

I want to begin today with a reminder of a word we had last week.

The word was *sun/eimi*

Mt 13:19 *When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.*



“understand” *sun/iemi* together, to send

I.e. To put together; to understand

If you are not adding to your life the Biblical principles you are hearing, you might as well go home. You are wasting your time.

Now;

Back to the War Within.

When countries fought on the water they were engaged in naval battles.

When they fought in the air the planes were said to be in a dog fight.

Today,

In our modern society, we now have computer wars fought in cyber space.

But we are talking about another war that is going on all over the world and most people do not realize they are right in the middle of it.

This war is fought in the spiritual realm and therefore is spiritual warfare.

So the Apostle Paul said;

Eph 6:12 *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

“struggle” *pale* – wrestling

In Olympic wrestling, it is to hold your opponent down so he can't get up

Our spiritual warfare is a wrestling match.

To hold you down so you can't go forward.

We fight against "rulers."
"rulers" *arche* – high ranking officers/demons
"powers" *exousia* – authorities under the rulers
"world forces" *kosmokrator* – over nations
"spiritual forces of wickedness" – over people
(to create spiritual depravity)

So you can see, Satan has his army, his captains and soldiers to rule over kings and men.

These forces are powerful, invisible, demonic and strong. We are no match for them in our natural state.

Oh No!

So what do we do?

v.10 *be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.*

"strong" empowered

I think of God's talk with Joshua when he took over leading the people after Moses died.

God promised him victory and property as long as he obeyed God's precepts.

And then He ended with:

Jos 1:9 be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

They had battles in the lands they were crossing.

We have battles in the world we are living.

And yet,

Most Christians see this world as a playground rather than a battleground.

So,

We're on a battlefield;

We're in a war

Now what?

v.13 *Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.*

A three-fold command:

1. Put on God's armor
2. Resist the evil
3. Stand firm

"full armor" all of it

You cannot pick and choose what part you want to wear or not wear

“resist” withstand the evil influence
We will see how this evil influence comes upon us

“stand firm” over your defeated opponent
So now,
Let’s get dressed for the battle:

v.14 *Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH,*
To “gird” is to wrap around.
Therefore, put on the belt of truth.
Truth goes around you. It encompasses all of you.
It’s for every part of your life.
Secondly;



and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
The breastplate protects the trunk of the body, especially the heart.
An arrow to the heart is deadly.
The breastplate of righteousness, when protected, allows you to live a righteous life.

But,
If struck by the enemy, you will find yourself in all kinds of perversions.

v.15 *And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

If a soldier was wounded in the legs or feet, he couldn’t resist, he couldn’t flee, he couldn’t fight.
The Romans wore these thick, leather combat sandals that allowed them to go over rough terrain and gave them stability in combat.

In the Letters to the 7 Churches in Revelation one of the cities written to was Sardis.

Cyrus of Persia, also known as Cyrus the Great attacked Sardis and overtook it.

One of the things he did to quell any future rebellions.
He ordered them to wear actors boots, or soft slippers, instead of sandals.

So contrary to the Roman war sandals they wore in to battle.
Therefore;

v.15 *And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace*
simply put;
to walk in peace with God.

You are not at peace with your enemy, but you are at peace with God.

Is 26:3 E.S.V.

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

Focus! A good soldier must be focused.

v.16 *in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

Believe at all times!

Why?

Because the flaming arrows are coming.

"shield" large shield, like a door

Not a little, tiny shield.

But a big shield to stand behind.

"flaming arrows" negative attacks, temptations, evil thoughts

That is why the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (fleshly) but spiritual.

we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,
II Cor 10:5

v.17 *And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

"helmet of salvation" goes around the whole head protecting your mind from the past and confirming your salvation in the present.

Question:

How would you define living in the negative aspects of your past?

Perhaps,

Putting something where it does not belong.

The past does not belong in the present.

Jesus said it like this:

No man, after putting his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Finally;

v.17 *the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

The key to Roman hand to hand combat was the short sword called the "gladius."

It allowed him to get up close and personal in hand to hand combat.

It was a double-edged sword that cut going in and coming out.

Heb 4:12 *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword...*

This is our only offensive weapon.

All of the other armor was for defense.

In summary;

1. We are in a spiritual battle.
2. Our weapons are spiritual, not fleshly.
3. Put on every piece of the armor
4. Belt of truth wraps your body
5. Breastplate of righteousness protects your heart so you can live righteously
6. Leather sandals to go forward in the battle in peace with God
7. Shield where faith extinguishes Satan's negative attacks
8. Helmet that remind you that you are safe and saved
9. Short sword where the Holy Spirit helps you wield the Word of God.

You cannot pick and choose which part you want:

Oh, I like the helmet of salvation but I don't want to carry the sword, which is the Word of God.

I like the sandals of peace with God but I don't want to carry that heavy shield to extinguish Satan's flaming arrows!

That's how you fight spiritual warfare.

Question: Do you *sun/eimi*?