

Stand Up as Jesus

Ephesians 6:10-15

November 8, 2020

The Final Exhortation

Wrapping up the letter with a strong exhortation
Tying together key themes expressed in the letter

Be strong IN the Lord

Note the emphatic repetition: strength of His might: **vs. 10; see also 1:19**
The idea is not we become strong, but that we get in the strong one
Demonstration: how to crush the little vase?

We do not Wrestle against Flesh and Blood

Being clear on who is our true enemy
Not denying human agency or responsibility
Understanding God's love for humans and desire to save them: **1 Tim 2:4; John 3:17**
Jesus came to destroy the works for the devil: **1 John 3:8**
True enemy is the schemes of the devil (**see also 4:14**)
The spiritual forces of evil in various synonyms: **vs. 12**
Intelligent, real, malignant
Limited, work by scheming (**John 8:44**), they take what you give them (**see 4:27**)

Stand!

Four times: vs. 11, 13, 13, 14
This is not a call for an offensive campaign as much as a defensive one
This makes sense because the key ground has already been taken (**see 1:20-23**)
Let us give up nothing of what has been gained for us by Christ!
Our primary mindset: not that we have a battle to win but a victory to complete

Put on the Armor of God

From whence comes the metaphor?
The Roman soldier of Paul's day: Paul writing from prison
A more fundamental inspiration: Isaiah 11. 52, 59 and the Wisdom of Solomon 5:17-20
Isaiah 11: a prophecy of Jesus with the belt of righteousness and faithfulness
(This corresponds to the belt of truth)
Isaiah 52: the good news of peace being announced is "Our God Reigns"
(This corresponds to the shoes, the readiness given by the gospel of peace)
Isaiah 59: because there is no one else, God suits up in armor to judge and redeem
(This corresponds to breastplate of righteousness, helmet of salvation, sword of Spirit)
Wisdom of Solomon: God in armor fights on behalf of the oppressed righteous
(This corresponds to breastplate of righteousness, helmet, shield, sword)

In Isaiah 59:16, there was not man, no one to intercede
But NOW there is! Christ has made a new human (**4:24**)
The body of Christ is equipped (**4:11-16**), empowered (**1:19**), loved (**3:18-19**)
Ready to act as God Himself in the world!
As God's ambassadors (**2 Cor 5:20, Eph 6:20**)
As He is so are we in this world: **1 John 4:17**
This is what it means to put on God's armor! We are wearing His clothes!!
And how do we take up our ambassadorial role and stand in God's stead?
We choose to imitate God! **5:1**
Imitation invites power like a siphon, like a tube of marbles over a hole!
Each piece of armor invites us into an imitation of Jesus our Lord in Whom we
stand.
Next week we will take each piece of armor and identify its imitative action!
