

Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

Spiritual Warfare and the Armor of God Part 3

Week of February 7, 2021 A.D.

It is time for a fact check. "Is life on earth a trip to a playground? Or, is life on earth a deployment to a war zone?" Let's see what the Bible has to say about those questions.

Read Ephesians 6:10-13

1. Do you have more (a) physical strength or (b) spiritual strength? Please explain the reasons for your answer. Also, in your answer, explain the routine which you follow in order to build and/ or maintain your (a) physical strength and (b) spiritual strength.
2. On a scale of 1-10, what is your level of (a) "strength in the Lord" and (b) "strength in his (the Lord's) mighty power"? In your answer, please explain how those two "strengths" are similar and also how two strengths are different.
3. Refer to verse 11. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines scheme as "a plan or program of action-especially a crafty or secret one." In your opinion does Satan have any plans or programs which are not (a) crafty or (b) secret. Please explain the reasons for your answers and, if you can, describe one or more of the devil's schemes which you have witnessed or experienced.
4. Refer to verse 12. Please describe one or more "struggles" which you have experienced in your personal life and, if applicable, explain how "the spiritual forces of evil" were involved in each of those "struggles".
5. Do you believe that "the devil" and "the spiritual forces of evil" (a) are real and (b) are experienced by every person who has lived (or is now living) on planet earth? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
6. Refer to verse 13. In your opinion, please explain what Paul means by the words "when the day of evil comes". Also, please explain if there can be, or will be, more than one "day of evil".

Read Ephesians 6:14-18

7. Refer to verse 14. Please define “truth”. How important is truth for (a) your daily life, (b) a nation or culture to exist, and (c) peace to exist between individuals and/or nations? Please explain your answers.
8. Refer to verse 14. What is “righteousness”? Are all people righteous? Are you righteous? How can a person become and behave righteously? What becomes of a nation and/or culture which does not desire and/ or seek to achieve and maintain righteousness? Please explain your answers.
9. Refer to verse 15. What is “the gospel of peace”? Why does “the gospel of peace” require “readiness”? How does a person benefit from “the gospel of peace” whenever he or she is under a spiritual attack? Please explain your answers.
10. Refer to verse 16. In your opinion, what is an example of a “flaming arrow of the evil one”? In your opinion, why does Paul use the plural words “all” and “arrows” in this sentence?
11. Refer to verse 17. What protection does a follower of Christ receive from (a) the helmet of salvation? and (b) the sword of the Spirit? Can you (or can any follower of Christ) outwit and/or defeat Satan on a consistent basis if you do not understand (and if you are not able to explain) most of the verses of the New Testament of the Bible? Please explain your answers.
12. Refer to verse 18. Please explain (a) what Paul means in these two sentences and (b) the extent to which you believe and obey the commands found in this verse.

Consider: Jesus lived his entire life – twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week – engaged in a life and death spiritual battle against the devil and the devil’s demons. Jesus fought that battle because of His love for you and me. Therefore, should we not follow in His footsteps and fight in the same battle because of our love for Him? “You think about that.” Amen.