

1—Our Struggle

6/26/22

INTRO:

I. → **Ephesians 6:10-13**

*10 Finally, be strong **in the Lord** and **in his mighty power**. 11 Put on the **full armor 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 armor 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.*

II. "Vivere militare est" (life is a battle)—Seneca

III. "Sī vīs pācem, parā bellum" (if you want to see peace, prepare for war)

BODY:

I. **His Power Not Ours**

*10 Finally, be strong **in the Lord** and **in his mighty power**. 11 Put on the **full armor of God**, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*

A. We are always stronger in the Lord than we are without Him.

1) **Psalms 28:6-7**

*Praise be to the Lord,
for he has heard my cry for mercy.
The Lord is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.
My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him.*

- 2) Hence the saying: If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle. Tzu, Sun. The Art of War (p. 11)
- B. There is nothing the devil can do against the power of God.
- 1) **1 John 4:4**
Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. (KJV)
 - 2) “There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.”—C. S. Lewis
 - 3) **THE SATANISM SCARE IN THE 1980’S**

II. His Struggle Not Ours

*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.*

- A. It is important to never forget who the real enemy is.
- 1) archás—principalities
exousías—authorities
kosmokrátoras—world rulers of darkness
pneumatiká—spiritual wickedness in the heavens
 - 2) **2 Thessalonians 3:14-15**
Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter . . . Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.
 - 3) **OVERTURNING ROE VS. WADE**
 - a) 16 year old girl first time in church
 - b) Callum born 8 weeks early

B. If we attack each other we have lost the battle already.

1) **Galatians 5:14-15**

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

2) **MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY SPEECH**

III. His Armor Not Ours

13 Therefore put on the **full armor 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.

A. We need to put on the same armor God wears into battle.

1) **Isaiah 59:17**

He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

2) Full armor of (genitive case) God

B. Sometimes our own armor is the things that keeps us back.

1) In Roman mythology, Vulcan was the armor maker

2) **Colossians 3:9-10**

Since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

3) **BEING STRIPPED OF MY ARMOR**

OTHER SCRIPTURES:

Psalms 35:1-3

Contend, Lord, with those who contend with me;
fight against those who fight against me.

Take up shield and armor;
arise and come to my aid.

Brandish spear and javelin
against those who pursue me.

Say to me,

"I am your salvation."

2 Corinthians 6:7

With weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.

4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.