



The Christian In God's Armor - part 2

What is the Theme of Ephesians?

§ One: The Father, who is worthy of all blessing, has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ. (Chapters 1- 3).

- I. *Chapter 1: Salvation* — The Father has blessed us in His plan for our salvation.
- II. *Chapter 2: Regeneration* — The Father has blessed us with the personal application of this salvation, in our regeneration.
- III. *Chapter 3: Communion* — The Father has blessed us with membership in the church, the body of Christ.

§ Two: Therefore... Live as those who are blessed by the Father. (Chapters 4-6).

- I. *Chapter 4:1-16: Unity* — **Walk** as worthy of your calling.
- II. *Chapter 4:17-32: Charity* — **Walk** as Christ has taught you.
- III. *Chapter 5:1-14: Obedience* — **Walk** as children of the Father in light.
- IV. *Chapter 5:15 - 6:9: Submission* — **Walk** circumspectly, redeeming the time.
- V. *Chapter 6:10-20: Warfare* — **Stand** in the power of the Lord.

Point of Eph. 6:10-20 — “Stand”

- **Vs. 6:11** - “... that you may be able to **stand against** the schemes of the devil.”
- **Vs. 6:13a** - “... that you may be able to **withstand** in the evil day....”
- **Vs. 6:13b** - “... and having done all, to stand.”
- **Vs. 6:14a** - “Stand, therefore....” Same verb, as imperative.

I. Our enemy is the devil

- **Q: *What kinds of schemes does the evil one have?***

I. Our enemy is the devil

So [the Interpreter] took him by the hand again, and led him into a very dark room, where sat a man in an Iron Cage. Now the man, to look on, seemed very sad: he sat with his eyes looking down to the ground, his hands folded together, and he sighed as if he would break his heart. Then said Christian, What means this? At which the Interpreter bid him talk with the man.

Christian: What are you? The man answered, I am what I was not once.
Christian: What were you once?

Man: The man said, I was once a fair and flourishing professor, both in mine own eyes, and also in the eyes of others I once was, as I thought, fair for the Celestial City, and had then even joy at the thoughts that I should get there.

Christian: Well, but what are you now? **Man:** I am now a man of despair, and am shut up in this Iron Cage. I cannot get out.

Christian: But how did you come into this condition?

Man: I left off to watch, and be sober. I laid the reins upon the neck of my lusts. I sinned against the light of the Word and the goodness of God. I have grieved the Spirit, and He is gone. I tempted the devil, and he is come to me. I have provoked God to anger, and he has left me. I have so hardened my heart that I cannot repent.

I. Our enemy is the devil

Christian: Is there no hope but you must be kept in the Iron Cage of Despair?

Man: No, none at all.

Christian: Why? The Son of the Blessed is very pitiful.

Man: I have crucified Him to myself afresh. I have despised His Person. I have despised His Righteousness. I have counted His Blood an unholy thing. I have done despite to the Spirit of Grace. Therefore. I have shut myself out of all the promises, and there now remains to me nothing but threatenings, fearful threatenings of judgment and fiery Indignation.

Christian: For what did you bring yourself into this condition?

Man: For the lusts, pleasures, and profits of this world; in the enjoyment of which, I did them promise myself much delight: But now every one of those things also bite me, and gnaw me, like a burning worm.

Christian: But can you not now repent and turn?

Man: God has denied me repentance. His Word gives me no encouragement to believe; yea, Himself has shut me up in this Iron Cage. O Eternity! Eternity! How shall I grapple with the misery that I must meet with in Eternity!

II. Our enemy is also spiritual powers

12. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Q: How do we understand these terms?

1.

2.

3.

II. Our enemy is also spiritual powers

What this meant for the Ephesians:

“**13** Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims.” **14** Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. **15** But the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?” **16** And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. **17** And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled.

18 Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. **19** And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. **20** So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.”

(Acts 19:13-20)

III. Satan's status

A. As principality.

- John 12:31; 14:30
- 1John 5:19
- Revelation 2:13
- Ephesians 2:2

B. As powers

- Psalm 78:25; 103:20
- 2Thessalonians 2:9
- Hebrews 2:14

III. Satan's status

C. As rulers of the darkness of this age

- 2 Corinthians 4:4
- 2 Timothy 2:26
- 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10
- 1 Timothy 4:1

D. As spiritual hosts of wickedness

- Temptation to sin
- Fill the Christian's heart to lie (Acts 5:3)
- Work to destroy marriage (1Cor. 7:5)
- Promote disunity in the church (2Cor 2:11)
- Destroy the life (1Cor. 5:5)

IV. Satan's current status

A. Status under Christ and His resurrection.

1. Defeated & triumphed over

- a. John 12:31; 16:11
- b. Colossians 2:15
- c. Revelation 12:7-9

2. Chained:

- a. Jude 1:6
- b. 2Peter 2:4
- c. Revelation 20

B. What this means:

1. The devil cannot accuse us before God.
2. The devil cannot deceive the nations as he did before Christ came.
3. The devil and demons know that their condemnation is sealed.

IV. Satan's current status

C. Negatively:

- 1.They are not totally powerless now.
- 2.They are not totally inactive now.
- 3.They are still plotting and scheming now.

D. What this means for the future. (2Thess 2; Rev. 20).

V. What is Paul's warning?

- A. Satan has power to “devour” — that is, to destroy the professed faith of those who are not true believers. (1Peter 5:8; John 13:27).
- B. Satan and the demons have the power to tempt to sin. (Matthew 4:1; 1Cor. 7:5; 1Thess.3:5)
- C. Satan and the demons have the power to tempt to false doctrine. (See. 1Tim. 4:1; 2Peter 2:1;)

Applications:

- A. Satan and his demons, though formally defeated and chained in comparison to the times before Christ, yet have great power and influence.**

- B. A necessary part of persevering in the faith is to stand against Satan and the spiritual forces of this world.
(James 4:7 - “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”)**

- C. The instrumentality by which we stand is the armor of God. That is, our perseverance depends upon our understanding what Paul is saying here in Ephesians 6.**