

Ephesians 6:10–13

“Our Battlefield, Enemy, and Resources in the Spiritual War”

2020.12.13 evening sermon ▫ Hopewell ARP, Culleoka, Tennessee

Christians are former darkness, transformed now into light that exposes the darkness in the evil day. Their battlefield is especially their own marriages, parent-child relationships, and everyday work. Their enemy is the devil himself whose vast forces are organized, powerful, and evil. But they have the high ground, being united to Christ and seated in heaven with Him Who Himself is their infinite and glorious Resource for this battle, as the Spirit applies Him to us by means of the armor.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via tinysa.com/hopewellarp)

Ephesians, six verses 10 through 13, these are God's words. Finally my brethren be strong in the Lord. And then the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God. That you may be able to stand against the walls of the devil. For we do not wrestle. Against flesh and blot.

But against principalities against powers against the rulers of the darkness of this age. Against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 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.

So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent.

One of God's mercies to us as we come to this passage this Lord's evening is that we come to it having come through the whole book of the. So that we can read and hear and think about it in context. Which often is not the case for those who merely jump in.

The spiritual warfare and we see that the apostle by the spirit is picking up something that he began in chapter 5. In chapter 5, he said walk in love chapter 5 verse 2, he said walk as children of light and he talks about. Exposing the deeds of darkness because we were darkness but God has transformed us into light and when we live as light when we walk as light, we expose the deeds of darkness and then in verse 15, he says walk.

Circumspectly notice fools, but as wise redeeming the time. Because the days are evil. And now in chapter 6 and verses 10 through 13, he picks up some of those notes that we are wrestling against the rulers of the darkness of this age that as we live as those who were darkness but have been transformed into light we are opposed not to those who are still darkness, but to the spiritual rulers who have them under their sway and in bondage to them.

And in verse 13, he picks up the note of. I walk circumspectly not as fools but as wise redeeming the time because the days are evil talking about how. We are to withstand in the evil day. So it's clear that the apostles actually picking something up that he has been talking about the whole time and now we because of our own sinfulness understand perhaps a little bit more why he tells us that we are not necessarily wrestling against flesh and blood.

Because if you look at the the areas of life in which he has said that we are to live as light instead of darkness, but as he talked about talk about marriage. He's talked about personal parent-child relationships. He's talked about your everyday work Boston. Where he kind of stuff or master and slave and whatever shape that that looks like in your everyday work.

And if you got problems in your marriage, you might think that you're wrestling against your spouse. And if you've got if you're having a hard time obeying an honoring your parents, you might think that you're wrestling against your parents. And I dare say there are a number of parents who in training up their children have fallen into thinking that they are wrestling against their children.

And certainly in the workplace, don't we often feel like we are wrestling against flesh and blood. But the apostle by the spirit here says, Don't make that mistake. You're not wrestling against those people. You are wrestling against the devil himself. And he is powerful evil and organized. A lot of people make a lot of comments.

On verse 12 trying to figure out which ones are the principalities and which ones are the powers and which ones are the rulers and which ones are the spiritualists of wickedness? The Scripture just doesn't give us enough information to particularly identify the various ranks. The point is that there is an enemy who is powerful and evil and organized.

But you have the high ground. Dear Christian. Because where does he attack? He has to attack you in the heavenly places,

doesn't he? Isn't that something we've seen mentioned multiple times in the book of Ephesians that Jesus Christ has ascended and that we are seated with him in the heavenlies that the display of the grace of God in Christians who live transformed lives on earth.

Is a display that occurs even in glory in our union with Him as angels marvel at the glory and grace of God in His Son Jesus Christ in. Still battling against their fleshliness sinners on earth who have yet been made right with God by grace, you've been saved through faith who are walking in good works who are living as citizens of the kingdom of light and even children of God himself.

You have the high ground. Your enemy is organized and powerful and wicked but he that is in you is greater. Than he that is in the world. Finally my brethren. Be strong in the Lord and then the power of his might. Sometimes the apostle refers to those to whom he's writing as his children.

Doesn't seem that surprising to us that he uses that language with the Corinthians. And he does refer to Timothy also as his dear child in the Lord. But there's some intentionality here of his using the word brethren. Because we might say well. I lack what Paul has to fight the spiritual battles.

Paul fights. But as godliness in your marriage and easy spiritual battle. Or in honoring your parents is that easy. From the heart. Or in rearing your children or in your everyday work. Could you hear the apostle as he comes into this he says my brethren and after he finishes talking about the armor of God and in the spirit with all prayer, he doesn't even finish the sentence before he says praying also for me.

He's saying. He's saying you and I have been given. Resurrected ascended reigning Lord Jesus the same power the same resources the same life from which to live in our marriages in our parent-child relationships in our everyday work that the apostle Paul was given. For his ministry as an apostle.

So do not underestimate the enemy. But do not underestimate the greatness of the resources that you have in Christ for you are already seated with him in heaven. Live on earth living your marriage. As someone who by the kind of wife you are going to be in the kind of husband you are going to be is bringing.

Jesus the glory of having transformed you from darkness into light so that the organized and powerful. And the devil suffer humiliation in the heavenly places. As the kind of wife and husband you are as one that the only explanation for that is United to Jesus. That didn't come from her that didn't come from him.

Obey your parents in the Lord, right? Do you remember that in the Lord? So that as you obey your mom and dad and honor them from the heart. There's diligent cheerfulness and when you speak in a way that isn't as honoring as it could have been and your heart smites you and you come say mom.

I'm sorry. I could have said that better that Jesus is glorified because the only way that came out of your. Son out of your life on earth is because you are united to him and seated with him in heaven and the angels praise God for transforming this child. And the forces of hell suffering humiliation.

Because you were given the high ground in Christ. And so verses 10 through 13, give us the nature of our battle. The nature of the enemy and the nature of the resources by which we fight that enemy even on Lord. Jesus himself. Amen. Let's pray.

No, Lord how we thank you? And praise you for this inestimable privilege. That it is not only for our good. That you have joined us to Christ. So that we may enjoy good marriages and enjoy good relationships with parents and children and enjoy fulfillment in our work. But that you have given us the privilege of being.

Those in whom the greatness of your glory in Christ is put on display and the powerful organized wicked forces of the enemy suffer humiliation. O Lord glorify yourself. By what you do in our marriages in our homes and our workplaces. And we pray that. As. We come and following weeks to think about and hear from your work.

What it is to put on the honor. That you would bless it to us for the glory of Jesus in his name we ask him. Amen.