

“Strong in the Lord” – Part 1

Eph 6.10

Introduction:

- A. People are content with weakness in religion, more than in any other field. 1 Jn 4.18; 5:3; 3:21-22
 - 1. Want to be best parent, professional or hobbyist - not best Christian.
 - 2. Want to know as much as needed to succeed in secular pursuits - not as Christian.
 - 3. Want to spend all can afford to become strong in other fields - not as Christian.
- B. We must learn to be strong in face of forces working against our salvation.
 - 1. Takes whole armor to withstand. (v. 11).
 - 2. Takes doing all to stand and then standing. (vv. 13-14)

Discussion:

- I. We Must Learn To Be Strong In The Face Of Personal Weaknesses.
 - A. All have personal weaknesses - even strong Christians. (cf. 1 Cor. 9:27).
 - B. All do not have same weaknesses.
 - 1. Each needs to know his, be honest, avoid tempting it. (cf. Mt. 6:13).
 - 2. Avoid places, people, situations in view of your particular weaknesses.
 - 3. Do not over-estimate your strength to resist. (cf. 1 Cor. 10:12,13).
- II. We Must Learn To Be Strong In The Face Of Common Temptations.
 - A. Realize that you are not alone in such temptations. (1 Cor. 10:13).
 - B. Turn to God for deliverance - don't try to go it alone.
 - 1. Search Scriptures. (2 Tim. 3:16).
 - a. Jesus said “It is written...” (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10)
 - b. Hide them in your heart (Psalm 119:11)
 - 2. Pray for help. (Phil. 4:5-7; Heb. 4:15, 16).
- III. We Must Learn To Be Strong In The Face Of Religious Deception.
 - A. Love truth above all else. (2 Thess. 2:9-12).
 - B. Look for substance rather than style. (Rom. 16:17,18; Acts 17:11).
 - C. Let reason rule emotion, rather than vice versa. (Paul "reasoned" 7x in Acts; Acts 17:2; 18:4; 18:9; 24:25).
- IV. We Must Learn To Be Strong In The Face Of Active Opposition.
 - A. Expect it without inviting it. (Matt. 10:16-24).
 - B. Accept it and rejoice in it. (Matt. 5:11,12).
 - C. Understand it comes even from brethren. (3 John 9).

Conclusion:

- A. It takes preparation (“having done all”) and determination (“stand therefore..”) to withstand such.
- B. It takes a strong faith to forego present advantages for future eternal reward.