

BLUEPRINT

LIFE NOTES

Ephesians 6:10-20

February 11, 2018

QUESTIONS

1. Paul draws the book of Ephesians to a close by challenging his audience to faithfully stand firm and to pray. 'Finally' here means "from now on" or "bringing the matter to a conclusion" (p. 602 BAGD). He encourages them to be strong in the Lord and to put on the "armor of God." Why do we need this armor?

2. Paul is not the only one who talks about a cosmic struggle between God and malevolent spirits (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7; Dan. 10:12-11:1). We know that God is sovereign, that Jesus has won the victory on the cross and evil will be vanquished in the end. We are also aware that we have an adversary who "prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). The Bible says to "resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). According to our passage, how do we do that?

3. The "sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (v 17) is an important and only offensive piece of equipment Paul talks about. The word used here for "word" (rhema) means, "that which is said, word, saying, expression or statement of any kind" (p. 905 BAGD). Take the time and look up these other scriptures to find out what this word means, so you know how to use this "weapon" (2 Cor. 10:4). Rom. 10:8, 17; 1 Pet. 1:24-25; Matt. 4:1-11 especially verse 4.

4. Prayer is also a part of Paul's teaching on what is called "Armor of God". What does it mean to "pray in the Spirit"? Whom does he ask prayers for and what does he ask prayer for in his own ministry? What is your prayer in reflection of our study in the book of Ephesians? Please take the time and share these requests and pray for each other.