or you’d misplace it.**”
- ❖ Our brains are a primary component of our minds
 - ✧ I say “**a component**” because angels have minds, yet no physical bodies
 - ✧ This helmet protects our thoughts, our beliefs – it keeps Satan’s lies at bay
 - ✧ **III**: “**Warfare Praying**” by Bubeck – many examples of people letting demon in

Sword of Spirit (17b)

- ❖ **v17b** ~ “and [take] the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”
- ❖ The first piece of armor that’s used for both defense and offense
 - ✧ When we know the Bible we spot error quickly and dispatch it
 - ✧ We can also apply it to every situation we face – to guide thoughts & actions
- ❖ Jesus said that “the gates of hell would not stand”
 - ✧ Too often we think only defense – but you need offense to take ground
 - ✧ Satan lost legal right to what he claims is his – Jesus took it / Jesus won
 - ✧ Satan acts as if he still owns it – but we mustn’t let him
- ❖ **III**: Assert victory – “**Can I do that?**” ~ pg 159 of “**Warfare Praying**”

Xition: 2nd offensive/defensive weapon is “prayer”

Praying Always (18a) ~ “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit”

- ❖ The sword is our first offensive weapon
- ❖ Prayer is our next – both a defensive and offensive weapon
- ❖ This is what the apostles and elders turned to in **Acts 6**
 - ❖ **Acts 6.3-4** ~ “give their attention to prayer and the ministry of the word”
 - ❖ All of us should do this – but elders are called to this – it’s a primary duty
 - ❖ Elders are to be the watchmen on the towers

8th Aspect of Christian Armor – (3rd Defensive and Offensive Weapon)

- ❖ Read **Mark 9.14-29** ~ “And when He came .. prayer and fasting”
 - ❖ Clearly demonic / Jesus seems disappointed with His disciples
 - ❖ Many Christians today don’t believe such things happen anymore
 - ❖ But I’ve been reading of many accounts in Bubeck and Dickason books
 - These men are not flakes / They’re solid men of the faith
 - They may not be reformed - but they believe in sovereignty of God
- ❖ “If you’re facing demonic strongholds and you haven’t yet fasted”
 - ❖ “Are you really taking your position seriously?”
- ❖ Fasting is a powerful weapon against all enemies – (*world, flesh, devil*)

- There are rules in organized sports and referees to enforce them – not so w/Satan
- But God placed a hedge around Job – that’s the beauty of **Job 1 & 2**
- We have all authority and power over our enemies – we need only exercise it

➤ Prayer and Song

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,
And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,
To God our Savior, who alone is wise,
Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

Amen ***pause*** Go in peace . . .

Master Your Weaponry - Handout

Spiritual Warfare ~ February 14, 2021 ~ Eph 6.10-18

1. Two sports terms describing Christian armor? _____
2. List the 6 pieces of armor and the reality that each relates to in Christian life:
 - a. belt of truth God and His word are truth – we must hold to this
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
 - f. _____
3. What 2 additional powerful weapons should Christians use in their battles?
_____ and _____.
4. Write out the quote of Jonathan Swift's concerning truth: _____
_____. What does it mean in your own words? _____
_____.
5. What two terms were used to describe righteousness before God?
_____ and _____.
6. With what do we tear down Satan's kingdom? _____
7. What is a key word used in describing the shield? _____
8. What must we always be doing to use the shield well? _____
9. Where do angels store memories? _____
10. What 3 things can be used offensively and defensively? _____,
_____, and _____.

