

Ephesians 6:18ff.

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 3-9-16

The Weapons of God - vv. 17b-20

V. 17b - "the **sword** of the Spirit, which is the word of God"

- The soldier's short sword (*machairan*) - attack/defense, close encounters, most versatile/useful
- Ours is the Spirit's sword, the _____ of God
 - The written word - that which faithfully testifies to the _____ Word.
 - Powerful (Heb. 4:12 - "sharper than any double-edged sword")
 - Issues from the mouth of Christ (Rev. 1:16; 2:12; 19:15)
 - Instrument of righteousness and justice (Isa. 11:4; Hos. 6:4)
 - Jesus' promise - Matt. 10:16-20
 - The Spirit _____ the word of God.
 - Outflow of his person (John 15:26)
 - We are _____ his life (v. 27; Acts 5:32)
 - The Spirit bears witness to _____ hearts (Rom. 8:16; I Cor. 12:3)
 - Recall his first prayer in 1:17-19



Vv. 18-20 - "**pray** at all times in the Spirit"

- Not least important, rather it _____ all our spiritual warfare.
- The _____ to putting on the full armor of God
- "in the Spirit" - prompted and guided by Him
- Four universal aspects, indicated by the fourfold use of "all"
 - V. 18a - "With all prayer and petition" - every form
 - V. 18a - "pray at all times" - regularly (scheduled) and constantly (persistent).
 - V. 18b - "with all perseverance and petition" - watch and pray! Fight for it!
 - V. 18b - "for all the saints" - reflecting our unity

V. 19 - "and pray on my behalf"

- Paul needed strength to fulfill his evangelistic duty to turn people "from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God" (Acts 26:18)
- Vv. 19b-20 -
 - "ambassador in chains" - double meaning
 - An imprisoned representative
 - "chain" - the golden adornments worn around the neck and wrists of high ranking ambassadors in order to reveal the riches, power, and dignity of the government they represent.
 - Paul represents a government from another world and a Christ who was _____, so he considers painful iron prison chains as the most appropriate insignia of his Lord.

- Praying for an “outspokenness, frankness, plainness of speech, that conceals nothing and passes over nothing” together with “courage, confidence, boldness, fearlessness, especially in the presence of persons with high rank”
 - Praying for _____ and _____
 - Against such prayer, the powers and principalities are utterly helpless.

Paul’s Conclusion - vv. 21-24

Vv. 21-22 - Role of Tychicus

- Trusted companion, beloved brother, and faithful minister of the Lord
- His threefold job:
 - _____ Paul’s letters to the Ephesians and Colossians (Col. 4:7-8)
 - _____ Paul’s letter with personal news
 - _____ their hearts
- His theology becomes a personal _____
 - He prays for them. They pray for him.
 - Through Tychicus personal visit he corresponds with them and encourages them
 - Thus we see played out in real life the deepening of the fellowship, the building up of body of Christ, through persons who pray, correspond, and visit.

Vv. 23-24 - Final blessing

- Form of letters in the ancient world - a concluding “wish”
- Paul’s two prayer-wishes:
 - V. 23 - “**Peace** be to the brethren, and love with faith”
 - Peace and love have been characteristics of this letter
 - Doctrinal section (2:14-17) - Jesus is our peace since he broke down the dividing wall and created a single new humanity. Making peace, he came and preached peace.
 - Ethical section (chs. 4-5) - We must maintain the unity the Spirit produces in the bond of peace, to forbear with one another in love and to walk in love as Christ loved us.
 - V. 24 - “**Grace** be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ [o]with incorruptible love” (NASB)
 - Greek: “in incorruption”
 - NOT for God’s grace to accompany those who love Christ with unfailing love.
 - “in incorruption” likely qualifies God’s grace, meaning all who love the Lord would experience God’s grace in immortality, or _____.
 - Ephesians begins with a bold view into grace in eternity past and ends with a confident hope for grace in eternity future
- From grace and peace to grace and peace.
 - Peace - Double reconciliation
 - Grace - The reason and means it was achieved
 - John Stott: “It is a wish, a prayer, that the members of God’s new society may live in harmony as brothers and sisters in his family, at peace and in love with him and each other, together with a recognition that only by his grace can this dream ever come true.”