

THE ARMOR OF GOD

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS WITH PASTOR JACK ABELEN

Knowing our Adversary and the Armor of God Week 9: Ephesians 6:17b - The Sword of the Spirit

Introduction

- A. Tonight we come to our last piece of armor: the sword of the Spirit (Eph.6:17b); and next week, we will conclude by looking at the importance of prayer in covering us in the battles we face wearing our armor (Eph.6:18-24).
- B. The sword found here is not the same sword we spoke about last time when we studied the shield of faith. That sword, which the shield protects us from, is a broadsword (rhomphaia in Greek); whereas this sword (machaira in Greek) is a 6-18" long weapon carried in a scabbard or sheath and used only in hand-to-hand combat.
- C. A precise weapon requiring training and practice to use well, Peter the fisherman showed us how bad things could go for the untrained. In our list of armor, it is the only piece designed for offensive use other than prayer. All of the other pieces are strictly for defensive purposes only.
- D. It is vital then, that we learn to use it well. Paul encouraged his disciple Timothy of its importance (2Ti.2:15). Yet if the truth be known, many saints are poor swordsmen. Why is that?
 - 1. Are we complacent because we have so much good Bible teaching available to us? Do we fail to learn the Bible because of the quick access we can have to "looking it up" if we need it? Have we replaced learning with simply reading?
 - 2. Paul was convinced of the value of knowing God's Word (2Ti.3:15-17) and so was Job (Job 23:12); and so must we be, for by it we can defend ourselves and also go on the offensive reclaiming the places Satan seeks to keep from us.
 - 3. Why do we give our all to earthly pursuits yet give a casual nod to learning to use this sword of the Spirit? We must conclude that it is not fully appreciated in terms of power and importance or else we would all seek to become more proficient in its use.

The B-I-B-L-E

- A. Infallible: Without error or flaw in its totality. God did not have a second thought or a regret about something taught or declared. His Word is like the Author Himself: unchanging and constant (Jam.1:17)(Ps.19:7).
 - 1. As such, we need not challenge, question, or doubt Him, but simply allow Him to fill us with the treasures of His Word revealed to our hearts.
- B. Inerrant: Having no flaw in its individual parts. The questionable nature of some verses not found in any manuscript until the 14th century as well as certain scribal errors have no impact upon any doctrine of God's Word. God who created the world will watch over the integrity of His Word.
- C. Complete: His warnings to those who would seek to edit, change, add to, or subtract from His Word are sobering and serious (Pro.30:5-6)(Rev.22:18-19). Many cults are distinguished by what they add to the revealed Word of God.
- D. Authoritative: When God speaks, all men should listen. His authority and judgment are final and there is not an appeals process (Ps.19:9). His Word will indeed be the final word for each of us. The people of Jesus' day recognized that He spoke with authority and not as the Scribes and Pharisees (Mk.1:22).

- E. Sufficient: Though the Bible does not address every issue of life -- medicine, environment, etc., it does provide all the answers we need to live godly lives filled with His blessings (2Pe.1:3).
- F. Effective: When God speaks, things happen; just check Genesis 1! No wonder Isaiah recorded the Lord as declaring that very truth (Isa.55:11). We must follow the manufacturer's handbook guidelines if we truly desire to see His work in us.
- G. Divine: It is God's book and not man's work. He used some 40 authors from all walks of life over a 1500 year period writing in three languages and led by the Holy Spirit to record it all (2Pe.2:20-21). It is God breathed and God inspired and God backed!
- H. Determinative: What a person believes and does with the Bible both reveals his relationship with God and determines his eternal destiny (Jn.8:47).

Using the Sword of the Spirit

- A. A sword carried without training is of little use. Our training consists of knowing God's Word well!
- B. A soldier wounded in battle can't blame the sword he was poorly equipped to use. Some saints carry beautiful covered Bibles but have no idea what is in it. We need our minds renewed by it (Rom.12:1-2).
- C. The benefits and protection the sword provides are all found in the pages of this book. We must know it well, cover to cover.
- D. Jesus in the wilderness showed us the value of knowing God's Word as He answered each of Satan's temptations with the Word of God properly applied in context. Even Satan's attempt to misquote and misapply the scripture was corrected by Jesus who knew the Word.
- E. So we must know it and follow it. To simply know it but ignore it or find reasons to set it aside will provide no protection for us but actually assure our defeat.
- F. The sword is defensive in that it keeps us from sin by casting light upon the darkness. It is offensive in that it allows us to take land we lost in sin -- restoring rest, peace, joy, etc.
- G. Heeding His Word will make us wise and victorious. Know it well (2Ti.4:2)(1Pe.3:15). Learn it by book, by chapter, by verse. What is the topic of 1 Corinthians 13, John 17, Genesis 1, Matthew 5-7; Revelation 2-3?

Final Thoughts

- A. How do you approach God's Word?
 - 1. Like a butterfly: lighting on each flower for a moment before moving on.
 - 2. Like a botanist: looking with a magnifying glass and a number 2 pencil with a notepad, yet only coming for observation and analysis without it touching your heart.
 - 3. Like a bee: arriving empty and leaving full, for it has reached deep for all the nectar it can find.
- B. Next week we will look at the power of prayer in our battles with the enemy.