

Deployed

Ephesians 6:18-20 Sunday AM, May 5, 2024

Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20

(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. 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; 16 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. 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 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, 19 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, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, Why? You need something from God so you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. How seriously do you take God's Words to protect yourself? Is there proof that you value and actively utilize the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel of peace—that you live with the shield of faith in front of you—meaning consciously looking to God—remembering His character, the promise of His Spirit, present blessing, and future reward for those who live under the King for His kingdom? This shield living **extinguish[s] all the flaming arrows of the evil one.** Is your head/your mind protected and directed by the helmet of salvation? Do you live by the Spirit of God enlightening the Word of God which like a sword destroys every other Word? THIS is what it means to be strong in the Lord. The protection and victory resulting from utilizing this armor brings glory to God as it shows the strength of the Lord. Church, worship God for His protection.

*Hymn #26: A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Today, we move on! The same Spirit providing the sword, Word of God, is the same Spirit you yield to as you pray. **With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit**—For what should I pray? **“and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.”** What should I pray for the saints? For life to be lived in the strength of the Lord and in the power of His might to put on the whole armor of God. Pray, showing you derive life from God, that you are in fellowship with Him, that you acknowledge that He is able and willing to work for His glory through you in the situation you bring before Him. Pray this for yourself and for the others in here—then pray for those with whom you are in contact and for the missionaries we have committed to support. **With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit.**

*Hymn (Powerpoint): A Christian's Daily Prayer

*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn

Choir: The Father Knows

Scripture: Matthew 10:16–42

(NASB95) “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 “But beware of men, for they will hand you over to the courts and scourge you in their synagogues; 18 and you will even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. 19 “But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say. 20 “For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you. 21 “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. 22 “You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved. 23 “But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes. 24 “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. 25 “It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household! 26 “Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. 27 “What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. 28 “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 “Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 “So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows. 32 “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. 33 “But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven. 34 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 “For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; 36 and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. 37 “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 “He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it. 40 “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. 41 “He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 “And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”

Offering: *Doxology:

You may be seated. 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. Ambassador sounds great, but chains—freedom taken—punishment for representing Christ? It all depends where you look for praise and reward, and what rejection and punishment you fear. What a tough passage in Matthew. **Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. . .** Persecution does not merely come from identifying with Christ, but from fulfilling the mission—to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. Jesus said, 27 **“What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.** Do it, but it will get you in trouble. And yet, 28 **“Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.** Are you living and giving the gospel this way? Is the message and the mission on your mind as you interact with others? The life given by God LIVES on DISPLAY and will include all the fear of man dreads. Slay the fear of man by remembering the character of the One who called you to Himself. Remember the choir song? The Father knows what you need. The One who cares for the sparrows and counts your hairs cares for you. As pastor prepares to preach on our mission, sing the duty of each believer to fall in under Christ as a soldier of the cross.

*Hymn #482: Am I a Soldier of the Cross?

Message: Deployed Eph. 6:18-20

*Hymn #311: So Send I You by Grace . . . (tune #310)

The Lord's Table

As we leave reflecting on the grace of God to bring us to Himself, sing the hope of the gospel so you too will proclaim it boldly as you ought to speak.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): There is a Hope So Sure

*Prayer