

Sunday, July 28, 2013—The Battlefield of the Mind—The Sword of the Spirit

### **Introduction/Review**

- II Corinthians 10:4—the weapons of our warfare are not carnal because we do not war after the flesh (verse 3). We cannot fight a spirit enemy with fleshly weapons. Seeking to understand this has led us into our detailed study of the armor of God from the past 5 weeks.
- Over the past 5 weeks we have studied the first 5 pieces of the armor of God. So far we have seen that each piece is related to the person and work of Christ on our behalf.
  - Christ is the truth (belt of truth)—John 14:6
  - Christ is our righteousness (breastplate of righteousness)—I Corinthians 1:30
  - Christ is our peace (sandals of peace)—Ephesians 2:14
  - Christ's faithfulness i.e., the faith of Christ (shield of faith)—Romans 3:22, Galatians 2:16, 20
  - Christ is our hope (helmet of salvation)—I Timothy 1:1
- Remember the protection provided by the first four pieces.
  - *Belt of Truth*—midsection or core (the loins of your mind)
  - *Breastplate of Righteousness*—the vital organs i.e., your heart and lungs
  - *Sandals of Peace*—footwear to anchor, ground, and provide proper footing
  - *Shield of Faith*—protects the whole body and quenches the fiery darts of the wicked
  - *Helmet of Salvation*—protects the head/brain the command center of the body
- This morning we want to consider the 6<sup>th</sup> piece of the believer's armor the Sword of the Spirit. In terms of identification the sword of the Spirit is easy because it is the only piece of the armor that is explicitly defined in the passage. The sword of the Spirit is the word of God.

### **The Sword of the Spirit**

- The sword of the 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman soldier was about 24 inches in length and possessed two edges. Would be soldiers were trained and skillful swordsmen from a very young age. While the sword is the only offensive weapon discussed here in Ephesians 6 it is important to realize the swordsmanship included both offensive and defensive styles of fighting. Meaning that skilled swordsmen are tried to alter their fighting styles, techniques, and strategies given the terrain, conditions, opponent and so forth.
- Ephesians 6:11, 13—as a piece of the armor of God it is important to remember that the sword of the Spirit is primarily designed to do help us stand and withstand against the enemy in the evil day.

- Ephesians 6:17—who’s sword is it that we wield in our hands? It’s not “our sword” it is the “sword of the Spirit.” In what sense is the word of God the sword of the Spirit? The Holy Spirit was the active agent in the inspiration of the Bible.
  - II Peter 1:21—all the Old Testament prophets spake and wrote the word that the God the Holy Spirit gave them to write down.
  - II Timothy 3:16—the Holy Spirit was active member of Godhead through which God inspired and breathed his word.
- The Bible is unlike any other book ever conceived because it God’s book. The Bible claims for itself to have a divine origin. The Bible claims to have been forever settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89). When we come to the Bible, we are not coming to dead words on a page but a living breathing book. A book that is alive and living. A book that possess within its pages the life changing power of God.
- Hebrews 4:12—“the word of is quick and powerful”
  - Quick—the underlying Greek word means alive and living. It occurs 148 time in 127 verses in the KJB: live 117, be alive 9, alive 6, quick 4, lively 3. According to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*, the primary meaning of the English word “quick” means alive; living; opposed to dead or unanimated.
  - Powerful—carries the idea of something being active or effectual. *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary* uses Hebrews 4:12 as means to illustrate the meaning of the English word powerful: Efficacious; possessing or exerting great force or producing great effects; as a powerful medicine. In a general, able to produce great effects; exerting great force or energy.
    - I Corinthians 16:9
    - Philemon 6
- The word of God is a living breathing book because it bears the marks and attributes of its author, almighty God. The sword of the Roman soldier was dependent upon the soldier for its life.
- The word of God is sharper than the two-edged sword of the 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman soldier. As a living book the word of God is capable of piercing and dividing between your soul, spirit, and body.
  - I Thessalonians 5:23
- Hebrews 4:12—the word of God is two-edged in the sense that when you read it, it reads you. The word of God is capable of laying bear the inner most thoughts and intents of our hearts.

- Jeremiah 17:9—the word of God pierces and penetrates all the way down and lays bare the real you.
- II Peter 3:15-16—as with any weapon the word of God needs to be respected and handled properly. If used improperly it possesses the capacity to damage or harm to one seeking to wield it.
- II Timothy 2:15—the word of truth needs to be rightly divided. Right division of the word is like swordsmanship safety class for the soldier. Dispensational Bible study teaches us how to approach and appropriate God’s word in God’s way.
- Hebrews 4:13—who or what is “in his sight” referring to in the context of the passage? It is referring back to “word of God” in verse 12. God attributes human attributes to his word. The word of God is compared to a person it has eyes and can see, according to these verses.
- God’s design in inspiration is to make the living and written word equal.
- John 1:1-3, 14—Jesus Christ is the living word.
- Revelation 19:11-13,15—who is this passage describing? Jesus Christ the living word, his name is called the word of God. That is why the author of Hebrews attributes human characteristics to the word God. When you face one you are facing the other.