10/4/2020 – Encouragement in the Struggle: Smyrna & Us

GROW GROUP HOMEWORK

Welcome to Fall 2020 sermon based Grow Groups! To prepare for your time together, fully answer the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great meeting!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What's the most annoying habit that other people have?

2. What old person things do you do?

3. What was your biggest takeaway from this weekend's message?

INTO THE BIBLE

Pastor Jim talked about following God through persecution and struggle. We are in a spiritual battle and must recognize this and battle accordingly. Let's look at a New Testament passage that shares some of the spiritual means at our disposal.

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NASB95)

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

¹³Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

¹⁴Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

¹⁵and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

¹⁶in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

¹⁷And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

1) 1) Read Ephesians 6:10. Where does our power for battle come from?

2) Read Ephesians 6:11. The schemes talked about in this verse are individual plans Satan has to destroy every believer.A) What does the first part of the verse command us to do? B) Why do you think this is a command and not optional?

3) Read Ephesians 6:12. A) If our battles are not against flesh and blood (people), who are they against? B) Why do you think that is important to recognize?

4) Read Ephesians 6:13. A) What is the first word in this verse, "therefore", there for? B) Why would we want to put on the armor of God according to this verse?

5) Read Ephesians 6:14-17. These verses describe the armor that is ours to wear in battle. A) What are the weapons Paul shares in this passage and what do each of the pieces of armor mean and how do we use them?

6) Read Ephesians 6:18. A) What's the glue that empowers our walk with God mentioned in this verse? B) Why would this be important?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Think about times you have and have not fought battles in the Lord's power. Be prepared to share an example of two with the group.

2. What piece of armor seems to be the hardest for you to "put on" on a regular basis? What are some things you can do to become more aware when you "forget" to put it on?

3. What schemes does Satan try to use to build a stronghold in your life most often? Why do think he keeps choosing this method? How can you make him change his strategy in your life?