

STANDING FIRM IN THE BATTLE

Ephesians 6:10-18

Study Questions Week 5

Read the book of Ephesians in one sitting. This time, please take time to notice these 6 key elements that Paul addresses throughout this book that pertain to our text in Eph. 6:10-18.

- 1) Jesus Christ is Lord. He is at the center of the spiritual warfare not the enemy. (1:3-22)
- 2) God is powerful and merciful. (1:19; 2:5, 10; 3:16-20)
- 3) The spiritual forces of evil (the devil, flesh and the world) are active. (1:21. 3:10;2:1-3; 4:17-19, 4:27)
- 4) We live in difficult times and need to be alert and wise. ((4:14, 5:3-17)
- 5) The loyalty of our hearts is the true battle. (1:12-19; 2:8-10; 3:14-6:9; 2:1-3; 2:11-13; 4:14; 4:17-5:18)
- 6) Praying for others (1:16-23; 3:14-21)

These passages show us that our text in Ephesians 6:10-18 is not a new topic that Paul is addressing. *The goal here is to help you see that when we study a passage of Scripture, it fits into the book as a whole and then Scripture as a whole...all pointing to the one theme of redemption of sinners with a Holy God.*

The Breastplate of Righteousness:

Why is it important that the righteousness in the breastplate of righteousness is God's and not our own?

How do we receive God's righteousness? Please write out in your own words how you would explain the "double transaction" or the "great exchange" we talked about in the teaching? (what did we give Him and what did we receive.). ****this is so crucial for us to know how to articulate this to someone else because it is how we explain the gospel. We have to be able to effectively communicate the truth of sin and righteousness and what the work of Christ did on behalf of sinners. I have found that when we really understand something, we are able to explain it to someone else. This is part of our call as Christians.*

What practical difference should the breastplate of God's righteousness make in your life? How should this affect your thinking and how you live your life? What are specific verses in

Scripture that you can use to remind you of the righteousness that is now yours because of Christ? *I would encourage you to write them on notecards and try memorizing them. It is so important that we know God's exact words about our righteous standing before God so the enemy does not confuse us with lies that tempt us not to believe the truth about God.*

Romans 10:3-4 (ESV) "For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." Read Romans 9:30-10:4 for context, what does this verse mean? Try and think through its meaning before going to the study note or a commentary.

Ask yourself, who is Paul talking about? Who are the two groups of people he is comparing? What were they pursuing? How were they pursuing it? Did they attain it, why or why not? What is Paul's prayer for them? What is the outcome? What key word is used 6 times in this passage?

After you have gathered the answers to these questions, what conclusion can you draw to gain understanding to the meaning? How might this give you a greater understanding of the righteousness of God?