

Sunday School Lesson for February 2017

The Whole Armor of God

(Ephesians 6:11)

Sunday, February 5, 2017

The Christian life is a warfare, a continuing struggle with evil. If you have not discovered this to be your own personal experience, it is possible that you have already been captured by the enemy and are a prisoner of war without being aware of it.

The Apostle Paul spoke to the Ephesian Christians concerning the nature of their enemy and the character of the struggle they must put forth if they would live a victorious Christian life. Our scripture passage contains relevant truths for each of us as we engage in Spiritual warfare day by day.

I. **As followers of Jesus Christ, we face a wicked enemy in the devil.**

Have you heard someone say, "I do not have an enemy in the world?" Perhaps you are among those who cannot point to a single human enemy, but all of us have an enemy in the devil (1 Peter 5:8). He is described as a powerful and wicked enemy (Ephesians 6:12).

The Bible says little about the origin of the devil. It seems to say that the devil was originally created as a part of God's good creation. He was an archangel of great power and majesty. Because he became arrogant and greedy for power, he was cast out of heaven.

Jesus was confronted and opposed by the devil but did not yield to the devil's temptations. He repeatedly warned the disciples about their spiritual foe. The devil is described as a roaring lion who walks about seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). He is described as the wicked one (Matthew 13:19), as a liar and murderer (John 8:44), as a deceiver (Revelation 20:8), and as the one who blindfolds the minds of people lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ should illuminate them that they might be saved (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Sunday, February 12, 2017

II. **It is not God's will that his children be defeated, devoured, destroyed, or degraded by the devil.**

The devil is God's foe and the enemy of all people. He seeks to bring

about our defeat and destruction in both time and eternity. It is difficult for us to comprehend the agony in our Heavenly Father's heart when man, the crown of his creation, chooses to follow evil rather than good. God made people free, and that means they are free to do evil and to destroy themselves. People are free to choose the way of faith and faithfulness and to walk in fellowship with God. We can be absolutely assured that God is our ally in the struggle with our evil foe.

Sunday, February 19, 2017

III. God offers and provides all the equipment necessary for victory.

God offers to his children his own strength and power for the struggle with evil (Ephesians 6:10). The Apostle John assured us that, "greater is He who is within us than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4)." God in the Holy Spirit came to dwell within us in the moment of our conversion. The resources of God are available for those who believe and who want to live the victorious Christian life.

Paul was a prisoner for Jesus Christ. He was chained to a Roman soldier. As the days went by, his thoughts were stimulated and the Spirit of God illuminated his meditation as he made a spiritual application of the various pieces of equipment worn by a Roman soldier. He saw in each piece of equipment a part of the provision God makes for his children in their struggle with evil.

We must put on the whole armor of God. It is not enough that God provides the armor. Each believer must put on this armor and utilize it. Paul spoke in the imperative: It is absolutely essential that we use the equipment provided if we are to wage war successfully.

Sunday, February 26, 2017

IV. Each of us must use what God provides.

The Apostle Paul's message was not just for those who lived in the ancient city of Ephesus; we too must personalize these commands from a veteran soldier of the cross. Your success in the struggle with Satan will be dependent upon the manner in which you utilize the armor God has provided. You must put on the armor individually. There is no way by which you can be victorious if you neglect to use the equipment God has provided.

Let us be determined to discover and to utilize that which God has made available for us in the struggle to be what God would have us to be and to do all that God would have us to do.