

THE ARMOR OF GOD
Ephesians 6:10-20

I. LET'S PRETEND

- A. *"Put on the whole armor of God" (Eph. 6:11).*
- B. It Sounds So Simple!
 - 1. The admonition to get all dressed up for Jesus sounds a little too simple and superficial.
 - 2. If you want to be a policeman, go out, get a police uniform, and put it on. Is that it?
- C. But It's a Place to Start.
 - 1. John Wesley once said to his preachers, "Preach faith until you have it."
 - 2. Maybe the way to become an active Christian is to get up and start acting like a Christian.
 - 3. Jesus says, "Follow me. Imitate me. Try to walk and live as I walk and live."

II. LET'S PREPARE

- A. *"...that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil ... that you may be able to withstand in the evil day ..." (6:11 & 13)*
- B. Get Ready!
 - 1. Frightening things are happening in the world!
 - 2. High school students walk through metal detectors. Burglar alarms are placed in homes. Automobiles are wired for protection.
 - 3. Parents touring college campuses ask: "Will my child be safe here? Are parking lots patrolled?"
- C. Times of Spiritual Assault Will Come!
 - 1. The "wiles of the Devil" and the "evil day" comes in all sorts of ways. A teenage son or daughter is chemically dependent.
 - 2. Finally yielding to sexual passion. Unexplained suffering.

III. LET'S PERSEVERE

- A. *"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might ... keep alert with all perseverance ..." (6:10 & 18)*
- B. That's Why We Need the Whole Armor of God.
 - 1. The enemy looks for that unguarded area where he can attack successfully.
 - 2. When we omit a piece, we become vulnerable.
- C. To Be Strong in the Lord.
 - 1. Hang in there when the odds are against you.
 - 2. We can't get to the Promised Land without going through the wilderness.

Prayer Concerns: MEMBERS – *Burney Biesel, Mac Kerr, Jane Lipford, Joe McDowell, Anne Miller, Vicki Page, Mildred Sentell, Carol Webb ...* FRIENDS – *Madison Brooke Binkley, Sarah Clark, Richard Cole, Jack Cothran, Cledus Creel, Larry Fowlkes, Nancy Gunnels, **Ralph Henson, Sharon Jefferies, Jeff Joyner, Sandra Kilzer, Linda Lindner, Van Lynch, Macy Morgan, Taylor Murray, Judy Owen, David Ray Petrie, Patrick Ramage, Skip Riley, Tom Sinis, Lloyd Watson ...***

Christian Sympathy is extended to *Mary Jo Moore and family* in the death of her brother, *Norris Cobb*, who died on August 17, to *Evelyn Borden and family* in the death of her husband, *Gerald Borden*, who died on August 18, and to *Mike Harris and family* in the death of his great-niece, *Chloe Sills* who died on August 24 ...

PASTORAL PRAYER

Almighty God, we come before you this morning realizing that what Paul said almost 2,000 years ago is true today. We acknowledge the evil that exists in our world and we gather seeking your strength. We desire to put on the whole armor of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the world.

Loving God, we come to this place for training in how to use your armor. Guide us in our study of your Holy Word. Give us insight into the things you wish to communicate with us. Accompany your written word with the inner word of your Holy Spirit. Inspire those who teach, so they may be diligent and insightful. May the lessons they teach with their lips also be the lessons they teach with their lives.

Guiding God, may we never be content the way we are. We pray that all of us will not only learn the facts of faith, but will strive to make that faith a powerful and transforming factor in our lives.

This is our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that utterance may be given me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

September 3	<i>What Makes Us Dirty?</i>	Mark 7:1-15
September 10	<i>What Makes Us Clean?</i>	Mark 7:24-37
September 17	<i>Gideon Speaker</i>	
September 24	<i>What Makes Us Wise?</i>	James 3:13-4:8

On the Radio (1450 AM)

September 3	<i>I Believe in the Bible</i>	2 Timothy 3:10-17
September 10	<i>I Believe in God</i>	Genesis 1:1-2, 26-28
September 17	<i>I Believe in Jesus Christ</i>	John 1:1-18
September 24	<i>I Believe in Prayer</i>	Matthew 6:5-15