

Home Group Study Material for w/c 4th August 2020

The full armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-20)

I suspect it comes as no great surprise to many Christians that we are engaged in a great spiritual battle, whether we are aware of it or not. From the early chapters of the Old Testament it can easily be seen that Satan is the enemy of God, and that he actively seeks to oppose God, his purposes, and his people.

But perhaps we are in our greatest danger, not when the enemy is great and powerful, but when we think that we can stand in our own strength, rather than in the strength which God provides. In this passage Paul warns every Christian about the danger of self-confidence and urges us to put on protection – the full armour of God. The individual items of armour will be covered in future sermons/studies, so for this study try to climb up Habakkuk's tower and look for Paul's overall message within it.

Please read Ephesians 6:10-13

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

1. "The greatest day of your life": Is this how you think of the day you put your faith in Jesus (whether you remember it or not!)? How does it make you feel to think that even the angels were cheering on that day, as it says in Luke 15:10?
2. I suggested in my sermon that "it takes more faith not to believe in the devil than to believe in him". Do you agree? Why, or why not?
3. Read Romans 7:15-20. Is Paul's experience with sin something you empathise with? Does the related idea that a Christian's heart is, according to the Bible, a spiritual battlefield, make sense to you?
4. In what areas of your life do you experience the greatest spiritual warfare? Try to be as specific as you can. Which piece of armour should be the most useful at combating this?
5. Why can it be helpful to read about the failures of the Biblical heroes of faith? How can we use their stories to inspire us to fail less?
6. God wants to use us as his foot-soldiers for the gospel. What is your role in helping to carry out TRINITY's mission? What one action will you commit to taking, as a result of this study? Pray about this for each other (c.f. Ephesians 6:18), if you are doing this study in a group.

Issued by Jeremy Bamber 6/8/20