

Battling to Serve 为服务而战斗

Ephesians 6:10-20 以弗所书 6: 10-20

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While World War I was raging in Europe at the beginning of the 20th Century, the USA maintained a policy of neutrality.

当第一次世界大战在欧洲如火如荼时，美国坚持了中立政策。

Millions were dying in Europe but life went on as normal for people in the USA. The general population knew about it but it didn't really impact them.

欧洲有数百万人死亡，但在于美国人来说，生活如常。一般人都知道这件事，但并没有真正影响他们。

They wanted to stay out of it.

他们想保持距离。

President Woodrow Wilson's efforts to maintain neutrality were disregarded by German submarines.

德国潜艇忽视伍德罗·威尔逊(Wilson)总统保持中立的努力。

On the 3rd February, 1917, the U.S.S. *Housatonic* was sunk by German submarines. Three more U.S. ships were torpedoed in the following weeks.

1917年2月3日，美国"胡萨托尼"号被德国潜艇击沉。在接下来的几周里，再有三艘美国舰艇被鱼雷击沉。

On the 6th April, 1917, President Wilson signed the declaration of war against Germany.

1917年4月6日，威尔逊总统签署对德国宣战。

In that moment everything changed for the US.

在那一刻，美国的一切都变了。

From a nation wanting to stay out of it and live in peace and quiet, they shifted into a full blown **wartime mentality**.

从一个保持距离，生活在和平与安宁中的国家，他们变成了一种完完全全的战时心态。

Within two and half weeks Congress passes the *Liberty Loan Act* to raise funds for the war effort. \$20 billion are raised from American citizens in the next two years.

在两个半星期内，国会通过了《自由贷款法案》，为战争筹集资金。在未来两年内，从美国公民那里筹集了200亿美元。

6 weeks after the declaration of war, Congress passes the *Selective Service Act*. 24 million men between 21 and 30 are registered and 3 million are drafted for service.

宣战6周后，国会通过了《精英服役法》，登记了2400万21至30岁的男性，300万人被征召入伍。

A month later, *The Espionage Act* puts a twenty-year prison sentence on anyone hindering the war effort and aiding the enemy.

一个月后，《间谍法》对阻碍战争和帮助敌人的人判处20年监禁。

On the 3rd October *The War Revenue Act* increases corporate and personal income taxes and establishes excise, excess-profits and luxury taxes.

10月3日，《战争收入法》去增加公司和个人所得税，并规定了消费税、超额利润税和奢侈品税。

On the 5th April, 1918 – *The War Finance Corporation* is formed with capital of \$500 million to support war industry.

1918年5月5日，《战争集资公司》成立，资本为5亿美元，用于支持战争产业。

From the declaration of war in April, 1917, to the Armistice in November, 1918, 4,744,000 Americans take part in the war, and 116,000 die.

从1917年4月宣战到1918年11月停战，美国有4,744,000人参战，其中11万6千人阵亡。

All this to say that during times of war everything changes.

这一切表明，在战争时期，一切都在改变。

I want us to see today, from Ephesians 6, that a war is raging that is far more devastating than any world war.

我希望我们今天从以弗所书6章看到，一场比任何世界大战都更具破坏性的战争正在肆虐。

The stakes are infinitely higher. World War 1 & 2 devastated the world with 120 million deaths.

所牵涉的是无限的高。第一，二次世界大战摧毁了世界，造成1.2亿人死亡。

The war that we are involved in sees over 50 million souls a year slip into a **Christ-less eternity**.

我们面对的战争，是每年有超过5000万人不知不觉的溜入了一个没有基督的永恒。

Over the past 7 years or so we have been reforming what we do as a church.

在过去的7年左右，我们一直在改革我们作为教会的运作。

For me, it flows out of biblical conviction more than effective strategy, although strategic thinking is part of it.

对我来说，我们的改革是源于圣经的信念而不是有效的策略，尽管策略性安排是改革的一部分。

This Biblical conviction is from what we've seen through the letter to the church in Ephesus.

这个圣经的信念是来自于我们在写给以弗所教会的信看到的。

It's God's grand purposes for his people, church and world from eternity past to eternity future.

这是上帝对他的子民、教会和世界，从亘古直到永远的宏伟目标。

Ephesians chapter 1,2 and 3 reveal what God is doing about the mess the universe is in because of sin.

以弗所书第 1、2 和 3 章揭示了上帝怎样处理宇宙因罪而陷入的混乱。

The disintegration and disorder and chaos and brokenness is solved by Jesus Christ being made King over all things.

耶稣基督成为所有事物的王来解决分裂、混乱、凌乱和破碎。

Under his kingship all that is disintegrated gets integrated.

在他的王权下，所有被瓦解的东西都被复合了。

God's purpose is to create a single new humanity through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

神的目的是通过主耶稣的死亡和复活，创造一个新的人类。

The death and resurrection of Jesus - the core fact and hope of the Christian faith - is the solution to the sin, evil, chaos, brokenness of this world.

耶稣的死亡和复活 — 基督教信仰的核心事实和希望 — 是解决这个世界的罪、恶、混乱、破碎的办法。

There is no other way for us to find salvation than the blood of Jesus Christ.

除了耶稣基督的血，我们没有别的办法可寻求到救赎。

Ephesians 4, 5 & 6 are how to live in accord with the reality of who we are, as Christians, as a church, who are now united in Jesus Christ.

以弗所书 4、5 和 6 章指出的是我们如何行事为人符合，我们是基督徒，一个教会，现在已耶稣基督合一的现实。

Ephesians is rich with the mystery and the wonder of **salvation...peace** with God...**unity** amongst believers...**giftedness** to serve each other.

以弗所书充满了奥秘——救恩的奇迹——与上帝和好——信徒之间合一彼此事奉的恩赐。

Unity, diversity, purity and harmony, these are some of the characteristics of the new life and the new society in Jesus Christ. Such exalted thoughts!

合一、多样性、纯洁与和谐，这些是在耶稣基督里的新生命和新社会的一些特征。如此崇高的思想！

Just when you think Paul will end the letter with a "*and they lived happily ever after*" conclusion, he slaps us in the face and wakes us from our dreamy reflection.

正当你认为保罗会以"他们从此就快乐地生活"作结尾时，他打了我们一巴掌，把我们从梦幻般的反思中唤醒。

The beautiful life is to be lived while camping out in the trenches of war in the enemy's territory.

这美丽的生命是要在敌人的领土中的战壕里活出来的。

JC Ryle was the first Anglican Bishop of Liverpool. He once preached a message about the war the Christian is involved in. He said:

JC·莱尔是利物浦的第一位圣公会主教。他曾经宣讲过一篇关于基督徒卷入的战争的信息。他说：

"True Christianity"—mind that word "true." There is a vast quantity of religion current in the world which is not true, genuine Christianity.

"真正的基督教"——强调的是"真正的"这个词。世界上有大量的宗教，不是真实的，真正的基督教。

There are thousands of men and women who go to churches and chapels every Sunday, and call themselves Christians...But you never see any "fight" about their religion!

每个星期天都有成千上万的男人和女人去教堂和教会，并称自己为基督徒——但你从来没有看到他们任何"为他们的宗教而战斗"！

Of spiritual strife, and exertion, and conflict, and self-denial, and watching, and warring they know literally nothing at all.

对于属灵争辩，劳累，冲突，自我否定，观望，和战争，他们几乎从未面对。

Such Christianity may satisfy man, and those who say anything against it may be thought very hard and uncharitable; but it certainly is not the Christianity of the Bible.

这种基督教可能满足到人类，那些开声反对的人可能被认为过份强硬和不仁慈；但它肯定不是以圣经为本的基督教。

True Christianity is "a fight." The true Christian is called to be a soldier, and must behave as such from the day of his conversion to the day of his death, he is not meant to live a life of religious ease, indulgence, and security,

真正的基督教是"一场战斗"。真正的基督徒被称为一名士兵，并必须从他归信到死亡那一天这样做，他并不是去过着宗教的轻松，放纵和安全的生活，

He must never imagine for a moment that he can sleep and dose along the way to heaven, like one travelling in an easy carriage...

他绝不能遐想，他可以一边睡觉，一边打瞌睡的便到天堂，像一个在一个容易的车厢中旅行的人...

Ephesians 6:12 says - *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

以弗所书 6: 12 说——**因为我们的争战并不是对抗有血有肉的人，而是对抗那些执政的、掌权的、管辖这幽暗世界的，以及天空灵界的恶魔。**

Verse 10 opens with the word ***FINALLY***...but it is not signalling a final thought of Paul's. The word is better translated *for the remaining time*.

第 10 节以"**最后**"开头——但它并不表示保罗的最后想法。这个单词翻译为**在剩下的时间里**更为合式。

Paul is indicating that the whole of the remaining time before Jesus Christ returns to hold all of history and humanity accountable will be characterised by this war.

保罗表示，在基督回来去向整个人类和历史讨账之前，剩下的全部时间都将**以这场战争为特征**。

The peace which God has made through Christ's cross is to be experienced only in the midst of a relentless struggle against evil.

神透过基督的十字架所成就的和平，只有在与邪恶进行狠狠的斗争中才能体验。

Verse 12 says it is not a war against flesh and blood, it is a *supernatural* war.

第 12 节说，我们的争战并不是对抗有血有肉的人，而是一场**超自然的战争**。

It's not just a battle with the physical world, v12, its against

我们的争战不只是属世的，12 节说，是**对抗**

the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

那些执政的、掌权的、管辖这幽暗世界的，以及天空灵界的恶魔。

The thinking of our world has changed dramatically. Greek philosophers in the centuries before Jesus saw the material world, including the physical human body, as subordinate, unimportant, and unreal.

我们世界的思想发生了巨大的变化。希腊哲学家在耶稣之前几个世纪就认为物质世界，包括肉体，是附属的、不重要的和不真实的。

The ancient world was changed by Christianity. Christianity saw the physical world as good creations of God. Christianity was the first to capture the value of the physical world and human life.

古代世界被基督教改变了。基督教认为物质世界是上帝的好创造。物质世界和人类生命的价值是基督教最先把他们描绘出来的。

The Christian worldview of a world crafted by a rational, personal God, was a contributing foundation for the development of modern science.

基督教看世界为来自理性的、个人的上帝所创造的世界观，是现代科学发展的贡献基础。

The modern secular world has taken the Christian worldview, removed God from it, and amplified it to say that the natural world is the ONLY reality.

现代世俗世界把神从基督教的世界观删除，并放大这无神的世界观说，自然世界是唯一的现实。

This worldview suggests that everything has a physical cause and explanation - even suggesting that love and moral feelings are functions of brain chemistry.

这种世界观表明，一切都有物理原因和解释，甚至暗示爱和道德情感只是大脑的化学作用所生。

This worldview is the basis of a powerful consumer and technology culture, with the view that all the world's problems will eventually bow to a scientific solution.

这种世界观是强大的消费和技术文化的基础，认为世界上所有的问题最终都将屈从于科学的解决方案。

In other words, human reason can solve what ails us because they are only material problems.

换句话说，人类理性可以解决我们所有的问题，因为它们只是物质问题。

Psychology and medicine will help us adjust and overcome emotional and physical problems - we don't need spiritual resources for that.

心理学和医学将帮助我们调整和克服情绪和身体问题 — 我们不需要属灵的资源。

Sociology will help us create a just society - we don't need divine virtue for that.

社会学将帮助我们创造一个公正的社会 — 我们不需要神圣的美德。

So what I've just read out seems hopelessly naive. Like a fairytale.

我刚刚说出的似乎毫无希望地天真。就像童话一样

And yet, the belief that everything has a scientific explanation and a technological solution is actually hopelessly naive.

同样地，认为一切都有科学解释和科技式解决方案的信念实际上是无可救药的天真。

These verses are saying that everyday there is a bigger battle at play than the many battles of this physical world - the battle for your soul.

这些经文说明，每天都有比这个物质世界的许多斗争更大的争斗——是为着你的灵魂而战。

There is more to us human beings than simply matter. There is more to us than chemicals. 80% of our world's population recognise that humans have a material part and an immaterial part.

对于我们人类来说，不仅仅是物质。对我们来说，不仅仅是化学作用。世界上 80% 的人口认识到人类有物质和非物质的不同部分。

Both a body and a soul. The soul doesn't die, but the body does.

身体和灵魂。灵魂不会死，但身体会死。

When you think about it though, it is impossible to live consistently with the view that humans don't have souls.

当你用心想想，是不可能一直生活在人类没有灵魂的观点中。

If humans don't have souls then we are no different than any other bag of chemicals. We are no different than a blade of grass.

如果人类没有灵魂，那么我们与任何其他一袋化学物质简单无异。我们和一片草没有什么不同。

Why then do we treat humans different to the blade of grass or the cockroach? Why give a human being dignity and respect that nothing else is given?

那么，为什么我们对待人类不同于草叶或蟑螂？为什么要给予人的尊严和没有给予任何其他事物的尊重？

Even if we don't intellectually believe we've got souls we inherently live it.

即使我们在智力上不相信我们有灵魂，我们天生就活出这信念。

Christianity is not naive nor simplistic. Christianity sees that our problems are multidimensional.

基督教既不天真也不简单化。基督教认为我们的问题是多层面的。

The consensus of the Bible is that humans are involved in a spiritual war for souls while we live in the physical world.

圣经的共识是，当我们生活在物质世界的同时，人类正为灵魂在进行属灵战争。

While we think that our problems are just flesh and blood, just material, and can be fixed with better education, technology, police, social programs, we will always be defeated.

若我们认为我们的问题只是血肉之躯，只是物质问题，而且可以通过更好的教育、科技、管治、社会计划来解决，我们将永远被打败。

We have had these things in increasing measure since the dark ages and our world is not getting any better.

自从黑暗时代以来，我们经历了越来越多的事情，我们的世界并没有变得更好。

We are in a much more complex battle. This world is where the Devil does his work. 1

John 5:19 says,

我们处于一场更为复杂的战斗中。世界是撒旦做他工作的地方。约翰一书 5: 19 说

We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

我们知道，我们是属上帝的，而全世界都伏在那邪恶者的权势之下。

In Ephesians 2:2 the Devil is called ***the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.***

在以弗所书 2: 2 中，魔鬼被称为***空中掌权者的领袖，就是现今在悖逆的人心中运行的邪灵。***

The Devil and his angels are a great demonic enemy with a defined and disciplined chain of command.

魔鬼和他的天使是一个有着明确和有纪律的指挥系统的恶魔大敌人。

Satan is terribly powerful. He doesn't possess anything like the power of God.

撒旦是非常强大。但他不具备任何像上帝般的力量。

Though he can only be in one place at one time, with his army of evil spirits he imitates God's omnipresence and omnipotence.

虽然他只能同时在一个地方，但他以邪灵的军队模仿上帝的无所不在和无所不能。

He desires to be God more than anything else.

他渴望成为上帝比什么都重要。

The desire to be God is at the centre of his terrible, total, spiritual **evil**.

成为神的欲望是他可怕的，完全的，属灵上的**邪恶**的中心。

V12 alludes to this in describing the enemy as the *powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil*.

V12 在描述敌人是管辖这幽暗世界的，以及天空灵界的恶魔。。

Even those throughout history who have gone very low in evil do not match Satan's evil. 即使那些在历史中极度邪恶的人，也跟撒旦的邪恶无可比较。

Satan has no conscience, no compassion, no remorse, no morals. 撒旦没有良心，没有同情心，没有懊悔，没有道德。

He feeds on pain and anguish and filth. There is nothing in Satan which is redeemable. There is no virtue, but only a dark void.

他以痛苦和污秽为粮食。撒旦是无可救赎的。没有美德，只有黑暗的空虚。

He is supremely cunning. V.11 speaks of *the devil's schemes*. He has been honing his methods for millennia.

他非常狡猾。V.11 谈到魔鬼的诡计。几千年来，他一直在磨练自己的方法。

He is an accomplished *philosopher, theologian and psychologist*. He has studied for thousands of years - enough time to be astonishingly brilliant at every discipline.

他是一位有成就的哲学家、神学家和心理学家。他学习了几千年，有足够的时间在每一个学科上都有着惊人的修炼。

He is the ultimate manipulator and subverter and actor. 2 Corinthians 11 says that one of his deadly methods is **masquerading as an agent of God's**.

他是终极的操纵者、颠覆者和演员。哥林多后书 11 章说，撒旦的致命方法之一是装作光明的天使。

This technique is mixing enough truth with falsehood to make it seem plausible. Another is sensuality.

这种技术将足够的事实与虚假混为一谈，使其看起来似乎有道理。另一个是感性。

Many souls are sold to accommodate a downward morality. Another is instilling doubts about God's goodness.

许多灵魂为满足坠落的道德而被出卖。另一个是灌输对上帝的善良的怀疑。

Whatever his tactic he seldom attacks openly. His strategies, administered by his devils are nearly always unseen, shrewd, and perfectly tailored for the victim.

不管他的战术是什么，他很少公开攻击。他的策略，由他的魔鬼实施，几乎总是看不见的，精明的，和完美的为受害者而定制。

He operates best when he can convince people of his non-existence. Especially in the West he persuades us that the Christian life is not a fight.

当他能说服人他是不存在时，他运作得最好。特别是在西方国家，他说服我们基督徒的生活不是一场争战。

He is evil beyond our comprehension and without conscience or principle. He is diabolically cunning, and he is after us!

他的邪恶是我们无法理解，没有良心和原则。他穷凶极恶的狡猾，他追赶我们！

He hates God. He hates God's children. He hates the Church.

他恨恶上帝。他恨恶上帝的孩子。他恨恶教会。

He hates the mission and vision of St Paul's to see Jesus treasured together by us in such a way that more and more people from every culture and background are rescued from his evil clutches.

他痛恨圣保罗堂的使命和远象，就是要看到耶稣被我们共同珍爱，使越来越多的来自不同文化和背景的人从他的邪恶魔爪中被救出。

He hates our plan to be a united multiethnic and socially diverse church.

他讨厌我们要成为一个团结的多种族和社会多元化的教会的计划。

He desires to destroy all the work of the Father to make one society in the Lord Jesus Christ forever.

他渴望摧毁天父在主耶稣基督里使一切合为一个永远的社会的所有工作。

He will do whatever he can to destroy the work of the gospel of the Lord Jesus in your life, and in the life of this church. This is Paul's cosmic perspective with *all it's chilling implications*.

他将尽其所能，破坏主耶稣在你的生命中和在这个教会的生活中的福音工作。这是保罗带有令人心寒的暗示的宇宙观。

All would be *despair* except that I've only described part of Paul's cosmic perspective.

我只描述了保罗宇宙观的一部分，否则一切都是绝望的。

Amongst mortals Satan has no equal, but he is far exceeded by God.

在凡人中，撒旦没有对手，但上帝永远超越他。

Satan is not God's equal. Satan is finite and God is infinite.

撒旦不是上帝的平等。撒旦是有限的，上帝是无限的。

In fact, Colossians 1 & 2 says that the entire spiritual realm owes it's existence to Jesus Christ, including *thrones... powers... rulers... authorities* both *visible and invisible* both *in heaven and on earth*.

事实上，哥罗西书 1 和 2 章说，万有都是借着耶稣基督造的，包括**有权位的 — 统治的 — 执政的 — 掌权的在天上的和地上的，能看见的、不能看见的。**

But Christ is not only **more powerful** by virtue of being Satan's creator, but because he defeated Satan at the cross. That's what the early chapters of Ephesians declare.

但基督是**更加强大**不仅是因为他是撒旦的创造者，还因为他在十字架上打败了撒旦。这就是以弗所书的前部份的章节所宣称的。

He has sealed their doom, although in this present age they still exercise control over those who have not found freedom in Jesus Christ.

他确定了他们的厄运，尽管在这个世代，他们仍然控制着那些没有在耶稣基督里找到自由的人。

If we are filled with the Holy Spirit, Satan's forces cannot subdue us. In Jesus Christ there is always victory!

如果我们充满了圣灵，撒旦的力量就无法征服我们。在耶稣基督里，总有胜利！

Real Christianity is a fight, but the fight is the Lord Jesus' fight. That is the good news. 真正的基督教是一场战斗，但这斗争是主耶稣的战争。这就是福音好消息。

However, the battling is ours. Paul leaves two commands that dominate his advice in these last verses of the letter.

然而，争战的是我们。保罗在信的最后这段留下两个命令，是他的建议的要点。

The first is in v.10, ***Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.***

第一个是在第 10 节，**最后，你们要靠着主，依赖他的大能大力作刚强的人。**

This command is in fact a passive command...*be made strong in the Lord, find your strength in him.*

这个命令实际上是一个被动式的命令 — **靠着主变得刚强，在他身上找到你的力量。**

Jesus Christ has the victory and Ephesians 1 & 2 declare that he has given us the resources to stand and flourish.

耶稣基督已得到胜利，以弗所书 1 和 2 章宣布，他已给了让我们站立和茂盛的资源。

We cannot fight Satan ourselves. We are totally dependent upon Jesus.

我们不能自己和撒旦战斗。我们完全依赖耶稣。

Paul expresses here the proper combination of divine enabling and human cooperation. He does it again with the second command in v.11:

保罗在这里表达了神圣授权和人类合作的适当结合。他使用 11 节中的第二个命令来再次表明：

Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

军装要穿戴上帝所赐的全副军装，好抵挡魔鬼的诡计。

The armour is God's, but we still need to take it up and put it on.

全副军装都是上帝所赐的，但我们仍然需要拿起来，穿上它。

God has made provision for us in Christ so that we can stand and not fall. That provision is his armour.

神在基督里为我们提供，这样我们才能站立，而不是跌倒。这供应就是他的军装。

So if your aim is to persevere in the Christian life, and not be defeated by the wiles of the devil, then you must put on the armour described in these verses.

因此，如果你的目标是坚持基督徒的生活，而不是被魔鬼的诡计打败，那么你必须穿上这些经文中描述的全副军装。

We are told four times in these verses of the need to ***stand***. Paul is concerned for our stability as the battle rages.

在这些经文中，我们被告知有四次需要**站立 (stand)**。保罗担心我们的稳定，因为战况肆虐。

Wobbly Christians who don't have a firm foothold in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ are easy prey for Satan.

在主耶稣基督的福音中，没有稳固立足点的，摇摆不定的基督徒很容易成为撒旦的猎物。

Paul wants to see Christians so strong and stable that they are stable in the face of Satan's schemes and stable even ***when the day of evil comes***.

保罗希望看到基督徒如此强大和稳定，在他们面对撒旦的计划是稳定的，即使正如 13 节说的**邪恶的日子到来的时候**，或者"特殊压力的时候"，他们也是稳定的。

So the full armour of God is essential. It is described in the following verses.

因此，上帝的全副军装是必不可少的。以下经文对此进行了描述。

The belt of truth (v14) held the sword in place.

真理的带子（14 节）把剑的位置固定。

To stand firm in the battle you must be a person filled with the truth of the revelation of God in the Bible, and for that truth to have transformed you into a person of truthful character.

要在战斗中站稳脚跟，你必须是一个充满在圣经中上帝启示的真理的人，并且要那真理把你变成一个诚实的人。

Especially important in a world where absolute truth is rejected, and yet, ironically, filled with counter truth claims.

在一个绝对真理被拒绝的世界里，这一点尤其重要，但具有讽刺意味的是，却充满了反真理的主张。

Secondly, the breastplate of righteousness (v14), was a metal piece that covered the front of the body to protect the vital organs, especially the heart.

其次，公义的护心遮胸镜（14节）是覆盖身体正面的金属片，以保护重要器官，特别是心脏。

The breastplate of righteousness is God's own righteousness freely given to those who truly believe in Jesus Christ.

公义护心镜是上帝自己的公义，无条件地给予那些真正相信耶稣基督的人。

This is the good news of the Christian gospel...Jesus Christ's right standing before God has become mine by him taking my unrighteousness to the cross.

这是基督教福音的好消息...耶稣基督在神面前的公义成为我的因他把我的不义带到十字架上。

A great protection against the thrusts of Satan which remind us of our unrighteousness and unworthiness before God.

对撒旦的冲击的最大保护，提醒我们在上帝面前的不义和不配。

Thirdly, feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace (v15).

第三，又用和平的福音当作预备走路的鞋穿在脚上。（15节）。

It is the gospel of peace; the peace with God than comes to us in and through the gospel and plants our feet firmly and gives stability in battle.

这是和平的福音；借着福音来到我们与神的和平，牢固的植根我们的脚，在争斗中给予稳定。

A gospel that declares you are not at war with God but in fact at peace with him through Jesus.

一个宣称你不再是与神敌对，而实际上是透过耶稣已与神和好了的福音。

Number four is *the shield of faith* (v16). As we are locked in battle the enemy launches repeated volleys of blazing arrows -

第四是**信德盾牌**（16节）。当我们被锁定在战斗中时，敌人不断发射熊熊燃烧的箭

temptations, rejection, criticism, hypocrisy, deceptions, doubting of God's goodness, doubting the truth of his word, doubting even his existence.

诱惑、拒绝、批评、虚伪、欺骗、怀疑上帝的善良、怀疑他的话的真实性，甚至怀疑他的存在。

But up comes the shield of faith against a thousand fiery arrows as we believe and trust in what God has revealed about reality in his word.

但是，当我们相信并信赖上帝在他的言语中揭示的关于现实的东西时，信德盾牌会与一千个火热的箭相对抗。

Five is *the helmet of salvation* (v17), which is the assurance of salvation and resulting confidence it brings.

五是**救恩的头盔**（17节），这是救赎的保证和由此带来的信心。

The helmet assures us that no matter what happens we will be saved and experience victory in Christ.

头盔向我们保证，无论发生什么，我们都将被拯救，并在基督里体验胜利。

Lastly, is *the sword of the Spirit* (v17). We are told that it is the Word of God.

最后，是**圣灵的宝剑**（17节）。我们被告知这是上帝的道。

The word of God cuts to the heart, and lays it open, so that people would believe and repent and be made alive.

神的话语切入人心，并打开它，使人们相信和悔改，并重新生活。

We are at war, and our razor sharp weapon is God's word, and we would be fools to lower it simply because our culture says it cannot cut.

我们处于战争状态，我们的锋利武器是上帝的话，我们若因为文化说它不能切割而放低它，那我们将会是傻瓜。

Our enemy wants us to believe that our weapon is irrelevant, archaic and not understandable, so keep it in the sheath.

我们的敌人希望我们相信我们的武器是无关紧要的，陈旧的，无法理解的，所以要把它放在剑套里。

We must read it, meditate on it, memorise it, study it and love it. The weapon that we fight with are not the weapons of this world.

我们必须阅读，沉思，记住，研究，并喜欢它。我们争战的武器不是这个世界的武器。

Which brings us to v.18 and the importance of prayer.

因此我们来到 18 节，祈祷的重要性

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

要靠着圣灵，随时多方祷告祈求，并要为此警醒不倦，为众圣徒祈求。

Prayer isn't added as another part of the armour, it actually pervades the whole war.

祷告祈求不是作为军装的另一部分添加，它实际上弥漫了整个战争。

The word of God and prayer belong together as the two chief weapons God puts into our hands.

圣经和祷告是上帝交到我们手中的两种同属于一起的主要武器。

The prayer referred to here is comprehensive. We are to pray ***on all occasions*** (both regularly and constantly)...

这里提到的祈求是全面的。我们要**随时**祈求（定期和经常） ...

with all kinds of prayers and requests (for it takes many and varied forms)...

多方祷告祈求（因为它采取多种的形式） ...

being ***alert and always keep on praying*** (because we don't want to give up or fall asleep)...

警醒不倦（因为我们不想放弃或入睡） ...

for all the saints (since the unity of God's new society, which has been the preoccupation of this whole letter, must be reflected in our prayers.

为众圣徒祈求（因为上帝的新社会的合一，这一直是这整封信的当务之急，必须反映在我们的祈祷中。

Against such prayer the principalities and powers are helpless.

面对这种祈求，那些执政的、掌权的是无助的。兄弟姐妹们，我们正进行一场属灵大战：

So my first, and simple, challenge to you is to rethink your priorities in these two areas right now.

因此，我向你们提出的第一个简单挑战是，重新思考你在这两个领域的优先次序。

Commit to a new resolve today to be a Christ-centred bible saturated follower of Jesus who's devoted to prayer into 2020.

今天要下一个新的决心，在 2020 年成为一个以基督为中心圣经浸透的战士，并致力于祷告祈求。

Commit to a new venture with God today to pray for this church and for its leadership and ministries and mission and for souls to trust Jesus Christ.

今天与神一起进行新的冒险，为这个教会及其领导和事工和使命祈祷，为灵魂去信赖基督而祈祷。

My second simple challenge is to take on a wartime mindset in regard to the spiritual war we are engaged in.

我的第二个简单挑战是，在我们所从事的属灵战争中，采取战时的心态。

The wartime mindset is where we pour our resources into winning the war.

战时的心态就是我们为赢得战争把所有的资源投入应该的地方。

We work together in giving our time, talents, treasures, prayers, and energy to winning the war.

我们共同努力，把我们的时间、才能、财富、祈祷和精力奉献给赢得战争。

People are going to hell under the influence of the enemy and one of his seductions is to lull us into a comfortable, distracted, life.

很多人在敌人的影响下正在下地狱，他的一个诱惑就是哄我们进入一个舒适、分心的生活。

What I am calling you to do today is make a sustained effort, not just a one off response, a sustained effort to resource the war into 2020.

我今天要做的是作出持续的努力，而不仅仅是一次性的反应，一种持续的努力，为2020年的战争提供资源。

May the reality of the spiritual warfare we are engaged in move us to new action in word and prayer and lifestyle, certainly for the next year, but until the Lord Jesus returns in triumph.

愿我们从事的属灵战争的现实，驱使我们在神的话语、祈祷和生活方式方面采取新的行动，当然是为了来年，但直到主耶稣以胜利归来。