

Ephesians: Unsearchable riches of Christ

Study 34: We are at war: Be armed (Part II)

READ Eph 6:16-17a and LISTEN to Pastor Craig Baxter's [sermon](#).

Living a life pleasing to the Lord and engaging in the mission of the church is not easy because there are powerful supernatural beings that strategise and attack. Because of this, God makes available His power and divine resources to believers so they can resist the assaults of these hostile spirits and advance God's kingdom into the world. Believers are therefore called to be strong in the Lord and His power and put on six indispensable pieces of God's armour.

Main lesson: Because we are at war with the spiritual forces of evil we must be armed with the armour of God to maintain our testimony and extend God's glory

Questions:

1. As a review, state how the following pieces of armour protect the Christian:

The belt of truth:

Breastplate of righteousness:

Feet fitted with the gospel of peace:

2. A. Paul calls Christians to "take up the shield of faith". What types of things does the shield of faith not protect us from? 2 Cor 11:24-27; 12:7.

B. Who sends such things and what is their purpose? See 1 Pet 4:12; Jam 1:2-4.

3. What might be the difference between a "fiery trial" sent by God and a "flaming dart" sent by the evil one? Consider the ultimate purpose behind each.
4. How does the "shield of faith" extinguish the "flaming darts of the evil one"? Be as practical and specific as possible.
5. How would you counsel a Christian who tells you that they are having trouble trusting God in a trial? Where do you begin?
6. How does appropriating the past (Eph 1:18) and present (1 Cor 1:18) doctrine of salvation protect your mind while engaged in the spiritual battle?
7. Since Paul refers to the helmet as "the hope of salvation" in 1 Thess 5:8 it is most likely Paul is referring to the future aspect of salvation (Rom 13:11). How does remembering our future salvation provide protection for our minds in present battles? Be specific, addressing ways in which Satan attacks you with his schemes. See Paul's example in 2 Cor 4:8-9, 16-18.
8. Heb 10:25 states that we are to "encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near; How might you encourage someone today?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: the Lord for His rule and reign in overthrowing the enemies of sin and Satan

Thank: God for providing a community who encourages each other in the faith

Pray: that we would continue to minister the Word of God to one another