

WEEKLY SERMON

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Put on the full armour of God

Towards the end of his letter to the Ephesians Paul tells them (6:11) to put on the full armour of God.

Christians promote a Gospel of peace and some may find this Bible reading, on battle fighting and armour, quite alien to those beliefs. But Paul clearly didn't and neither should we.

Paul is warning the Ephesians that although they have accepted the Christian faith it does not mean they're out of danger.

The same applies to us. As Christians we can often find ourselves in conflict with the devil's schemes; be that in secular society or even by other denominations and faith groups.

We live in a time of multi-culturalism where, generally, people tolerate each other's beliefs. I am not implying that we should be watering down our faith but at least in the UK we're not killing each other over those beliefs.

However, there are those who do go out to kill and maim for a perverted ideology and that, I believe, is inspired by Satan. We are well aware significant numbers of our Christian brothers and sisters around the world suffer appallingly for their faith for example.

With secularism we have to deal with another problem: political correctness and the new 'woke' ideology. This manifests itself when we as Christians are afraid to speak out in faith for fear of offending those with a different or no faith; all too often standing by while our faith is ridiculed or being offended and saying nothing.

So we need to be strong when we find ourselves struggling against not only society's leaders but also Satan.

Paul is quite certain of this in verse 12: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

But help is at hand! We have and need to use all the defences that God has to offer us: truth, righteousness, faith and salvation.

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

We also need to go on the offensive using the power given to us through His Spirit. In verse 18 Paul says to be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Prayer is the most powerful weapon we have.

God's armoury is available including instructions for its use. The war is won but Satan has not accepted defeat so don the armour keep praying and fight on.

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