

Ephesians 6:10-12

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 2-3-16

Review

Paul's magnificent vision in Ephesians

V. 10 - "a final word" (NASB). Or better "henceforth" or "for the remaining time"

Notes:

The Enemy We Face (vv. 10-12)

The need: _____ of the enemy and healthy _____ for his prowess

- Our struggle is not with human beings but with _____ intelligences
- Asian/Ephesian readers would have been familiar with this reality (cf. Acts 19:11-20)
- Cannot be oblivious, dismissive, or ignorant of who the enemy is and what he is like

Notes:

3 main characteristics (v. 12):

- _____
 - "evil rulers and authorities" (also "principalities and powers")
 - "mighty powers in this dark world" (also "the world rulers of this present darkness")
 - Greek astrological/mythological word. Powers beyond that exercise worldwide rule.
 - The devil promised to give Jesus "all the kingdoms of this world" (Matthew 4:8-9)
 - Jesus himself called him "the ruler of this world" (Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
 - "The whole world lies in the power of the evil one" (1 John 1:19)
- _____
 - Power itself is neutral, containing no moral qualities. It can be used for good or for evil
 - They are the rulers of "this present darkness"
 - Hatred of light, truth, goodness
 - Falsehood and sin are their natural habitat - at _____ in evil
 - "evil spirits in the heavenly places"
 - Evil = No moral principles, code of behavior, higher feelings
 - Heavens = The sphere of _____
 - Real, but cannot be perceived with the five senses
 - Not so far away
 - The "place" Jesus came from
- _____
 - V. 11 - the "strategies of the devil"

- Sometimes “wiles,” but better “stratagems” - includes tactical shrewdness and ingenious deception
 - Elsewhere “the schemes” or “designs” of Satan (II Cor. 2:11)
- Operates in darkness
 - Eph. 2:2 - “the prince of the power of the air”
 - II Cor. 11:14 - disguises himself as “an angel of light”
 - John 8:44 - the devil “was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”
- Sometimes he roars like a lion (I Pet. 5:8), but more often prefers the subtleties of a serpent (Gen. 3:1)
 - Bully and a beguiler. Intimidates and insinuates. Uses force and fraud.
- Strategies take many forms, he is at his worst when he succeeds in convincing us he does not _____ or is at _____

Notes:

The Battle

- Human frailty and the foolishness of self-confidence or willful ignorance
- Only God can defend and deliver us from the might, evil, and craft of the devil
 - God’s power at work in Christ and us (Eph. 1:18-23; 2:4-6)
 - V. 10 - “Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power” same words as 1:19
- 2 exhortations:
 - V. 10 - “Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power”
 - V. 11 - “Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil”
 - Beautiful _____ of divine enabling and human co-operation
 - Rejects both self-confidence (“I can do it all on my own”) and self-distrust (“I can contribute nothing to this battle”)
 - The power is the Lord’s, but we have to “be strong in him” - “be strengthened,” lit. “strengthen yourselves in the Lord”
 - Cf. II Tim. 2:1 - “be strong in” or “take strength from” from the grace in Christ
 - The armor is God’s, but we have to put it on, piece by piece

Notes: