

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 Sept 2019 Ephesians 1:1-14..... Rejoice
- 2) 08 Sept Ephesians 1:15-23..... Remembered
- 3) 15 Sept Ephesians 2:1-10..... Resurrected
- 4) 22 Sept Ephesians 2:11-22..... Reconciled
- 5) 29 Sept Ephesians 3:1-13..... Revealed
- 6) 06 Oct Ephesians 3:14-21..... Residence
- 7) 13 Oct Ephesians 4:1-10..... Walking Together
- 8) 20 Oct Ephesians 4:11-16..... Walking Forward
- 9) 27 Oct Ephesians 4:17-32..... Walking Differently
- 10) 03 Nov Ephesians 5:1-14..... Walking in Love
- 11) 10 Nov Ephesians 5:15-21..... Walking Wisely
- 12) 17 Nov Ephesians 5:22-6:4..... Walking as Family
- 13) 24 Nov Ephesians 6:1-20..... **Walking to Battle**

INTRODUCTION – We will be looking at Respect, Armor, & Praying RESPECT. We must show respect of children, of parents, of neighbors, of employers, of workers – and even strangers. What is Respect?

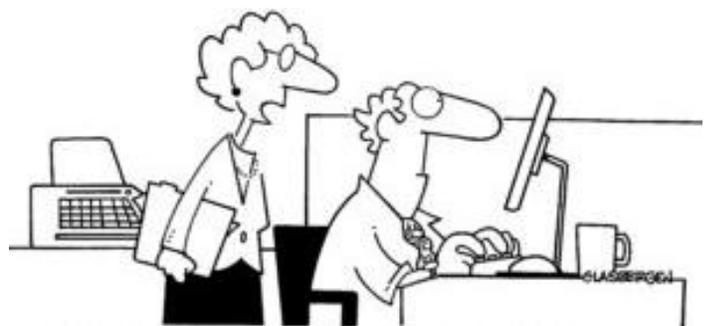
- ♦ Accepting, caring, non-discriminatory behavior
- ♦ Give honor or esteem ('think more highly of others')
- But what if they are ornery, obstinate, smelly, rude, crude, and socially unacceptable or just downright wicked?
- Can we / should we still give respect to difficult people?
 - ♦ Foolish and wicked behavior are the exceptions
 1. We are to avoid those who are divisive [Rom 16:17](#)
 2. We should not feed those who are lazy [2Thes 3:10](#)
 3. We are to contend with the wicked [Pr 28:4](#)
 4. BUT we are to avoid fellowshiping with the wicked [Ps 26:5](#)
 5. AND cut off fellowship with a wicked Christian [1Cor 5:1-5](#)
 6. Even God does not show mercy to Orphans & Widows who are wicked [Isaiah 9:17](#)
 - ♦ Was Jesus disrespectful to His mom & dad when He chose to stay behind in Jerusalem at age 12? [Luke 2:42-52](#)
 - NO, simply because Scripture says no sin was found in Him ([1Peter 2:22](#)). **Did Jesus scare his parents half-to-death? YES!** Luke doesn't give us all the details, but Jesus went down with his parents and was subject to them (as he had always been).
 - ♦ Was Jesus disrespectful to the Greek woman looking for a healing by giving her the silent treatment? [Mat 15:22-28](#)
 - NO. The Lord's silent treatment was His way to prompt her to show her true faith by acknowledging Him as Master/Lord.
 - ♦ Was Jesus disrespectful to the Scribes and Sadducees, Priests and Pharisees for calling them vipers & hypocrites ([Mat 3:7](#)), evil and adulterous ([Mat 12:39](#)), and fools and blind men ([Mat 23:17](#))?
 - NO. Jesus bluntly spoke the truth; and as a result of His love for them, many priests eventually got saved..... [Acts 6:7](#)

ARMOR. Is God's armor only for a few or for all? How do we put it on and for how long? Does it really work? Yes | No | Maybe

PRAYING. God wants to answer our prayers, but only if they are aligned to His will. Can we do this? Yes | No | Maybe

Passage	Comments
Eph 6:1-3	<p>Children – Obey & Honor Mom & Dad</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First commandment with a promise? Which one? • The very first command explicitly given to Man with a promise attached to it was "Don't eat from the Tree of Life – or you will die" Gen 2:16-17 - Did God's kids obey their Heavenly Father? • Should children obey in everything? • Can kids be honorable but not obedient?.....How? • Can kids be obedient but not honorable?.....How? • Consider the man who had 2 sons, one said "NO" but went into the field and the other said "YES", but did not go to the field – which son was obedient and honorable in the end? Mat 21:28-31

Passage	Comments
6:4	<p>Fathers – Consider your child's wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When fathers go too far in their teasing or disciplining or indifference they can frustrate & anger their kids so bad they warp them • Instead we need to train them to love God and to cherish God's word and His ways • ...we don't just tell them, we show them by example – we live the godly life in word, deed, and thought
6:5-8	<p>Servants/Employees – Work Hard & Honestly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slavery is prevalent throughout man's history • Neither Jesus, nor Paul, or other Apostles ever formed a political action committee to change bad laws or bad practices of a government • Christianity seems to work best when we pursue those at the bottom rungs of society – i.e., the poor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Exception to the rule: Nineveh got right with God when the King got involved Jonah 3:5-9 • For a modern application – slaves are employees • We should "fearfully tremble" at our employers – in other words give them due respect and honor • We may not like their treatment of us at times, but God wants us to be honest hard workers • No selfishness or only working hard when being watched, but diligent even when not watched • v8 – Motivating verse – We will be rewarded for doing good to our masters even when ill treated • Does this passage do away with labor unions?
6:9	<p>Masters – Consider Welfare of Your Workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul can only appeal to Christian masters or employers – to be considerate of subordinates • The master's motivation is godly punishment if they opt to mistreat/threaten their subordinates
Eph 6:10	<p>Be Strong in the Lord</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nice words, but HOW? • Wouldn't it be better to be strong with money? • God wants us strong not in our strengths, but in His almighty Strength – but HOW? • Such godly strength only comes through "abiding in Him" through diligent praying & obedience • For most of us obeying the law is relatively easy • It's the constant, diligent praying part that's tough • Like lifting weights, obedience makes us stronger in our faith, but where's the strategy • Praying is the strategy part to answer why we need to be stronger, and for what purpose(s)



"I've seen the error of my ways and I've decided to start being more respectful to my coworkers. Hey, bozo, I'm talking to you!"

Passage	Comments
6:11-13	<p>God's Armor is Defensive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v11. "Scheme" (grk, methodeia, i.e., method or craft) Paul tells us that Satan's schemes are well known (2Cor 2:11). Are Satan's schemes overt or covert? What are some of the schemes of the Devil? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Gossip? <input type="checkbox"/> Slander? <input type="checkbox"/> Flattery? <input type="checkbox"/> Deception? <input type="checkbox"/> Coarse Jesting? <input type="checkbox"/> Bigotry? <input type="checkbox"/> Prejudice? Others? God doesn't need us to fight His battles, but He wants us to take a firm stand against wickedness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...and we do not win on our efforts, but on God's We just need to show up for battle if we want to play a part in winning the lost and disciplining converts Paul tells us to put on the "full armor of God" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What happens if we are missing a piece of armor? v12. Now here's the Big Picture → Life is not about what we can see, but what we cannot see <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This invisible onslaught on us, on our society, on the whole world should drive us to our knees So, how do we not only withstand attacks from the forces of darkness, but also go on the offensive? v13. Resist or Stand Firm. Without God's armor we are easily defeated, we are "blown about"..... Eph 4:14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> James 4:7 puts it this way: "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." Paul says to first put on God's armor and James says to first submit to God. In essence, it's the same And what does Satan do when he sees us submitting to God in humbled obedience? He flees.
6:14-17	<p>ARMOR → Truth, Righteousness, Gospel of Peace, Faith, Our Salvation, and God's Word</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need to wear the armor 24x7 What happens if we remove some armor? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truth – Tell a lie and your reputation is ruined Righteousness – Fail once & lose your reputation Gospel of Peace – If we have a gospel of legalism or indifference who's going to listen to us? Faith – If we go our own way without God, it's like fighting a fire in your underwear - you won't last long Salvation – If we fight without being a citizen, there is little motivation to hang tough Sword of the Spirit – God's Word is key to victory. Without it we have no Truth, no Faith, no Gospel, in effect, no armor & no offensive weaponHeb 4:12
6:18-20	<p>Here is the Praying Part</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v18. Praying in the Spirit does not mean praying in tongues or with 'vain repetitions' It means praying in God's will so you will have assurance in receiving a positive answer ... 1Jo 5:14-15 Knowing God's will was covered in a previous lesson, and it begins and ends with obedience To "pray at all times in the Spirit" does not mean to be on your knees 24x7, but to have a right relationship with God 24x7, and when you do pray (which should be with eagerness) it will be in line with God's will To "be on the alert" means we are diligent with our praying (thoughtful, watchful, persistent)..... Rom 12:12 vv19-20. Even Paul needed to be prayed for. We are not in this game alone. God chooses to use our prayers to accomplish His Kingdom work. He doesn't need us but wants us.

Passage	Comments
6:21-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tychicus was another faithful servant to Paul like Timothy and Titus.....Act 20:4; Col 4:7; 2Tim 4:12 Do churches need more Pastors and Deacons or do we need more people like Timothy, Titus, Tychicus, Aquilla and Priscilla, and Dorcas?

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Paul explains the big picture that we are in a spiritual warfare – and we must put on spiritual armor to both resist and fight successfully
- Whether one is a family or friend, young or old, male or female, a superior or subordinate, we should respect them
 - be accepting of them, honor them, show concern for them
 - but wicked behavior justifies other courses of action
- If an ornery person is in a position of authority (government official, parent, teacher, police, preacher, elder, deacon, boss) we do as they say do but not as they do do Mat 23:1-3
- If more of us were to put on God's armor and keep it on, WOW, what a victorious life we would live
- Can you imagine having a prayer life so aligned with God's will you look forward to praying every day, morning, noon, & night Ps 55:17
- There is no greater motivation to pray than to see our prayers answered. If they are not getting answered, then we need to ask some tough questions to align ourselves better with God's will

SUPPORTING PASSAGES:

- Ps 55:17 Evening & morning & at noon I will pray & cry aloud.
- Rom 12:12 ...continuing steadfastly in prayer.
- 2Cor 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us (or outwit us, NIV): for we are not ignorant of his devices.
- 1John 5:14 This is the confidence we have in God, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us, and if He hears us, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.
- Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

NEXT WEEK: Numbers 1-9. True to its name, the book of Numbers tallies the number of Jews and their possessions which came out of Egypt. God uses quantifiable numbers to give credence and validity to His word.

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



'FEARLESS' even when the heat is on. Eph 6:11