

GRACE BIBLE MISSION

Hdqts. Oke-Onitii, P.O. Box, 362

Osogbo

Time: 5.00pm
Every Monday

24/05/2020

STUDIES ON AMOUR OF GOD

STUDY ONE - PUT ON THE COMPLETE ARMOUR

Ephesians 6:10-11

“Put on the whole armour of God...” Verse 11a

The admonition of Apostle Paul as he was concluding his letter to the Ephesian Christians is very important to living a daily victorious Christian life. We are constantly engaged in spiritual combat and warfare with the enemy of the cross. There is no neutral ground on this battlefield – Matthew 12:30 (the Message). This is the reason Apostle Paul did not just admonish Christians to put on the armour of God but they were charged to put on **“COMPLETE ARMOUR.”** Meaning that this entire armour is vital to victory in the battle front.

1. How many groups did Apostle Paul grouped the armour into?

The armour is grouped into two: **Fixed and Moveable**. The first group is fixed to the body; the second group is moveable. The **Fixed** pieces - the Belt, Breastplate and Shoes. The **Moveable** pieces - the Shield, Helmet and Sword.

2. Why is the armour Apostle Paul mentioned necessary in close combat fighting with the enemy?

We cannot keep our distance in spiritual warfare. We cannot rely on the skill of others. We must be ready to wrestle against the enemy ourselves. An army fights together, but a soldier who cannot use the armour will soon be defeated in the battle.

3. Why do we need to put on the complete armour? Rom 13:12, Ephesians 6:11.

- Personal fight - needs all the armour for close combat. It is necessary to put on the whole armour of God. A weak area gives opportunity for the enemy. We fight as an army but the kind of armour we must have is for close combat fighting.
- We must wear the right armour in order to stand against the attacks of the enemy. If we do not wear the right armour, then we can be very sincere in our beliefs but we will still be defeated. *What does it mean to wear right armour? What will then happen if the right armour is not worn?*
- People who are in ministry must be careful to put on Christ. If a person does not keep the armour on then the devil has an opportunity to destroy the person's life and ministry. 'No-armour' leads to tragic consequences.

4. Unbelievers and those who are church goers have never put the armour on. Why?

- They have no armour because they have never received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Paul told the Philippian jailor that he must 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ', Acts 16:31. On the road to Damascus Paul's first question after meeting with Jesus was 'Lord what would you have me to do?' Acts 9:6.
- They have no armour because they have never known conversion and repentance. Conversion means 'to turn around'. We cannot put on the armour if we still love the world. There must be repentance. What does repentance mean? Repentance does not mean being sorry; it means having a complete change of thinking. It is a new mind. A person who is born again thinks differently from an unsaved person.

- They have no armour because they are more concerned with the affairs of life than following Christ. It isn't always bad things that separate us from Christ. In Luke 17:26-33, Jesus didn't mention immorality. What is wrong with 'eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting and building'? Nothing, but it is living for these things that is wrong. This is idolatry. Christ must be everything. Love not the world.

5. Do you think the armour of God always requires watchfulness? If yes, then how?

Being prepared for the warfare means keeping the armour on always. There is danger in not being properly prepared. The enemy will strike when we least expect. The time we are at ease is the time of greatest danger – Amos 6:1. David was led into sin one evening when he arose from bed and walked on the roof of his palace – 2 Samuel 11:2. He was not prepared - the sin happened quickly. The consequences were disastrous. Great danger can also come through the words of other believers – Matthew 16:22-23.

6. Does the armour of God require discipleship? Every believer needs to be skilful in using the armour.

- Every believer is called to discipleship. A disciple is a learner. We are learning to be like Jesus. It takes skill to stand against the devil. Look at Jesus when he was tempted. He skilfully handled the scriptures to defeat the devil – Matthew 4:1-11. When the religious leaders came against Jesus to deny the resurrection, He skilfully used the word of God to defeat them – Matthew 22:29-33.
- The devil works with craftiness. It takes skill to defeat him. Those who do not have the armour become an easy prey for the devil. We are to be sober and vigilant in resisting the devil – 1 Peter 5:8-9.
- Every believer has the power to overcome temptation. God's word says that He will not allow the believer to be tempted beyond that which he or she is able to resist – 1 Corinthians 10:13. We have the armour of God to make us victorious in all things.

7. The armour of God must be put on with courage – Revelation 12:11.

- The battlefield is not a place for those who are weak in heart. People march for peace because they do not want to see their young people being killed. They have no heart for the fight and consider the war not worth the loss of life. It can be the same in the church. When a Christian is active, he or she will become a target. Those who have no heart for the fight will turn away from facing difficulties and trials.
- When we serve the Lord, we will encounter the enemy. Those who do not preach the Gospel will not face the same conflict. If we do not have a heart for the fight, then we will preach a watered-down gospel - 2 Timothy 4:2.
- When we have a heart for Christian warfare then we can rejoice in trials and persecution. Things may appear to go wrong when we make our stand for Christ. The boldness of Stephen before the Jewish council, the Sanhedrin, caused problems for the whole Church (Acts 7). The church was scattered, Acts 8. But we do not read of anyone complaining. Instead they went everywhere talking about Jesus.
- When we are filled with the Holy Spirit then we will be filled with boldness (Acts 4:31), great joy (Acts 13:52) and with courage (Acts 4:8). The filling of the Spirit is associated with being filled with the word of God, and rejoicing in the Lord, (Ephesians 5:18-20).