



Leader

9/18 - 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Theology Refresher - "Weapons of Righteousness"

In this passage Paul speaks of "weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left" (v.7). In Ephesians chapter 6, God provides two spiritual weapons that are to be held: the sword of the spirit and the shield of faith. Although the *full* Armor of God is not mentioned here, Paul displays that he has exercised these weapons in love in his communication with the Corinthians.

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new?! How is your walk with the Lord? Did you have any opportunities to share the Lord with anyone?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement? How can we pray, encourage, and show love to them?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[Dialogue]

2. Read verses 1-13. In verse 2, Paul says "now is the day of salvation." What do you think he means by this?

Paul points back to Isaiah 49:8 to summarize his own appeal to the Corinthians. He is reminding them that God is already pouring out many of the blessings and firstfruits of the age to come (see 2 Cor 5:5 - God has given the Holy Spirit as a guarantee).

3. In this passage, Paul gives many responses to the circumstances that surrounded him. What can we learn from all these contrasts he provides? (Example: "as dying / we live")

In the face of hardship and calamity in our lives, we can still respond in a way that honors Christ. Our treatment by others should never elicit an emotional response that is contrary to God's instruction for our lives. Christians have minds that are "set on things above" and our approval comes from God, not from man. Like Paul, we can stand in the power of the Holy Spirit against any adversary or circumstance, knowing that while we face great trials, God has "set us apart" in holiness for his purposes.

4. In verses 11-13, Paul shifts his speech directly to the Corinthian reader saying, "our heart is wide open... In return (children), widen your heart also." Who specifically is he speaking to here? What do we know about the church in Corinth?

The church in Corinth contained some individuals that were swept up in the currents of the culture around them. They lacked trust in Paul and even rebelled against his teachings. He is asking these individuals to respond in a way that *he* has responded to them...in genuine love.

5. How does this text challenge you? How does it affect your daily life?

[Dialogue]

6. How would you briefly summarize this passage? How might you share this passage/truth with someone else? A child? A family member?

[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- How are we doing as a group with the Great Commission?
 - Is there anyone that you need to invite to church or this group?
 - Is there anyone who needs to hear what we learned today in God's word?
 - Does anyone need a "refresher" on how to share the gospel?

PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today," ... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Without getting too specific, is there anything you want to repent of before the group?
[apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger]
- Let's confess our shortcomings to the Lord and pray what we have learned in God's word.

Resources:

- ESV Study Bible (Crossway)