

Sunday, November 16, 2025

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: The “Rest” of the Holy Spirit’s Counsel

Series: Spiritual Warfare...7

Text: Ephesians

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation of the Holy Spirit’s counsel regarding the essential nature of putting on the WHOLE armor of God.

Introduction:

~ Review of “Take Off the Old:”

~ 1) Overview of Ephesians 4; ~ 2) Off With the Old; ~ 3) On With the New

~ Ephesians 4:20 – 24, “*But that is not the way you learned Christ!—(21) assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, (22) to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, (23) and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, (24) and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*”

~ Today is the introduction to the putting on the Whole armor of God

~ Consider the Holy Spirit’s use of the Greek word *epouranios* (2032; used 19 times) Ephesians 1:3, 1:20, 2:6, 3:10, 6:12. The usual word translated heaven is *ouranos* (3772; used 284 times).

~ “Sooner or later every believer discovers that the Christian life is a battle-ground, not a playground, and he faces an enemy who is much stronger than he is—apart from the Lord.”

1. ‘Rest’ or ‘Remainder’ not in Conclusion:

~ vs. 10, “*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.*”

~ The word we translate as “finally” is the Greek 3062 (*loipos*) and means remaining, the rest, the rest of the things that remain

~ I had always taken it with the idea of – in conclusion; that is not the idea at all. The Holy Spirit, in my opinion, is saying – the new man must add this in order to face the enemy of our soul. It is not sufficient to put off the old manner of life and deliberately but on the new man, born of God, it is essential to attire the new man with the armor of God. I, the new man, can not stand in my own strength; I need to “be strong in the Lord and the strength of his might.”

~ Ephesians 3:14 – 21

2. Realize Our Limitations:

~ vs. 11, “*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.*”

Slide of the various names of the devil.

~ Purpose is to stand firm. One word in the Greek, 2476 – *histemi*; to cause or make to stand, to place, put, set; to make firm, fix establish

~ 2 Corinthians 12:9 – 10, “*But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (10) For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*”

~ I am still learning this truth (baptism of truth); it is one thing to have a mental understanding of a truth and a very different thing to have it as a spiritual reality in my character!

3. Recognize Our Enemy:

~ vs. 12, “*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*”

~ Flesh and blood are symbols of that which is temporal and weak; we have formidable foes with spiritual powers which we confront with spiritual power of the resurrected Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Compare with 2 Corinthians 10:4 – 6,

“*For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. (5) We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, (being ready to punish every disobedience when your obedience is complete.*”

~ Ephesians 5:6 – 21

Conclusion:

~ Matthew 16:15 – 18, “*He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” (16) Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (17) and Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. (18) And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*”