

Ephesians 6:11: Paul and the full Armour of God: A Logotherapeutic reading in the light of the Greek New Testament

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Abstract

A logotherapeutic reading (where the reader searches for meaning) of the Greek New Testament passage Ephesians 6: 11 instructs believers to put on the full armour of God so that they could hold their ground against the methods of the devil. According to Paul the believers' struggle (Greek: "pale") was not against flesh and blood, but against the evil spirits in the upper heavens. Because of this struggle the believers were instructed to stand their ground by putting on the "panoplia tou theou" (full armor of God). This "panoplia" (full armor) consisted of the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, sandals (representing preparedness to proclaim the gospel of peace), the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit (the word of God). Paul instructs his audience, the saints in Ephesus and believers in Christ Jesus (Eph 1:1), to pray in the Spirit on all occasions and to be alert. Paul used the metaphor of a fully armored soldier of his time in order to instruct the believers to put on the "panoplia tou theou" so that they could hold their ground against spiritual attacks. The passage has therapeutic value for modern day believers following the imperatives of Paul because a meaningful encounter with this textual metaphor makes their lives more significant.