



LIFEGROUPS

**Series: *Unseen: Victory
Against Evil's Attacks***

Scripture: *Ephesians 6:10-13*

Date: October 13 & 14, 2018

**Message: *Weakness is Our
Strength***

—[LET'S START]—

Throughout most of our lives, we have an opportunity to wear a series of uniforms. Perhaps you attended a school where a uniform was part of the dress code. Perhaps you participated on an athletic team where you wore a uniform. Maybe it's a uniform that you wore in military service. Maybe you wear a uniform on your job. Maybe you are sports fan and you wear the uniform of your favorite team. Think back over the course of your life, and the uniforms that you have worn. What is your all-time favorite uniform and why?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. This weekend, Pastor Dale preached from Ephesians 6:10-13. Take some time as a group to read Ephesians 6:10-24. What does this passage teach us first and foremost about God?
2. The Apostle Paul chose to put this passage at the end of his letter to the church at Ephesus. Some biblical commentators divide the book of Ephesians into three sections. Chapters 1-3 are essentially a believer's workbook on the doctrines of faith. Chapters 4-6:9 deal with the believer's walk with God. Then, Ephesians 6:10-24 deals with the believer's warfare. Why is it so important to Paul that the church understands the war zone that they are living in?
3. What are some of the "schemes of the devil" that the Apostle Paul alludes to in verse 11?
4. How does Paul's language in verse 12 make you feel? How have you seen the battle that Paul speaks about in your day-to-day life?
5. In verses 13-20, Paul describes the armor of God. What does verse 13 teach us about this armor?
6. What do verses 14-20 teach us about the armor of God? Take time as a group to examine each piece of this armor and the significance of that piece of armor? How do you believe that followers of Jesus put this armor on in 2018? How important is it that we understand and apply these verses? What is the harm of not putting on spiritual armor?

—[LET'S ACT]—

Every Christian is involved in an invisible war. Let's take time to really pray for each other this week. Let's pray that we will be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. As you share your prayer requests this week, be open with one another about some of battles that you are currently facing.

—[FOR FURTHER STUDY]—

From the sermon, *Our Struggle is Not Against Flesh and Blood*, by Ligon Duncan at First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Mississippi - <https://bit.ly/2y9acyb>

First of all, the Apostle Paul says "Be strong." Now, be afraid when the Apostle Paul tells you to be strong, because he's telling you to be strong for a reason. What's coming is scary, and so when he stops and tells you to be strong, think 'Uh-oh. Something's coming just like when Moses told us to be strong. Some great challenge is coming.' And so what is that challenge? Look in verse 11.

Then Paul tells you to put your armor on. Something's coming. And then in verse 12, he tells you what? You are in a struggle. You are at war. The Apostle Paul elsewhere will speak about fighting the good fight, and this is not distinctive to the Apostle Paul. Paul is simply echoing the words of Jesus Christ, who in Matthew 10:34 said to His disciples, "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword." This is precisely what the Lord Jesus Christ is speaking of. We, as Christian disciples, until His coming are situated in a war zone. We are at war. And the failure to realize that has a crippling impact upon Christian discipleship . . . the Apostle Paul says that you need to understand that your ultimate enemy is not flesh and blood, that the warfare that you are going to carry out is not the warfare of taking up arms against your neighbor. No, it's a very different kind of warfare.

My friends, we need to recognize that we're in a war zone. You know, if I were to uproot you from your homes and drop you down into certain parts of Jackson, you would know you're in a war zone. But the sad thing is, sometimes in the comfort of our own homes and relationships and jobs and habits, and patterns and lifestyles, we have no idea that we're in a war.

What if I were to take a group of well-trained soldiers without armament, without weaponry, and to drop them down into a hot war zone and never tell them that a war was going on there? I would drop many of them to death, no doubt. That is the same thing when Christians drop our young people, or walk ourselves, into this war zone that we're living in without recognition that there is a war going on. The Apostle Paul wants us to understand that our Christian discipleship is lived out not distant from the battle lines, but right on the front lines of a hot war. You are in a war zone, and that reality ought to change everything.

—[NOTES]—
