

RELATED SCRIPTURES

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 08.24.25

John 14:6 | 2 Corinthians 5:21 | Matthew 4:1–11

SUMMARY

Paul closes his letter to the Ephesians with one last word of encouragement, and just the rest of his letter, it's full of reminders of who we are in Christ. Moreover, it's a reminder of whose power we operate as Christians. Our ability to follow the commands of God is dependent upon his ability to equip us—and he has fitted us in abundance. Paul provides a metaphor in what he calls the “armor of God.” His emphasis lies in the idea that all Christians are in a battle; as chosen members of God’s family, we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against all kinds of evil in the heavenly places (v. 12). Nevertheless, the Lord has equipped us with everything necessary to stand against the devil’s attacks. With imagery borrowed from the Roman soldier, Paul describes the necessary tools of truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, the word of God, and prayer. Each of these articles of battle is rooted in the person and work of Christ, who is the very embodiment of *truth* (John 14:6); nothing is more protective than the truth of God. Our *righteousness* is not our own; rather, it is the very righteousness of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21). He provides our covering before the enemy, but more importantly, before God! Jesus gives us the *gospel*, which literally means *good news*. The enmity between God and man is resolved in Christ, and our enemy trembles when the faithful saints carry (with faithful feet; Romans 10:15) and proclaim this good news to the world. When the enemy accuses us of being unworthy, we can remind him that Jesus justified us by grace through *faith* alone; we are unworthy, but Jesus is worthy, and we believe in *his* work on *our* behalf. We also must remember he has given us *salvation*—he’s saved us—and because it is his work, he will finish what he started (Philippians 1:6). Finally, the Lord has equipped us with his *word* which enables us to stop any invasion (Matthew 4:1–11), and *prayer* which allows personal communication with the Lord to keep us from being isolated and vulnerable. May we use the armor of God to its fullest for his glory!

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Ephesians 6:10–24.

Which of the pieces of the armor of God do you feel most connected with? Which do you feel most removed from? How can you ensure that you’re using the full armor of God?

Why do you think Paul decided to use imagery of warfare in his final word of encouragement to the church? Isn’t Christianity a religion of peace?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.