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Preparing for Battle / Christian Life; Church; Prayer / Ephesians 6:10–17

In Ephesians 6:10-12, Paul gives three critical preparations for demonic opposition to the church's mission. As you anticipate opposition, you are to prepare by:

- I. Placing your Confidence in the Right Source (6:10)
  - II. Putting your Trust in the Required Resources (6:11)
  - III. Pinpointing the Reality of the Enemy (6:12)
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## Pre-sermon Comments

### **1 Peter 5:8 NASB95**

Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

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. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.

## Sermon Text

### **Ephesians 6:10–20 NASB95**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.

And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

## Introduction to our Text

### **Psalm 97:2 NASB95**

Clouds and thick darkness surround Him;

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

### **Romans 3:15–17 NASB95**

"THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,

DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,

AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."

## Historical Review

**Acts 19:7 NASB95**

There were in all about twelve men.

**Acts 19:11–12 NASB95**

God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,

so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.

**Acts 19:13–15 NASB95**

But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches."

Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.

And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"

**Acts 19:16–17 NASB95**

And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.

**Acts 19:18–20 NASB95**

Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices.

And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and *began* burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.

**Acts 19:23–28 NASB95**

About that time there occurred no small disturbance concerning the Way.

For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of

Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen;

these he gathered together with the workmen of similar *trades*, and said, "Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business.

"You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods *at all*.

"Not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship will even be dethroned from her magnificence."

When they heard *this* and were filled with rage, they *began* crying out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

| The first step on the way to victory is to recognize the enemy. - Corrie Ten Boom

**Acts 20:26–31 NASB95**

"Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.

"For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

"I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

"Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

**Acts 21:12–14 NASB95**

When we had heard this, we as well as the local residents *began* begging him not to go up to Jerusalem.

Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

And since he would not be persuaded, we fell silent, remarking, "The will of the Lord be done!"

For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with him, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

**Philippians 1:12 NASB95**

Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,

**2 Timothy 4:14 NASB95**

Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.

**Romans 12:19 NASB95**

Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

**2 Timothy 2:3 NASB95**

Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

**2 Timothy 3:10–12 NASB95**

Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance,

persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium *and* at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me!

Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

I'm not afraid of the devil. The devil can handle me - he's got judo I never heard of. But he can't handle the One to whom I'm joined; he can't handle the One to whom I'm united - A. W. Tozer

# Review

| Ephesians 1:4 (NASB95)

| just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

## **Ephesians 1:18–21 NASB95**

*I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,

far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

## **Ephesians 2:2 NASB95**

in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

## **Ephesians 2:7 NASB95**

so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

# Proposition and Outline

In Ephesians 6:10-12, Paul gives three critical preparations for demonic opposition to the church's mission. As you anticipate opposition, you are to prepare by:

- I. Placing your Confidence in the Right Source (6:10)
- II. Putting your Trust in the Required Resources (6:11)
- III. Pinpointing the Reality of the Enemy (6:12)

# You are to prepare by Placing your confidence in the right source (6:10)

## **Ephesians 6:10 NASB95**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

# You are to prepare by Putting your trust in the requisite or right resources (6:11)

## **Ephesians 6:11 NASB95**

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

| Ephesians 6:11 (NASB95)

| Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

## **James 4:7 NASB95**

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

| Ephesians 6:11 (NASB95)

| Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

## **1 John 3:8 NASB95**

the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

| John 8:44 (NASB95)

| "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

| The devil is crafty in that he doesn't always attack through obvious head-on assaults but employs cunning and wily stratagems designed to catch believers unawares - Lincoln/Hoehner

# You are to prepare by Pinpointing the reality of the Enemy (6:12)

## **Ephesians 6:12 NASB95**

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

## Conclusion:

We must prepare ourselves by:

- I. Placing your Confidence in the Right Source (6:10)
- II. Putting your Trust in the Required Resources (6:11)
- III. Pinpointing the Reality of the Enemy (6:12)

## The Gospel

| For where God built a church, there the Devil would also build a chapel. -  
| Martin Luther

## **Romans 3:12 NASB95**

ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS;

THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD,

THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

## **Romans 3:23 NASB95**

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

## **2 Corinthians 4:4 NASB95**

in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.