



Intro to Ephesians 6:10-17

Sunday, July 22, 2018

Pastor Don Denyes

The longer we live the Christian life, the easier it is to see how terrible life is without any knowledge of God. I was talking with a friend this week in the church who recently visited with some friends from high school days who do not know God. He described how they lamented so many aspects of their lives from their marriages, their work, and various other sources of frustration. It occurred to him that people who live life on their own terms often find themselves lacking purpose, love, joy, peace, and hope.

This is certainly true of all of us. Without God revealing Himself to us in the Bible, we all lack purpose, love, joy, peace, and hope. But worse than that, without God revealing Himself to us in the Bible, we are condemned because of our sin and because we would not know the Lord who saves—Jesus Christ. So, out of gratitude for all that we have received in Scripture, one would think that disciplining ourselves to take in the Bible would be easier than it is for most of us. Thankfully, He has given us one another to spur each other on to love Him more and grow in our knowledge of Him as we encounter Him in His word!

Context

The “sword of the Spirit,” as Pastor Don noted, has to do with the fact that the Bible is not the invention of people, but a gift from the Holy Spirit. Unlike other books—even other religious texts—the Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit. So, because it is God-given, we give it supreme authority in our lives. Whatever it teaches, we believe. Whatever it commands, we obey. Whatever it warns us, we heed. Whatever it promises, we trust. In whatever it corrects us, we repent. The significance is obvious at a cognitive level, but as Christians, we must acknowledge that the Bible—as God’s word—is unique and worthy of our disciplined devotion.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Armor – Sword of the Spirit”

Read Ephesians 6:10-17

Sword of the Spirit

- It is a defensive weapon
- It is an offensive weapon

Benefits

- Pricks our conscience (Heb. 4.12)
- Produces life (James 1.18)
- Prevents sin (Ps. 119.9-11)
- Protects from error (Ps. 37.31)
- Purges from sin (Eph. 5.26)
- Provides direction (Ps. 119.105)
- Promotes growth (1 Pet. 2.2)
- Prevails over enemies (1 John 2.14)

Hand Illustration

- Four fingers
 - o Hear (Rom. 10.17)
 - o Read (Rev. 1.3)
 - o Study (Acts 17.11)
 - o Memorize (Ps. 119.9-11)
- Thumb
 - o Meditate (Ps. 1.2-3)

How to use the Sword

- Read it through
- Pray it in
- Write it down
- Work it out
- Pass it on

Discuss

- 1) What are your habits for taking in the Bible? (Hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, meditating—or even singing or discussing)
- 2) What is one insight you have gained recently (about God, about yourself, about the world, etc.) from your time in God’s word?
- 3) The Bible cuts us in order to heal us. It challenges our natural ways of thinking and living. It rebukes us. It instructs us in a more excellent way that requires change. How have you been confronted in this way and changed by God’s word recently?
- 4) The Bible is also a weapon that enables us to resist temptation. What is an example from your life where you used Scripture to stand firm in the face of temptation?
- 5) How are you currently “passing it on?” How are you sharing what you’re learning in the Bible with someone else (non-Christian or Christian)?