

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Christian Warfare

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Ephesians 6:10-20

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2169

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There is a dark, diabolical, and deadly war that is being fought in America.
  - i) It is a form of guerilla warfare with sabotage, subversion, innuendo and sniping.
  - ii) It is a deadly war.
  - iii) It is a war between light and darkness, good and evil, Heaven and Hell, Christ and Satan.
- b) Whether we realize it or not, we are part of this war.
  - i) We cannot afford to be ignorant.
  - ii) We cannot possibly be neutral.
    - (1) If we try to be neutral, then we will find ourselves in the crossfire and in the most dangerous place of all.
- c) Ephesian 6:10-20
- d) The church is not a showboat; it is a battleship.
  - i) Today's message is a warning and a call to arms, but also a declaration of victory.
  - ii) When we were born again, we were born from above.
    - (1) Being Heaven-born and Heaven-bound, we were also born for a battle.
    - (2) When we were born again, we were born to win.
- e) Today's passage of Scripture discusses the Christian warrior.
  - i) It's not merely talking about the pastor or the evangelist or the missionary.
  - ii) It is talking about each of us.

2) THE CHRISTIAN WARRIOR AND HIS ADVERSARY (EPHESIANS 6:11)

- a) We must know our enemy.
- b) Ephesians 6:11
  - i) Our adversary is called "the devil."
- c) The devil today is viewed as sort of a laughable character.
  - i) Some people think of him as some medieval superstition.
  - ii) We make light of the devil.
    - (1) We call football teams "devils" and "demons."
    - (2) We talk about deviled ham and devil's food cake.
    - (3) We think of the devil as a guy in long, red underwear with a pitchfork.
- d) We have an enemy, and he is very real.
  - i) The Bible does not speak of him as some figment of the imagination.
  - ii) It has always been his purpose to pull the veil of darkness over his kingdom and have his very existence denied for a while.
    - (1) But he wants worship.
    - (2) He will only use this disguise so long before he removes the veil and demands worship.
- e) It is important that we understand who the devil is in our warfare.
  - i) If there is no enemy, then there will be no preparation for war.
  - ii) We have an enemy, and we must understand this.

- f) How is the enemy described?
- i) He is a decided fact.
    - (1) Ephesians 6:11
    - (2) If we don't believe that the devil exists, then we are in a very precarious situation.
  - ii) He is a destructive foe.
    - (1) Ephesians 6:11
      - (a) The Greek word for "wiles" is the word from which we get the words "methodical" and "methods."
      - (b) Satan is very methodical.
    - (2) He is strategic.
      - (a) He may take two steps back in order to go forward three steps.
      - (b) He may let us think that we are getting away with our sin.
      - (c) He may even seem to be blessing us and helping us along our way.
      - (d) He has made a plan to sabotage our lives and our homes.
      - (e) He is wily and subtle.
      - (f) Apart from the leadership of the Holy Spirit of God, he would deceive the very elect.
    - (3) He is spiritual.
      - (a) Ephesians 6:12
      - (b) Sometimes people think that because something is spiritual, it is good.
        - (i) This is not the case.
      - (c) There is spiritual goodness, and there is spiritual wickedness.
        - (i) 1 John 4:1
        - (ii) Séances, necromancy, Ouija boards, horoscopes, clairvoyancy, visions, and Hindu mysticism are examples of spiritual wickedness.
    - (4) He is strong.
      - (a) Ephesians 6:12
      - (b) In our flesh, we are no match for our adversary.
        - (i) We are too weak to go against Satan in our own strength.
    - (5) He is sinister.
      - (a) Ephesians 6:12
      - (b) Satan has a dark, tyrannical power, and he is in a fight to the finish.
      - (c) There is nothing that he will not do to wreck, ruin and destroy our lives.
  - iii) He is a defeated foe.
    - (1) Ephesians 6:10
    - (2) God has already defeated Satan.
      - (a) It's not that Satan shall be defeated; he is already defeated.
        - (i) John 12:31
        - (ii) 1 John 4:4

(b) Satan is strong, sinister, strategic, and spiritual, but God is almighty.

- (3) If we do not learn these truths, then we will not understand victory.
- g) If Satan is a defeated foe, then why should we be warned?
- i) Even though Satan's back was broken at Calvary, God still allows him to have power on the Earth.
  - ii) It is limited power, and it is power that we as Christians can and shall overcome in the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - (1) It is part of God's plan is to make us overcomers and to give greater glory to Himself.

### 3) THE CHRISTIAN WARRIOR AND HIS ARMOR (EPHESIANS 6:13)

- a) Not only do we need to recognize our enemy, but we also need to prepare for the battle.
  - i) If we don't prepare for the battle, then we are going to lose the battle.
  - ii) We are to put on the whole armor of God, and it is to be holy armor.
    - (1) Ephesians 6:13
- b) How is the armor described?
  - i) Ephesians 6:14
  - ii) The girdle of truth: integrity.
    - (1) Truth stands for integrity.
    - (2) In Bible times, a soldier would wear a tunic with a leather belt or girdle that would be cinched up tight to prepare him for the battle.
      - (a) On that belt, he would hang his weapons of warfare.
      - (b) This belt would hold his tunic together so that it wouldn't get snagged or caught.
    - (3) This belt is integrity.
      - (a) It is integrity that holds everything else together.
      - (b) Truth and integrity are synonymous.
      - (c) We are to believe the truth, know the truth, love the truth, tell the truth, live the truth, and preach the truth.
        - (i) If we don't, our life will come apart.
        - (ii) We cannot get into this battle unless we have the belt of truth.
    - (4) Satan is a liar, and he will come against us with lies.
    - (5) Jesus is the truth.
    - (6) Satan's attack on us is to bring a lack of integrity into our lives.
  - iii) The breastplate of righteousness: purity.
    - (1) Ephesians 6:14
    - (2) Righteousness is the believer's purity.
    - (3) There is to be no unconfessed or unrepented of sin in our lives.
    - (4) A warrior in Bible times would have a breastplate as part of his armor.
      - (a) It would cover his heart, lungs and vital organs.
      - (b) Without the breastplate, he would be very vulnerable to any sword thrust or arrow.

- (5) Righteousness is purity.
  - (a) Matthew 5:8
  - (b) The enemy wants to attack us not only with lies, but also with impurity.
    - (i) He wants to get us to read filthy magazines and watch filthy movies.
    - (ii) He wants us to become involved in a crooked business deal.
    - (iii) He wants to get this into our hearts and minds so that it becomes a crack in our armor, and Satan knows where that crack is.
  - (c) Proverbs 4:23
  - (d) Is your heart pure before God?
    - (i) If not, you cannot win in the warfare.
      - 1. There is a piece of your armor that is missing.
    - (ii) Satan fears a holy Christian.
- iv) The shoes of peace: tranquility.
  - (1) Ephesians 6:15
  - (2) Put on the shoes of peace.
  - (3) A Roman soldier would have hobnails on the bottoms of his shoes to provide him with good footing.
  - (4) In this passage, Paul is telling us to stand; therefore, our feet need to be “Shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace.”
    - (a) This is tranquility.
    - (b) Paul is talking about peace with God and peace with one another.
  - (5) Jesus gives peace, and unless we have peace, we can never make war.
    - (a) We must have the peace of God in our hearts.
    - (b) Satan will come against our tranquility with doubts and discouragement in order to destroy our peace.
  - (6) If we do not have peace, it is not because of circumstances.
    - (a) Peace in the Bible is not the subtraction of problems from life.
    - (b) Peace is the addition of power to meet those problems.
      - (i) Psalm 119:165
  - (7) Jesus made peace with the blood of His cross.
    - (a) If we do not have this peace, we will slip and fall in the battle.
      - (i) Something will happen such as sickness, a financial reverse, a wayward child, some disappointment, and a person will lose his peace.
    - (b) Put on the shoes of peace so that you will have a firm place to stand.
- v) The shield of faith: certainty.
  - (1) Ephesians 6:16
    - (a) When Paul wrote this passage of Scripture, he was chained to a Roman soldier.

- (i) This soldier would have had a shield made of wood covered with leather.
    - (b) In this day, the shield would have been used to stop flaming arrows.
    - (c) Here, Paul tells us to take the shield of faith so that we can quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
  - (2) We need the shield of faith because Satan's attack is going to be doubt.
    - (a) The shield of faith is certainty.
      - (i) Satan is always shooting fiery arrows of doubt at us.
        1. A small fire can start a big fire.
        2. Satan wants to fill our hearts and minds with doubt.
      - (b) Take the shield of faith and quench every fiery dart of the devil.
        - (i) Feed your faith, and starve you doubts.
        - (ii) Carry your doubts to the Lord Jesus.
  - vi) The helmet of salvation: sanity.
    - (1) Ephesians 6:17
    - (2) A warrior would use a helmet to protect his head.
      - (a) If the head is wounded, then nothing else works.
    - (3) The helmet of salvation literally means a helmet of deliverance.
      - (a) This is a mind under the control of Almighty God.
        - (i) This speaks of the believer's sanity.
        - (ii) When a person is saved, for the first time he has a right mind.
        - (iii) The book of Mark mentions a demoniac who had been filled with the devil.
          1. Mark 5:1-20
          2. After Jesus saved him, people found him seated and clothed in his right mind.
      - (b) A person without the Lord Jesus Christ has a form of insanity.
        - (i) They are not with the mind that God made them to have.
        - (ii) The helmet of salvation is the covering for our mind.
  - c) All of these pieces of armor represent Jesus.
    - i) When we put on our armor, we just put on Jesus.
    - ii) Put on each piece with prayer.
- 4) THE CHRISTIAN WARRIOR AND HIS ATTACK (EPHESIANS 6:10-18)
  - a) We must join the battle.
    - i) It's not enough to simply put on the armor; we must get into the fight.
    - ii) Many of us want to dress up in the armor and sit at home.
  - b) What will guarantee our victory?
    - i) The place of our stance.
      - (1) Ephesians 6:13-14
        - (a) We have a place to fight from.
        - (b) We stand in the victory that Jesus has won.
      - (2) Ephesians 6:10

- (a) When we get into this battle, we stand at the victory that Jesus has already won.
  - (b) We do not fight for victory; we fight from victory.
  - (3) We stand in the victory that has been won at Calvary.
  - (4) Revelation 12:11
  - ii) The power of our sword.
    - (1) Ephesians 6:17
    - (2) God has given us a sword to fight with.
      - (a) Take the sword of the Spirit.
      - (b) Ours is a powerful sword, unlike any other.
      - (c) Hebrews 4:12
        - (i) The word “quick” means that it is alive.
        - (ii) The word “powerful” means that it is full of energy.
    - (3) When Jesus was tempted by the devil, Jesus pulled out His sword.
      - (a) Jesus used Scripture to defeat Satan.
      - (b) Matthew 4:4
  - iii) The provision of the Spirit.
    - (1) Ephesians 6:18
    - (2) The prayer in the Spirit is where our supply comes from.
      - (a) Every warrior needs a supply and a commander-in-chief to guide and direct him.
      - (b) It is the Spirit who directs our prayers.
      - (c) It is the Spirit who understands what Satan is up to.
- 5) THE CHRISTIAN WARRIOR AND HIS ALLIES (EPHESIANS 6:18-19)
- a) We must unite forces.
  - b) Ephesians 6:18-19
  - c) Paul was a warrior, but he knew that he did not fight alone.
    - i) He knew that we need to pray for one another because we fight together.
    - ii) Deuteronomy 32:30
  - d) There is a synergy that brings a divine energy when we fight together.
    - i) We are in this battle together.
  - e) The church is a battle station.
    - i) It is a place where we come to reinforce ourselves.
      - (1) It's a place where we get spiritual intuition, spiritual power and spiritual encouragement to go out into the fight because we fight against a common enemy.
    - ii) Many of our soldiers have gone AWOL.
      - (1) They think that they do God a wild favor just by coming to church on Sunday.
      - (2) They just come to sit, soak and sour.
      - (3) They never fight; they think that they can be neutral.

## 6) CONCLUSION

- a) This is a battle.
  - i) Choose sides carefully.
    - (1) If you don't follow Jesus, then you're on the losing side.
    - ii) Examine your heart and make sure that you have on all of the armor of God.
    - iii) Don't try to be neutral.
      - (1) This is a fight to the finish.
      - (2) Matthew 12:30
    - iv) Rejoice in the victory, and live victoriously every day.
- b) Are you walking in victory today?
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16