

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Psalm 15

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? (v1)

Ephesians 6:10-22

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our strength, without you we are weak & wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, & cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Ephesians 6:10-22

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord & in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood & flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, & having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, & fasten the belt of truth around your waist, & put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, & the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer & supplication. To that end keep alert & always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What do these Old Testament references add to the Armor of God? *See Psalms 28:7, 115:9-11; Isaiah 11:15, 49:2, 52:7, 59:17; Nahum 1:15, also Psalm 44:1-8*
2. What does Jesus show & tell us about his Kingdom that gives us pause before “running off half-cocked”? *See vv11-12; Mark 6:30-44; John 18:33-38, 19:9-11*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. St. Paul doesn't seem to have in mind a contemporary horror movie or something like gremlins running around in the shadows. *Read 1:1-5, 20-23, 2:1-7, 3:7-13; (also Colossians 1:11-14, 2:8-15, 20-23; cf. Luke 12:4-5) & your Bible's study notes. How does this reality beyond everyday life remind more is at stake, spiritually speaking, than your ability to choose your spirituality?*
4. Martin Luther comments on the devil's targeting of us in the Large Catechism. How do the sacraments help us stay strong with the Armor of God? *See LC Holy Baptism 83-86; Holy Communion 66-68, 71-74, 80-82 available bookofconcord.org*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. In v18 St. Paul tells us how to utilize the Armor of God: through prayer! How is this different from the tactics available to citizens of the world? What impressions does this make on neighbors in the world seeking “change”? *See Psalm 33; Acts 26:22-29*; 2 Corinthians 6:6-8a, 10:3-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28; 1 Timothy 2:1-8 LC Lord's Prayer 30-32 (*the story begins back at 21:27)*
6. In Mark 7, Jesus warns everyone, not only Christians, against following our hearts. How does the Armor of God help us in this manner? How does the Christian example of moving from heart to mind enrich the world? *See Romans 12:1-2, 9-21; 1 Peter 2:11-24, 3:8-17*

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15th Sunday after Pentecost

09.01.24

Series: CHRIST for EveryBODY

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

We glorify God with our bodies as he instructs us

Protecting the Body

The armor is from God to guard us against evil

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: To that end keep alert & always persevere in supplication for all the saints. (*v18b*)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

God gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would become a kind of first fruits of creation. (*James 1:18*)

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