



Connection to Session 13

As Paul concludes his Letter to the Ephesians, he calls for them to make a stand for the gospel. They are reminded of the power of the enemy, of the sufficiency of their armor, and the response needed.

Introduction/Opening

The Letter to the Ephesians is filled with encouraging and inspiring truths. It tells us about the greatness and power of our God and Savior and also about the incredible privileges and heavenly blessings that come to those who have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We learn that we can experience the riches of God's grace and His love and His wisdom. We find out that the power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in our lives. We discover that we have been made alive with Christ, brought near to God by the blood of Jesus, and sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption. We are challenged to can put off the old self, put on the new self, be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and be filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

However, after all of these glorious truths, the last chapter reminds us that we still have to fight. We are still in a spiritual battle. We won't be able to experience the blessings of these magnificent realities unless we learn to put on the full armor of God and take our stand against the schemes of the devil.

Outline

1. The Reasons to Take Your Stand (Eph. 6:10-12)
 - a. We are commanded to be strong.
 - i) Common theme in Scripture (Josh. 1:9; Ps. 27:14; Dan. 10:19; 1 Cor. 16:13)
 - ii) God provides the strength.
 - b. We are in a conflict with powerful enemies.
 - i) Not the people around us
 - ii) But the powers around us
2. The Resources for Taking Your Stand (Eph. 6:13-17)
 - a. God supplies us with everything we need to take our stand.
 - b. In the midst of spiritual warfare our message is one of peace as we represent the Prince of peace.

3. The Response to the Charge to Take Your Stand (Eph. 6:18-24)
 - a. Pray (vv. 18-20).

Praying at all times is a function of remaining alert at all times.
 - b. Participate in the church (vv. 21-23).

Believers are to be informed, encouraged, and at peace with other local believers.
 - c. Persevere in your love for Jesus (v. 24).

Conclusion

Have you taken your stand? We are in a spiritual battle whether we know it or not. If we don't know it, it's likely that we are not winning. And if we are not putting on the full armor of God on a daily basis, it's likely that we are not walking in victory like we could be. We are called to pray at all times in the Spirit. The devil doesn't want us to. Who's winning? We are called to be a part of God's spiritual battle forces, with brothers and sisters to pray and encourage us in the fight. The devil doesn't want us to take part. Who's winning? We should have an undying love for Jesus Christ. The devil doesn't want us to have this. Who's winning? Today could be our day to take our stand for Jesus Christ. He has given us all we need to walk to victory. It is up to us to take our stand.

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