

DRESSED FOR BATTLE

EPHESIANS 6:10-17

In our text we find a call to arms. A call to all Christians to prepare themselves for battle against the enemy. We are not to underestimate the schemes of the enemy, but to arm ourselves in every way possible to be prepared to deal with the attacks that the devil will bring against us. We must be prepared, we must stand together, united in one spirit. That is why we must put on the full armor of God.

Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV) *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*

1. Our strength is found in the Lord. He is the supplier of every resource that Christians need to stand in the battle. We draw from His mighty power, since we do not have any power in and of ourselves.

Ephesians 6:11 (NKJV) *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

2. As soldiers in the army of the Lord, we must be suited with the finest armor available to mankind. That armor is of God. It is a complete outfit, not a portion of it but to the fullest extent. Being outfitted this way allows us to be protected from head to toe and a variety of resources at our disposal, both offensive and defensive. This armor allows us to stand under the barrage of attacks from our enemy.

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV) *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

3. Our battle is not against flesh and blood. Not against your spouse, kids, parents, relatives, your boss, ex-wife/husband, or any human being. So who is our battle against? Notice that the apostle Paul uses titles, he points to something quite sinister. His list suggests a definite army of demonic forces that assist the devil in his attacks against believers. He is pointing to the evil side of the invisible world, or heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:13 (NKJV) *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.*

4. Here the apostle reiterates what he mentioned earlier on suiting up in the complete armor of God in order to stand your ground when the evil day comes. To be prepared to hold fast your position when the enemy attacks and when everything has been said and done to stand.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ways to Give: Online at vcctracy.org or text message at 209-900-8368.

Prayer Every Sunday Morning: 9:15 - 9:45am - in the Sanctuary.

Dining With The Community

Feeding the Hungry: 2nd Wednesday of every month.

Travel Size Toiletries: We are collecting these for distribution to the homeless.

Lunch At The Library: 05/31/17-07/28/17 Monday thru Fridays 12:00 – 1:00pm. Stop by the Tracy Library for free meals this Summer. For Children and Teens 2-18 years old. Call 1(866) 805-READ for more information.

Scoop Ministries: The Overflow Conference: 08/26/17 - 10am - 3pm at St. Paul's Church. Featuring Guest Speaker Rhonda Stoppe. Register online or at VCC - \$20 prior to August 20th, \$25 after August 20th.

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