**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Christian Warfare |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Ephesians 6:10-20 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2169 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. There is a dark, diabolical, and deadly war that is being fought in America.
      1. It is a form of guerilla warfare with sabotage, subversion, innuendo and sniping.
      2. It is a deadly war.
      3. It is a war between light and darkness, good and evil, Heaven and Hell, Christ and Satan.
   2. Whether we realize it or not, we are part of this war.
      1. We cannot afford to be ignorant.
      2. 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.
   3. Ephesian 6:10-20
   4. The church is not a showboat; it is a battleship.
      1. Today’s message is a warning and a call to arms, but also a declaration of victory.
      2. 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.
   5. Today’s passage of Scripture discusses the Christian warrior.
      1. It’s not merely talking about the pastor or the evangelist or the missionary.
      2. It is talking about each of us.
2. the christian warrior and his adversary (ephesians 6:11)
   1. We must know our enemy.
   2. Ephesians 6:11
      1. Our adversary is called “the devil.”
   3. The devil today is viewed as sort of a laughable character.
      1. Some people think of him as some medieval superstition.
      2. 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.
   4. We have an enemy, and he is very real.
      1. The Bible does not speak of him as some figment of the imagination.
      2. 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.
   5. It is important that we understand who the devil is in our warfare.
      1. If there is no enemy, then there will be no preparation for war.
      2. We have an enemy, and we must understand this.
   6. How is the enemy described?
      1. 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.
      2. He is a destructive force.
         1. Ephesians 6:11
            1. The Greek word for “wiles” is the word from which we get the words “methodical” and “methods.”
            2. Satan is very methodical.
         2. He is strategic.
            1. He may take two steps back in order to go forward three steps.
            2. He may let us think that we are getting away with our sin.
            3. He may even seem to be blessing us and helping us along our way.
            4. He has made a plan to sabotage our lives and our homes.
            5. He is wily and subtle.
            6. Apart from the leadership of the Holy Spirit of God, he would deceive the very elect.
         3. He is spiritual.
            1. Ephesians 6:12
            2. Sometimes people think that because something is spiritual, it is good.

This is not the case.

* + - * 1. There is spiritual goodness, and there is spiritual wickedness.

1 John 4:1

Séances, necromancy, Ouija boards, horoscopes, clairvoyancy, visions, and Hindu mysticism are examples of spiritual wickedness.

* + - 1. He is strong.
         1. Ephesians 6:12
         2. In our flesh, we are no match for our adversary.

We are too weak to go against Satan in our own strength.

* + - 1. He is sinister.
         1. Ephesians 6:12
         2. Satan has a dark, tyrannical power, and he is in a fight to the finish.
         3. There is nothing that he will not do to wreck, ruin and destroy our lives.
    1. He is a defeated foe.
       1. Ephesians 6:10
       2. God has already defeated Satan.
          1. It’s not that Satan shall be defeated; he is already defeated.

John 12:31

1 John 4:4

* + - * 1. Satan is strong, sinister, strategic, and spiritual, but God is almighty.
      1. If we do not learn these truths, then we will not understand victory.
  1. If Satan is a defeated foe, then why should we be warned?
     1. Even though Satan’s back was broken at Calvary, God still allows him to have power on the Earth.
     2. 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 to make us overcomers and to give greater glory to Himself.

1. the christian warrior and his armor (ephesians 6:13)
   1. Not only do we need to recognize our enemy, but we also need to prepare for the battle.
      1. If we don’t prepare for the battle, then we are going to lose the battle.
      2. We are to put on the whole armor of God, and it is to be holy armor.
         1. Ephesians 6:13
   2. How is the armor described?
      1. Ephesians 6:14
      2. 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.
            1. On that belt, he would hang his weapons of warfare.
            2. This belt would hold his tunic together so that it wouldn’t get snagged or caught.
         3. This belt is integrity.
            1. It is integrity that holds everything else together.
            2. Truth and integrity are synonymous.
            3. We are to believe the truth, know the truth, love the truth, tell the truth, live the truth, and preach the truth.

If we don’t, our life will come apart.

We cannot get into this battle unless we have the belt of truth.

* + - 1. Satan is a liar, and he will come against us with lies.
      2. Jesus is the truth.
      3. Satan’s attack on us is to bring a lack of integrity into our lives.
    1. 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.
          1. It would cover his heart, lungs and vital organs.
          2. Without the breastplate, he would be very vulnerable to any sword thrust or arrow.
       5. Righteousness is purity.
          1. Matthew 5:8
          2. The enemy wants to attack us not only with lies, but also with impurity.

He wants to get us to read filthy magazines and watch filthy movies.

He wants us to become involved in a crooked business deal.

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.

* + - * 1. Proverbs 4:23
        2. Is your heart pure before God?

If not, you cannot win in the warfare.

There is a piece of your armor that is missing.

Satan fears a holy Christian.

* + 1. 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*.”
          1. This is tranquility.
          2. 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.
          1. We must have the peace of God in our hearts.
          2. 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.
          1. Peace in the Bible is not the subtraction of problems from life.
          2. Peace is the addition of power to meet those problems.

Psalm 119:165

* + - 1. Jesus made peace with the blood of His cross.
         1. If we do not have this peace, we will slip and fall in the battle.

Something will happen such as sickness, a financial reverse, a wayward child, some disappointment, and a person will lose his peace.

* + - * 1. Put on the shoes of peace so that you will have a firm place to stand.
    1. The shield of faith: certainty.
       1. Ephesians 6:16
          1. When Paul wrote this passage of Scripture, he was chained to a Roman soldier.
          2. This soldier would have had a shield made of wood covered with leather.
          3. In this day, the shield would have been used to stop flaming arrows.
          4. 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.
          1. The shield of faith is certainty.

Satan is always shooting fiery arrows of doubt at us.

A small fire can start a big fire.

Satan wants to fill our hearts and minds with doubt.

* + - * 1. Take the shield of faith and quench every fiery dart of the devil.

Feed your faith, and starve you doubts.

Carry your doubts to the Lord Jesus.

* + 1. The helmet of salvation: sanity.
       1. Ephesians 6:17
       2. A warrior would use a helmet to protect his head.
          1. If the head is wounded, then nothing else works.
       3. The helmet of salvation literally means a helmet of deliverance.
          1. This is a mind under the control of Almighty God.

This speaks of the believer’s sanity.

When a person is saved, for the first time he has a right mind.

The book of Mark mentions a demoniac who had been filled with the devil.

Mark 5:1-20

After Jesus saved him, people found him seated and clothed in his right mind.

* + - * 1. A person without the Lord Jesus Christ has a form of insanity.

They are not with the mind that God made them to have.

The helmet of salvation is the covering for our mind.

* 1. All of these pieces of armor represent Jesus.
     1. When we put on our armor, we just put on Jesus.
     2. Put on each piece with prayer.

1. the christian warrior and his attack (ephesians 6:10-18)
   1. We must join the battle.
      1. It’s not enough to simply put on the armor; we must get into the fight.
      2. Many of us want to dress up in the armor and sit at home.
   2. What will guarantee our victory?
      1. The place of our stance.
         1. Ephesians 6:13-14
            1. We have a place to fight from.
            2. We stand in the victory that Jesus has won.
         2. Ephesians 6:10
            1. When we get into this battle, we stand at the victory that Jesus has already won.
            2. 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
      2. The power of our sword.
         1. Ephesians 6:17
         2. God has given us a sword to fight with.
            1. Take the sword of the Spirit.
            2. Ours is a powerful sword, unlike any other.
            3. Hebrews 4:12

The word “quick” means that it is alive.

The word “powerful” means that it is full of energy.

* + - 1. When Jesus was tempted by the devil, Jesus pulled out His sword.
         1. Jesus used Scripture to defeat Satan.
         2. Matthew 4:4
    1. The provision of the Spirit.
       1. Ephesians 6:18
       2. The prayer in the Spirit is where our supply comes from.
          1. Every warrior needs a supply and a commander-in-chief to guide and direct him.
          2. It is the Spirit who directs our prayers.
          3. It is the Spirit who understands what Satan is up to.

1. the christian warrior and his allies (ephesians 6:18-19)
   1. We must unite forces.
   2. Ephesians 6:18-19
   3. Paul was a warrior, but he knew that he did not fight alone.
      1. He knew that we need to pray for one another because we fight with one another.
         1. We are not a one-man army.
      2. Deuteronomy 32:30
      3. There is a synergy that brings a divine energy when we fight together.
         1. We are in this battle together.
   4. The church is a battle station.
      1. 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.
      2. Many of God’s 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.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. This is a battle.
      1. Choose sides carefully.
         1. If you don’t follow Jesus, then you’re on the losing side.
      2. Examine your heart and make sure that you have on all of the armor of God.
      3. Don’t try to be neutral.
         1. This is a fight to the finish.
         2. Matthew 12:30
      4. Rejoice in the victory, and live victoriously every day.
   2. Are you walking in victory today?
   3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   4. 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.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16