

## **Spiritual Warfare Ephesians 6:10-24**

This passage is very descriptive of a Roman soldier's uniform. This is the most vivid example in the New Testament, and this passage parallels factions of Isaiah. In verses 10-13 Paul commands disciples to put on their armor, so they can take their stand against the devil, and his schemes. A disciple's battle is not against people, but against the spiritual realm. Paul is suggesting that Christians not be weaklings in facing Satan's followers. In verse 14-15 Paul describes a Roman soldier whom is at war. Soldiers stand their ground, and are ready to face the enemy. In verse 14 Paul suggests that Christians conduct themselves in perfect truth and righteousness. Paul does not use verbs to make a point that Christians need to live lives righteously and full of truth. I believe that being truthful and full of righteousness should be more of a noun than a verb. A verb is something that someone sets out to do, but a noun would describe something someone already does. I really like verses 16 and 17. I believe that in these verses Paul is encouraging disciples to battle evil forces with the word of God, and to protect themselves with their faith. I believe a good example of evil satanic forces are the wolves who come into the church dressed as sheep (Mat 7:15, Acts 20:29). These wolves come from within the church, distort the church, and draw millions to their destruction. I believe the Latter Day Saints and the Jehovah's witnesses are two vivid examples of a bunch of wolves. Paul is suggesting that true believers defend themselves with the word against the servants of Satan. Foulkes says "The Lord's use of the word of scripture

in his temptations (Mt. 4:1-10) is sufficient illustration and incentive for Christians to fortify themselves with the knowledge and understanding of the *word* that they may with similar conviction and power defend themselves by it in the onslaughts of the enemy (Foulkes 1989, 184). In verse 18, Paul is commanding that we pray. I believe the context he was referring to in this passage, is with spiritual warfare. In verse 20, Paul wishes to declare the gospel fearlessly. This is often something many Christians wish they could do. Only by the Holy Spirit can someone declare the gospel without fear. It's difficult for a westerner to understand this, since Christians are not physically persecuted in western countries. However, Christians in other lands can very much relate to Paul's prayers. In verses 21-24 Paul is sending his greetings and farewells, which was common of him to add at the end of his letters, as was the custom with the Greco-Roman letter format. Paul's closing lacks personal references, which was not usual for any of his letters. However, as I understand, the letter to the Ephesians was a circular letter, meaning it was sent to various other churches. It may not be a shock why Paul's letter lacked individual references to other believers.

## Study Questions

1. In verse 12 Paul says that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world. If this were true, how can we fight spiritually against the wolves in sheep's clothing/servants of Satan who come to destroy the church, surely they consist of flesh and blood? What do you say?
2. In verses 14, Paul says that we need to possess truth. Does this mean that we can be truthful about the identifies to the wolves in sheep's clothing/servants of Satan whom are in the contemporary church? Remember that Jesus was truthful about the Pharisees and teachers of the law, and was consequently killed.
3. Paul encourages us to pray for all kinds of requests in verse 18. Do you think that this means we are to be spoiled, and pray for everything, we want?
4. In verses 19-20, Paul using singular language insists that he carries out the gospel fearlessly. Do you think that Paul was instructing others to do the same?