“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.
         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).

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.