

DRESSED *to* KILL

A Study of the Armor of God

Session 1 ~ "All Out War"

9.15.15 ~ 7:00 p.m. ~ Christ Lutheran Church, Blair, NE

Prayer

Summary

Jesus Christ is Lord! He has destroyed the works of the devil. By His temptation in the wilderness, His holy obedience to the Father, His suffering and death on the cross through His holy Word, Jesus overcame the evil one. We know how history will end. But, the war is not over yet. The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10a). We must resist him (1 Peter 5:9a; James 4:7). We must battle the enemy every day. In Christ with the armor of God we shall be victorious. The Lord is with us! Put on the armor of God that you may stand in the evil day. We...will...win

The Word of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. - Ephesians 6:10-13

We Are at War!

We contend against the "Terrible Trio"

- _____ 1 Peter 5:8
- _____ John 3:18-20; 15:18-19; Rom. 5:12-13; Eph. 2:1-3; 1 Jn. 2:15-17
- _____ Romans 7:15-23 ; Galatians 5:16-17

The Nature of the Enemy

According to the Word of God the evil one is ...

- a rebel and a sinner - 1 John 3:8
- a murderer - John 8:44a
- the father of lies - John 8:44b
- the deceiver - Acts 13:10
- a thief - John 10:10a
- a predator - 1 Peter 5:8; 1 Timothy 3:7

- a destroyer of God's people - Matthew 13:39
- the accuser of God's people - Revelation 12:9-11
- doomed to eternal destruction - Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10

Ephesians 6:10-13

1. "be strong" - ἐνδυναμόω (*endunamao*) - receive strength; be filled with power; be bold
2. "in the Lord" - ἐν κυρίῳ (*en kurio*) - in union with the Lord; in connection with Him
3. "His might" - ἰσχύς (*ischys*) - in the strength of His ability, might, force, dominion
4. "full armor" - πανοπλία (*panoplia*) - complete armor; all of the armor; fully dressed
5. "be able" - δύνάμει (*dunamai*) - incredible, explosive, dynamic power
6. "stand firm" - ἵστημι (*histame*) - stand upright, head up, immovable, unwavering
"There is no reason for us to live lives slumped over in defeat. We are equipped to beat the living daylights out of any foe that would dare assault us." - Rick Renner
7. "schemes" - μεθοδεῖα (*methodeia*) - cunning arts, deceit, craft, trickery
8. "struggle" - πάλη (*pale*) - wrestling; hold your opponent down by his neck
9. "spiritual forces" - πνευματικὸς (*pneumatikos*) - wicked spirits, inferior to God
10. "heavenly places" ἐπουρανίος (*epouranios*) - celestial, heavenly realms
11. "withstand" - ἀνθίστημι (*anthistēmi*) - set yourself against, withstand, resist
12. "evil day" - πονηρός (*ponēros*) - evil, wicked, diseased, perilous

Victory in Jesus - *"He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."* - 1 John 4:4

Read Matthew 4:1-11

Just as Jesus was tempted, we will be tempted. Jesus had a choice; we have a choice. Jesus won the victory; we win the victory. We have, at our disposal, the very same weapons Jesus used.

- Jesus practiced prayer and fasting - Matthew 4:2

- Jesus overcame the temptations of the evil one by the power of the Word of God
"It is written..." - Matthew 4:4, 7, 10

The Cross is Our Victory

- Jesus said before His death, *"Now is the ruler of this world cast out."* - John 12:31-33
- Jesus canceled your debt and forgave you at the cross - Colossians 2:13-15
- Jesus triumphed over the forces of darkness at the cross - Col. 2:13-15; Eph. 2:4-6

The Battle belongs to the Lord

- 2 Chronicles 20:1-3 - Jehoshaphat and all the people fasted and prayed; the prophet proclaimed that the battle was the Lord's and He would deliver them. Israel sang their way to victory ~ the singers preceded the army into battle. The Lord saved them.

The Armor of God

- *the belt of truth*
- *the breastplate of righteousness*
- *the shoes of the Gospel of peace*
- *the shield of faith*
- *the helmet of salvation*
- *the sword of the Spirit the - Word of God*

What Are We to Do?

1. Read the Word. Speak the Word. Memorize the Word.

Ephesians 6:17b - Take up *"the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God!"*

2. Worship like there's no tomorrow.

"The devil, the originator of sorrowful anxieties and restless troubles, flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God...Music is a gift and grace of God, not an invention of men. Thus it drives out the devil and makes people cheerful. Then one forgets all wrath, impurity, and other devices." - Martin Luther

3. Pray your way through the battle.

Ephesians 6:18-20 - *"Pray at all times in the Spirit."*

4. Put on the armor of God.

Ephesians 6:14-17

5. Come together at Christ Lutheran Church!

Ephesians 4:1-6

"Where God builds a church, the devil builds a chapel." - Martin Luther

6. Don't flinch!

2 Chronicles 20:15-17 - The battle is the Lord's; do not be afraid; He is with us!

1 Corinthians 16:13 - Live brave! Be strong!

7. Kick at the darkness until it bleeds light.

Romans 13:12 - Don't simply take a defensive posture. We need to be on the offensive and take back the territory the devil has stolen.

Memorize this Verse:

"Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you." - 2 Chronicles 20:17b

Prayer

Offer thanks for the victory that Jesus won for you. Pray that you will put on the whole armor of God every day. Pray for protection over yourself, your family, your church and all you love.

Next Week - 9.22.15, 7:00 p.m.

The Armor of God ~ Session 2 ~ *"The Belt of Truth"*

Read Ephesians 6:14a and John 1:14-18; 8:31-32; 14:6.