

DEMONOLOGY  
Message 15  
Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20

INTRO: Well, we concluded our last message with an introduction to Ephesians 6:10-20. We are just very briefly dealing with the subject of safeguards against demonism. So, since I have introduced this point already, I will begin this message with a very brief introduction.

Let me just remind you that as I interpret verse 10 it would read, "Finally, my brethren, be strengthened in the Lord and in the power of His might." I mentioned to you that the verb translated 'be strong' is passive and should read be strengthened. And how do we get strengthened in the Lord? Well, by putting on the whole armor of God. And we need this armor in order to be able to stand against the wiles of the devil because we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against Satan's organized armies.

Then I mentioned that verse 13, in my understanding should have a period after the word day and I will read it like that: Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day. And having done all to stand, stand therefore..."

When we have done all to stand, we are to stand. Many Christians do not know how to stand. They waver back and forth. They do not stand. It is because they have not done all to stand. And what do they need to do to stand? Well, we must put on the whole armor of God! There is no use trying to stand if we do not put on the whole armor of God. Take a goalie in the sport of hockey for instance. Let him try to take his stand in the goal without goalie equipment. He will be laid flat in a very short time. And just like that goalie must put on his equipment if he would win, we as Christians must put on the whole armor of God if we would win. Any goalie with one piece of equipment missing stands in gravest danger of being scored on, so it is with the Christian soldier with one piece missing.

Well, when we have done all to stand, we are to stand, having girded our waist with truth and that is where we begin this morning.

## 1. Belt of truth

So, the very first thing we are told is that we are to gird our waist with truth. The soldiers belt held his tunic to keep it from getting in the way. It is fascinating to me that Paul begins with the belt, which he uses to picture the importance of truth. Why does he begin with truth?

Well, here is the belt that holds everything in place. I have spent quite a lot of time stressing truth to you. We defined truth as that which conforms to reality. If one is not open to truth in any area, the belt that holds other pieces in place wants to open up and drop crucial pieces of armor. I cannot overstress the importance of truth in life. I have told you before that I have taped on my wall a little clip from A.W. Tozer. In part, it says this, "There is a great decision that every denomination has to make sometime in the development of its history. Every church also has to make it either at its beginning or a little later--usually a little later. Eventually every board is faced with the decision and has to keep making it, not by one great decision made once for all, but by a series of little decisions adding up to one great big one. Every pastor has to face it and keep renewing his decision on his knees before God. Finally, every church member, every evangelist, every Christian has to make this decision. It is a matter of judgment upon that denomination, that church, that board, that pastor, that leader and upon their descendants and spiritual children. The question is this: Shall we modify the truth in doctrine or practice to gain more adherents? Or shall we preserve the truth in doctrine and practice and take the consequences?"

Let us personalize that to read like this: The question is this: Shall I modify the truth in doctrine or practice to gain more money or friends or anything else? Or shall I preserve

the truth in doctrine and practice and take the consequences?"

Tozer then went on to say this, "A commitment to preserving the truth and practice of the church is what separates me from a great many people who are perhaps far greater than I am in ability. This is my conviction, long held and deeply confirmed by a knowledge of the fact that modern gospel churches, almost without exception, have decided to modify the truth and practice a little in order to have more adherents and get along better."

In this battle against the devil, truth is absolutely essential. I have just read about Israel's six day war. The Arabs spread news of great conquests, when in fact there were great losses. These lies, which they thought would do great things for them had the reverse effect. Israel, on the other hand, had stunning victories, but did not publish them.

As I have observed Christians and the Christian life, I have observed the impact lies can have. Lies open anyone up to Satan's attacks. One cannot stand as a Christian and be a liar. Lies are so horrible that Scripture says liars will go to hell. Truth, on the other hand, is empowering and liberating. It is wonderful. Turn with me to John 3 for a final Scripture (read 20-21).

## 2. Breastplate of Righteousness

The second piece of advice in overcoming the wicked one in our passage is to put on the breastplate of righteousness. John MacArthur says, "No Roman soldier would go into battle without his **breastplate**, a tough, sleeveless piece of armor that covered his full torso. It was often made of leather or heavy linen, onto which were sewn overlapping slices of animal hooves or horns or pieces of metal. Some were made of large pieces of metal molded or hammered to conform to the body. The purpose of that piece of armor is obvious—to protect

the heart, lungs, intestines, and other vital organs."

So here we have a piece of the soldier's equipment that covers his vitals. So it is vitally important, no pun intended. You can imagine how soon an army of soldiers would lose the battle in hand to hand combat if a soldier did not have a breastplate. In our battle with the devil we would be just as hopeless without righteousness.

Maybe you are tired of hearing me say this, "Just live right." Righteousness is simply living right. When you live right it will protect you while in the midst of all kinds of problems with the evil one. The best picture of our life here on earth as related to the two kingdoms is that of warfare. We are in a spiritual battle as our passage has informed us. And to win in this battle we must live right.

Whenever we sin and fail on righteousness we must deal with our sin by confessing and forsaking it as soon as possible. Let me stress here that repentance is so very key to overcoming the evil one. If we do not confess and forsake sin, Satan will build a stronghold in our lives and from there wreak havoc in the rest of our lives.

But not only that which is outright sin can let the devil get through. Such matters as self-pity; anger; jealousy; envy and a host of other such like things remove our breastplate. Why? Because they are not righteousness. It is wrong to wallow in self pity. For the most part it is wrong to get angry or to be jealous etc... And when we do these things, it removes pieces of protection in our breastplate and when a dart comes through, we start to think wrong and then we are in trouble.

But with regard to our subject of demonism, in putting on the breastplate of righteousness, we must first turn completely from any

objects, fears, superstitions, or practices that Satan has used in our lives, or that we know could give him an advantage (Gal. 5:19; 21:11; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 4:17-24; Isa. 55:7). We need to burn any objects that may have to do with the occult such as fetishes, good luck charms or idols in our home or car, such as Buddhas, pictures or figures of 'saints', crucifixes, articles that have been blessed to protect a person or bring good luck, etc.. I believe we must get rid of all such things and I would include in that all alcoholic beverages.

Then, to truly put on the breastplate of righteousness we must renounce any involvement with occultic things in the past or give up any false doctrines or teachings and beliefs that are not of the Lord Jesus Christ. Do this renouncing for yourself, as well as anything you suspect has been passed down through your ancestors. 2 Cor. 4:2 says we have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty. Give up bad friends, bad music, bad books, bad TV, dancing, drinking, drugs, bad language, smoking etc.. Then ask God to forgive you for any involvement in any such things and then command Satan in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to leave you, and not return again.

Find a good church if you can and attend it regularly. Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is. Fellowship with believers.

And then, if ever you sense that Satan has somehow penetrated and entered, seek help and have him removed. Many things will keep you from asking for help. We think it shameful to even think that we might have an evil spirit inside and that fear of exposure can keep us from taking care of such things. It all boils down to pride.

### 3. Gospel shoes

Next, our passage says we are to have our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. In the messages I did some years ago I pointed out that there were two ways of interpreting the difficult word 'preparation' in this passage. The one means we are to have our feet shod with preparedness for sharing the Gospel. That would mean we should have our feet prepared to share the Gospel at all times. The second way to understand this word is that we are to have our feet shod with the foundation of the Gospel of peace. As much as I believe we are to be prepared to share the Gospel at all times, I concluded that the latter view fits the context best.

In warfare, the shoes of soldiers could be the deciding factor in winning or losing the war. In some sports, shoes can make all the difference. A good foundation, a good grip of the Gospel is essential to overcoming the wicked one. Imagine fighting on slippery ground with flat bottom shoes. Can't you just see the soldiers slipping around? Then imagine a soldier with short nails fixed to the bottom of his shoes. He could handle any number of people who had no traction. When our feet are shod with the traction of the Gospel, they do not slip around. This is a must when in battle with the evil one.

Paul had said earlier, "...and having done all to stand, stand therefore..." What is in view here is a battle in which you are not the aggressor but the one who is attacked. For this reason it is for the Christian soldier to be able to stand in the day of battle, and these boots were of utmost importance.

#### 4. Shield of faith

The next piece of armor that is imperative is the shield (show). The shield was a rather large affair. I understand it may have been made of wood but it was covered with mettle. It was used to ward off the initial attacks of fiery darts. When the enemy attacked, I

understand, he would do so by sending in all kinds of fiery darts. You can imagine burning darts with nail points that would stick into your clothing and flesh to keep it there and the fire would begin to light your clothing. This initial attack would be that which is today called 'softening up' the battle area. Today they often soften up the enemy by cannons or rockets or bombers. Once the area has been softened up by doing much damage with warfare that can be done from a distance, then the ground war begins. This shield was of utmost importance for the initial attack.

In spiritual warfare, the devil may send in these fiery darts and beyond all question these fiery darts are thoughts that are caused that are not right. These are such thoughts as of self pity or jealousy or anger or such like. And when those have set in, then look out, the ground war is about to begin. We may think these fiery darts are the battle. They are not, they are just the beginning. And if you can successfully withstand this initial attack, you are now much more prepared to take on the enemy in the ground war.

Now, when it talks about the shield of faith, one can understand the word 'faith' in two ways. It can refer to the Christian's personal trust in God for life's various circumstances or it can refer to the whole of the Christian faith. When I last spoke on this passage I did not note that possible distinction and took it to refer to the Christian's personal faith in the Lord. But as I went through it again, and checked the original language of the text it speaks of 'the shield of the faith'. If it did not have the definite article in front of it I would not have questioned its meaning.

So, I have come to the conclusion that it refers to the sum of the Christian faith. So, when we battle thoughts and jealousy has set in we must know what the Bible says about that and be able to deflect that dart. When we become angry or jealous or any such things, we

must be able to recognize the danger from 'the faith' and be able to deflect such a dart. We must be able to counteract any such things by what the Bible teaches. In this way, the more established one is in Christian doctrine, the better one will be able to quench fiery darts. Note that the shield of 'the faith' is able to quench 'all the fiery darts of the wicked one.' But then we must know that particular area of Christian doctrine that the devil is attacking us with at that time.

Then, note yet that these darts are the darts of the wicked one. The KJV says they are of the 'wicked'. But I think the translation that it is the darts of the wicked one is better. It is this one that our battle is with. We were told so in verse 12. I can tell you, if we do not prepare to stand against him, building ourselves up in our most holy faith, we are no match for him. And he is the poneeros one. He is not content to live in sin himself, he must draw others with him.

So, to close this point listen to 1 Peter 5:8-9, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world." Note that we are to resist him being steadfast in 'the faith', the Christian faith.

#### 5. Helmet of salvation

We come now to verse 17 and the helmet of salvation. Now let me just say, and I cannot give time to defending what I say, but I believe that since salvation is used in the neuter gender here rather than the feminine as usual, Paul is referring to the whole of salvation; past, present and future. He is speaking here to those who are saved. I have come to the solid conclusion that the first and greatest thing we can do to stand against the wiles of the devil is personal salvation



through the Lord Jesus Christ! The two crucial aspects of this salvation are repentance from sin and faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The greatest protection you can get against Satan is to get out of Satan's kingdom. Anyone in his kingdom is in gravest of danger in many, many ways. Colossians 1:13 says, "He (that is God) has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love..." So, even though we are saved, we must continually maintain the assurance of that past salvation.

But, to go on with regard to the helmet of our salvation, once we are initially saved our salvation is not yet complete. There is present ongoing salvation which we call sanctification. It is the present deliverance from the power of sin. If we do not overcome for one moment, we are in trouble. In order to ultimately inherit the kingdom of God we must be overcomers. Revelation 2-3 could not be clearer on that. So the helmet of salvation is a crucial piece of equipment.

Before we leave this point, with regard to our present subject, if you are saved, and you have been involved in any kind of occultic activities or even if you are not sure, let me encourage to something I picked up from Ken Lobdell's book. He says, "Tell Satan and the demons that you want nothing else to do with them from now on. Tell Satan that you take back any hold he ever had over your life, whether physically, spiritually, mentally, emotionally, knowingly, or unknowingly. Do this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

## 6. Sword of the Spirit

Our last piece of equipment as a Christian soldier mentioned here is the sword of the Spirit. We are not left to guess what this sword is intended to portray. We are told that it is the Word of God. As we go along, you can see how very important every piece is. By the way, let me mention something here. The belt

of truth, the breastplate of righteousness and the Christian warriors footwear are things tied to the body. These are all things we are to have done as believers. These are things we wear all the time. It says, "Having girded your waist with truth; having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel."

But when it comes to the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, these it says we are to take up. You see, when a soldier sat down to rest or to eat, he would keep the belt and breastplate and boots on, but the shield and the helmet and the sword he might lay by his side. But as soon as the need for battle is there, these are to be taken up. So he says we are to take up the sword of the Spirit. For the Christian, it means taking up the Word of God.

In the previous message I showed you the replica of the Roman soldier's armor and recommended it might be advisable to have one by our bedside so that when we get up in the morning we do not forget to put our armor on. One of our folk told me after the message that he could not take off his armor for night, that is when he did some of his heaviest fighting." I suppose if I should ask you, you might well agree with that. So, from this passage we might conclude that we wear the belt, the breastplate and the shoes at all times. And when we sit down to rest, we have our helmet, sword and shield right by our side so that it is handy the moment we need it.

So, in regard to our spiritual warfare, learn to use the weapons of your warfare. We do not war according to the flesh but according to the Spirit, therefore we need to learn to use the sword of the Spirit. I know one thing for certain. If at all possible, the devil will keep you from reading the Bible. You will fight many battles to win over him in this. Never give up. Keep on reading. If you have

failed and you remember, start right there again.

The devil will attack you in life. He may not gain entrance so that he can reside within, but he will attack you from the outside again and again. Learn to use your authority over the demonic forces. Do not be shy to command him to leave. Learn to pray for your family with authority in this regard. Learn to claim the blood of Christ. Go with me to Revelation 12 (read verse 11).

Jesus was manifested to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). To overcome the devil He delegated this power to the 12 disciples (Mark 6:7), to the seventy (Luke 10:1-18), and even to believers (Mark 16:16).

#### 7. Prayer

So, to look at the closing point Paul makes in this section let us read verse 18 (read). Prayer is not mentioned as one of the pieces of equipment. All of the above is to be done in prayer. We are to always be in prayer. Let me add the word 'all' wherever it is and wherever it is there by ellipsis, "...Praying always with all prayer and all supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and all supplication for all the saints..."

I cannot stress prayer enough. Learn to pray. Learn to pray by yourself. Learn to pray with your wife. Learn to pray with your children. Learn to pray as a family. And last, learn to pray in a public prayer meeting. Scripture places importance on the public prayer meeting.

#### V. FINAL FATE OF DEMONS

Well, that brings us to the last brief point of this series; 'The Fate of Demons'. I wanted to spend a little time telling you the final outcome for Satan. But let me just tell you about it in brief. After the

seven year tribulation Satan will be bound for a thousand years. Then he will be loosed for a little while and he will deceive the nations once more. So let us go to Revelation 20 to see this (read 20:1-2; 7-10). From this time forward he is not heard of again. Because the Lord Jesus came to earth to die for sinful man, He forever sealed the final doom of Satan.

CONCL: Well, that brings to a conclusion the subject of demonology. It is not comprehensive by any means but it is enough for now. We have covered five main points: The existence of demons; a history of demons; the abode of demons; dealing with demons and the final fate of demons.

I have not dealt with the matter of how to cast out demons. If there is anyone who feels called to this kind of work, I would be glad to steer you to those who could help you with that. I have challenged our leaders that we need someone for this work.

And then, I welcome any questions you might have. You could put those in the box designated the "Prayer Box" at the back of the church.

When the Apostle Paul was nearing the end of his ministry he said this in Acts 20:25-31: And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more. Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I *am* pure from the blood of all *men*. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

Although I trust my preaching days are not yet over, I can to this point in my ministry say these words to you, "Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God." To my knowledge, the Lord has never laid something on my heart I have not preached to you.