



SEQUIM COMMUNITY CHURCH

EPHESIANS

SESSION 22: THE BATTLE WE FACE

Ephesians 6:10-16 • May 22, 2018

"Exploring the new standards and new relationships God intends for us"

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Ice Breaker

1. Do you like war movies? Why or why not? _____

During most of the lessons in this study, we see that Paul has been urging his readers to stand against the pagan lifestyle around them. Now in the last part of his letter, Paul sets forth an effective summary and challenge. Readers need to be prepared for battle, for right living does not just happen and opposition is certain.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

- Ephesians 6:10-12

2. Where else have we seen the ideas of God's strength or power in our study of Ephesians?
- To what did that strength refer? _____

 - How do we gain access to that strength? _____
3. How do you respond to the idea that there are spiritual forces in the universe that are acting against God's will? _____

4. What/when is the "evil day" referred to in verse 13? _____

The Armor of God that Paul describes in the next passage is that of the heavily armed Roman foot soldier. By using this imagery, he brings home the reality of the battle we face.

"Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist," - Ephesians 6:13-14

Satan fights with lies, and sometime his lies sound like truth.

5. What are some lies (for example about yourself or what our culture says) that you have been able to protect yourself from by applying God's truth? _____

"...with the breastplate of righteousness in place," - Ephesians 6:14

Christians are to reflect the righteous character of God in their actions. This image comes from Isaiah 59:17 where God is described as putting on the breastplate of righteousness when he goes forth to bring about justice.

6. How are we vulnerable to attack if we are not "wearing" true righteousness? _____

"...and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace." - Ephesians 6:15

The "shoes" God gives us are the motivation to continue to proclaim the true peace which is available in Jesus Christ, that we can be whole and reconciled to God.

7. Do you feel ready and equipped to share the "gospel of peace" with others? _____

"In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." - Ephesians 6:16

What we see are Satan's attacks in the form of insults, setbacks, and temptations. But the shield of faith protects us from Satan's flaming arrows.

Praying for one another:

As you move into the prayer time share about at least one Christian (from "the saints") and one non-believer (someone who needs to know the "mystery of the gospel") who you would like to pray for. Also, if anyone in the group has identified an area where they feel under attack, pray for that person specifically. Thank God for what you have learned over the past few months in these studies, and pray for any needs people are facing.

