

Prepared for Battle

Ephesians 6:10-11, 13 Sunday AM, March 3, 2024

Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-13 (NASB95) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 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. 13 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.

Finally, be strong IN THE LORD. Being “in the Lord” is the lifeblood of the gospel and the perspective necessary to join Paul as a “prisoner of the Lord”—the posture from which he implored us to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.” All called to walk worthy are tied together by the seven one’s—one body, one Spirit, one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. These are not just propositional truths but are parameters for the grace given by God leading us to grow together in all aspects into Him who is the Head, even Christ. Relationship with God and those God has redeemed is the center and goal of growth, hence all that destroys these relationships must be laid aside. 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit. Instead, put on the new self—telling the truth, anger under the control of the Spirit—no bitterness or unwholesome word, but instead, a tender-heart that is kind, that can and will forgive. All this stems not from yourself, but from a life controlled by the Spirit of God—a life that looks to God, seeking to imitate Him, walking intentionally, making the most of the time because the days are evil. Because of our position as beloved child, we are content, full of gratitude, and live in submission to Christ inside God-given roles inside society. So much to remember and do and be! On top of this, last week, we learned that all our flesh and blood struggles were not greater than the supernatural struggles, the kind we read about in Daniel. To take all this in and not be overwhelmed, requires all to be done in the fear of Christ. In part, this means Christ fills your gaze to provide what is necessary for you to be in fellowship with God and bring Him glory together with the rest of the church.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Christ Our Hope in Life and Death**

Today, we focus not on the struggle, but on the preparation, focus, and provision for faithfulness and victory in the struggle.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. Christ is not only your hope, He is the only source of strength. Do you contemplate how it lives to be “strong in the Lord?” What do you daily receive from God through Christ proving you live “in the strength of His might?” Think on this as you sing.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me**

***Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn** **Choir: Written in Red** **Scripture: Joshua 1:1–18** (NASB95) Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ servant, saying, 2 “Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. 3 “Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. 4 “From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory. 5 “No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. 6 “Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 “Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. 8 “This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. 9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” 10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, 11 “Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, saying, ‘Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you are to cross this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you, to possess it.’” 12 To the Reubenites and to the Gadites and to the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said, 13 “Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, ‘The LORD your God gives you rest and will give you this land.’ 14 “Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle shall remain in the land which Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but you shall cross before your brothers in battle array, all your valiant warriors, and shall help them. 15 until the LORD gives your brothers rest, as He gives you, and they also possess the land which the LORD your God is giving them. Then you shall return to your own land, and possess that which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise.” 16 They answered Joshua, saying, “All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. 17 “Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you; only may the LORD your God be with you as He was with Moses. 18 “Anyone who rebels against your command and does not obey your words in all that you command him, shall be put to death; only be strong and courageous.”

Offering: *Doxology:

I don’t know about you, but being strong and courageous in the face of a physical sword and spear battle might seem more tangible, more easy to understand than being strong in the Lord that we will hear about this morning. But notice the source of courage in this passage--6 “Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” The trustworthiness of God’s word, and His presence would bring courage. Therefore, meditate on God’s Word. 8 “This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. God’s word and God’s presence. This fits with our hymn—put on the gospel armor, each piece put on with prayer, where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there.

***Hymn #477: Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus**

This “strong in the Lord” is a way of life—it is a perspective, a focus shown by attention to His word and dependence in prayer together with interdependence among the saints. Do you run to Christ, when . . . ? May God work this in our hearts and strengthen it by our hearing the Word preached this morning.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): I Run to Christ**

Message: Prepared for Battle Eph. 6:10-11, 13

***Hymn #472: The Battle is the Lord’s**

***Prayer**