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God's Most Glorified in Us When We're Most Joyful & Satisfied in Him. So His Passion for His Own Glory is the Measure of His Commitment to Our Joy in the Lord Jesus Christ.

So which part of the armor do you need to seek God for greater strength this week? Which part of the armor are you strong in and want to thank Him for? When you look at your close friends, which part of their armor can you affirm them on and praise them on and encourage them in? Let's do these things in earnest this week; let's finish Ephesians strong with a surge of effort:

1. The belt of truth?
2. The breastplate of righteousness?
3. The shoes of readiness given by the gospel of peace?
4. The shield of faith?
5. The helmet of salvation?
6. The sword of the Spirit?
7. Praying at all times in the Spirit....

We give all glory to God and in His joy, celebrate each other in Christ's grace for the completion of these 12 weeks of growing together in the Holy Spirit *via Ephesians*. Surely, in the Cross of Christ, we do boast. *In Him, Geoff*

#### 4. Take Heart from God's Word re: the Enlargement of Your Perseverance 3 Ways

*Ephesians 6:18, 21-22*  
"...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication...making supplication for all the saints....So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts." We persevere because God preserves us, & so He shall. But our high ex-

perience of this perseverance will have it's qualitative increase in at least 3 ways: 1] by our prayer & others'; 2] by open communication; & 3] by ongoing conscientious encouragement. In this way, our armor becomes & feels thicker, while our standing gets steadier & firmer.



Encourage each other  
To stand firm in Jesus Christ.



TODAY'S SERMON HELPS  
Bellefield Presbyterian Church

12/06/09  
Worship

### Fall Focus on Ephesians—Part 11: All Dressed Up for Christmas

*Ephesians 6:10-24*

An undergirding theme in this passage is we persevere because God preserves us. How so? Well, it says Christ is our strength in life's battles: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might" (6:10).



"All dressed up" for Christmas.

And because He is our strength, 6:18 tells us to hang in there: "...keep alert with all perseverance...." Here's the truth: Christ's grace captured us at the start, and His grace will bring us home: "Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible" (6:24). We're all dressed up by Him .

### Dressed for Success

Culture may try to persuade you that clothes make the man. But Scripture tells you, Christ's clothes make the Christian. The world's best suits wear out; its finest shoes need re-souled. But Christ's clothes are indestructible, and we are dressed in them by grace through faith. We are to wear them consciously realizing prayer will reinforce for us the experience of them.

#### Today's Sermon Moves @ a Glance

- We persevere because God preserves us.
  - Just so, we take heart through all of life's battles.
1. Because the armor is not ours but God's. And 1a. Paul had his wrestling matches and 1b. we have ours, too;
  2. God dressed up the Ephesians so they would stand;
  3. God dresses us up so we will stand; and 3a Christ gives us clothes for the soul, not just the body;
  4. So take heart, for our joyful confidence and experience of perseverance deepens 3 ways.



## 1. Take Heart & Persevere While Wrestling, for the Armor Is Not Yours, but God's

*Ephesians 6:10*  
“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against



Having done all, *Stand Firm.*

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. Therefore take up the whole armor of God....” It’s His.

### 1.a. Paul’s Wrestling Matches

*Ephesians 6:12*, “For we do not wrestle

“Something more sinister is going on.”

against flesh and blood.” We read that and

say, “But Paul, you’ve been stoned and beaten and run out of town and shipwrecked. Isn’t that flesh and blood?” Paul answers.

### 1.b. Some of Our Wrestling Matches Today

We all wrestle with *deception*. One such area is television. Studies demonstrate that children who watch a lot of TV actually have smaller brains. A college freshman who watches an average amount of programming has seen over 500,000 commercials. What deceptions are predominately pushed by this media?



Merry Christmas; Happy Advent.



## 2. Take Heart from His Word: For God Dressed Up the Ephesians to Stand

*Ephesians 6:14-18*  
“Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extin-

guish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit....”



Shall we trust that God has dressed us?

## 3. Take Heart from His Word: For God Also Dresses You Up to Stand

In 6:15 we are told our feet have a readiness given by the gospel of peace. This, we

“In spiritual warfare, our sure footing is Christ’s gospel.”

know, is a gospel of grace. Readiness here is used elsewhere as a “stand,” or “base.” Once again, the foundation of all our sure footing is Christ’s gospel.

### 3a. Christ Gives You the Clothes of Your Soul, Not Just Some Clothes for Your Body

*Ephesians 6:17*: “...the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” Although this *sword* would seem to be something external that the hand grasps in life’s battles, in reality it is achingly inter-



His holy breath has entered us inside.

nal, something that the *heart* grasps, the *soul* grasps. For the Word here is the breath of God, the sword of His holy mouth.