

**Passage: Ephesians 6:10-21 (prepared 8/24/09; preached 8/31/09)**

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10 **Finally**<sup>12, 3</sup>, **be strong**<sup>4</sup> **in the Lord**<sup>5</sup> and in his mighty power.

11 Put on the **full armor**<sup>6</sup> of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, **but against the rulers**<sup>7</sup>, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so **that when the day of evil comes**<sup>8</sup>, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to **stand**.

14 **Stand firm**<sup>9</sup> then, with **the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place**<sup>10</sup>,

15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

16 In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows**<sup>11</sup> of the evil one.

17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word of God**<sup>2</sup>.

18 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.

19 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,

20 for which I am an **ambassador**<sup>13</sup> in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

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<sup>1</sup> Note too that Paul has a particular sort of battle in mind: one to hold a strong position. His exhortation does not prepare soldiers to make a quick moving attack (and the Roman soldier's key attack weapons, the twin javelins, are missing), but to take a stand (11), to stand your ground (13) and to stand firm (14). They hold the crown of the hill, as it were, and the enemy must weary itself in constant uphill attack. The strong position Paul has in mind will be clear to the reader: it is our union with Christ (2:5-6), the head over all things (1:22-23), far above all principalities and powers (1:21), and the resurrection power of God at work in us (1:19-2:7). Even the armour and weapons turn out to be a mixture of God's very own (cf. Is. 59:17) with those of his Messiah (Is. 11:4-5). And yet Paul shows no triumphalism here. The decisive victory won by Christ lies in the past and the very fact that believers now fight on Christ's side is clear testimony to that (see 2:1-6); but complete victory still lies in the future. In the meantime it is the day of evil (13) that appears to dominate the scene. NBC

<sup>2</sup> Although Paul does not follow a formal rhetorical outline in Ephesians, 6:10-20 functions as a peroratio, a rousing conclusion. Philosophers sometimes described their conflict with wicked ideas as wrestling in an athletic contest or a war; they also used lists of virtues, the general idea of which Paul incorporates here. Aspects of Paul's conclusion resemble the exhortations that generals gave to their armies before battle. IVPBBC

<sup>3</sup> The section must be read in the light of the whole of Ephesians, as a call to live out the gospel of cosmic reconciliation, not as an appendix for those with a special interest in demons and spiritual warfare. NBC

<sup>4</sup> Be strong perhaps fails to bring out the force of the passive verb ('be strengthened'), and the reb does better with 'find your strength in the Lord'. Certainly the emphasis is on God's great power for this fight NBC

<sup>5</sup> In the day of battle, Roman soldiers were to stand their ground, not retreat. As long as they stood together on a flat, open field and did not break ranks, their legions were considered virtually invincible. (IVPBBC)

<sup>6</sup> Paul omits some pieces of the Roman soldier's armor in his description; for instance, since he mentions only one offensive weapon, he uses the sword but omits the lance (the pilum). Paul probably has no particular purpose in correlating specific strengths of the Christian with specific armor body parts (cf. 1 Thess 5:8); rather, he wants his readers to know that they need all of them to be victorious. (IVPBBC)

<sup>7</sup> Paul does not launch himself into a detailed and speculative demonology. Instead he uses three general terms, and one ('cosmocrats of this present darkness') which may originally have had a more specifically astrological meaning. The first two terms are deliberately drawn from 1:21-22, and so the reader is reassured that Christ has far greater authority and power. NBC

<sup>8</sup> The niv's when the day of evil comes might suggest the final upsurge of evil and tribulation that Jewish apocalyptic writing expected just before the day of the Lord. That thought certainly colours the language here, but for Paul the days are already evil (5:16); the fight is already on; the armour is needed now if the believer is to stand. So in the day of evil probably includes the present, but particularly those periods which seem to us most to share the terrible quality of 'the [final] evil day'. NBC

<sup>9</sup> We hold the strong ground; we are only called to 'stand'. NBC

<sup>10</sup> To the image of the Roman soldier, the Messiah's belt of truth and breastplate of righteousness are added, along with his powerful word which strikes judgment (Is. 11:4-5). All this strengthens Paul's assertion that it is the Lord who gives the necessary armour; armour that is fashioned by his grace in us.

<sup>11</sup> Roman soldiers were equipped with large rectangular wooden shields, four feet high, the fronts of which were made of leather. Before battles in which flaming arrows might be fired, the leather would be wetted to quench any fiery darts launched against them. After Roman legionaries closed ranks, the front row holding shields forward and those behind them holding shields above them, they were virtually invulnerable to any attack from flaming arrows. (IVPBBC)

<sup>12</sup> Paul is saying that the church's basic equipment in the spiritual battle is integrity and righteous living, and they are effective because these qualities bear the stamp of Jesus and the new creation he brings NBC

<sup>13</sup> Ambassadors were to be received with all the respect due the ones who sent them; as heralds, they were to be immune from hostility even if they represented an enemy kingdom. IVPBBC

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### **Small Group Questions**

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#### **Daily Devotional Preparation**

*(Read through the provided texts and consider the small group questions)*

<b>Monday</b>	Psalm 15
<b>Tuesday</b>	Deuteronomy 4:1-9
<b>Wednesday</b>	Ephesians 6:10-20
<b>Thursday</b>	Mark 7:1-8; 14-15, 21-23
<b>Friday</b>	Romans 8:29-30
<b>Saturday</b>	Psalm 46:1
<b>Sunday</b>	Psalm 23

#### **Accountability** *(ask one)*

Inviting people to Know Christ - Are you learning to be intentional about sharing Jesus with neighbors? Are you praying for a 3:1:M friend? How are they doing? Are you reaching your group and individual goals in this area?

Keeping connected to Christ - Are you building an interactive relationship with God? In your private prayer and devotional time, what are you learning or experiencing? How are you Knowing Christ in worship? Are you reaching your group and individual goals in this area?

Moving to serve with Christ - Are you showing up? How are you making community and teamwork important to your life? How's your commitment to small group and worship going? Are you your gifts to serve the Community surrounding us?

#### **Open / Scripture**

1. Who in your family likes to visit museums, especially war museums?
2. What were some of your (or your kids) favorite dress up costumes? Why those?

#### **Observation**

1. As you read this passage (Ephesians 6:10-20) what verse, phrase, or picture jumps out at you, causes you to celebrate, raises questions, or clarifies something?
2. From his prison cell awaiting trial, Paul looks up and sees a battle raging (vv. 12-13). What is this battle? What is it over?
3. What are the seven pieces of armor in the battle attire of a follower of Christ? Which of these is offensive? Defensive?
4. What attitude should we have as we face these forces? How does prayer fit into this spiritual battle?
5. What did Paul have in mind when he used this illustration? Do you think a follower of Christ can be a "lone ranger" and have no protection on your backside?

#### **Apply**

1. If you had to compare your spiritual armor to this list, where are you strong? Weak? What do you need to do to prepare for battle? What is at stake if you don't?
2. Where are you struggling right now? How is the battle going right now in your life?
3. What would it mean for you to stand in these particular battlefields? Do you need to regroup, dig in, take the offensive or call for reinforcements?
4. How can this group help you in prayer this week?

#### **Prayer**

1. Who can you bless with this information?
2. What do you need to discuss with your life group?
3. What can we pray with you about? (What does the Spirit need to heal? What does the Spirit need to embolden?)

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**NOTES and ILLUSTRATIONS**

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We're supposed to be surrounded - The highly regarded HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers* follows a company of U.S. paratroopers through the preparation and experience of invading Europe on D-Day. Based on real life interviews by survivors, the series captures both the intensity of war and the heroism of the troops.

The final disc of the 6-disc DVD set includes video collages from the miniseries of each of the main characters. The collection of shots of Lieutenant Richard Winters gives a powerful picture of a true leader who understands his calling—not unlike how a Christian should view his or her calling in this world. The collage shows Winters charging with his troops into battle, then proudly saluting an officer he's just promoted, and then commenting to a fellow soldier, "I don't like to retreat."

The quick moving scenes of the collage close with Winters leading his troops into their most celebrated feat of the war, holding the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge. A soldier leaving the front line pulls Winters aside and says ominously, "Looks like you guys are going to be surrounded."

Without hesitation Winters replies, "We're paratroopers, Lieutenant. We're supposed to be surrounded."

Elapsed Time: DVD Disc 6, 00:00:41 to 00:01:00

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Rules of Engagement

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As it is the business of tailors to make clothes and of cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray.

Martin Luther, 16th century reformer. *Men of Integrity*, Vol. 1, no. 1.

Careful for nothing, prayerful for everything, thankful for anything.

Dwight L. Moody, *Christian Reader*, Vol. 32, no. 4.

When you are too sure of yourself, you are less on guard against the enemy. Be alert, therefore, for the devil, who, if he can claim even one hair of your head, will lose no time in making a braid of it.

Saint Bonaventure in *A Major Life of Saint Francis*. *Christianity Today*, Vol. 31, no. 14.

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong sermon on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?"

The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad."

Dale W. Decker, Mount Washington, Kentucky

Estimated amount of matter in the universe determined this year to be invisible: 98 percent

"Harper's Index," Harper's (May 2002), p. 11

I throw myself down in my chamber, and I call in and invite God and his angels thither, and when they are there, I neglect God and his angels, for the noise of a fly, for the rattling of a coach, for the whining of a door.

John Donne in Sermons (No. 80). Christianity Today, Vol. 31, no. 10.

Pray the largest prayers. You cannot think a prayer so large that God in answering it, will not wish you had made it larger. Pray not for crutches but for wings!

Phillips Brooks. Leadership, Vol. 12, no. 3.

C – What was one of your (or your kids) favorite dress up costumes? Why? (Would you choose something different today?) (Group of 2-3) Me, a paramedic because “we save lives”

**? How can we become the habitation of the holy ?? What does it even look like?**

**Jim Elliot (martyred missionary to Auca Indians) prayed, “Lord make me a crisis man. Let me not be a milepost on a single road, but make me a fork [in the road] that people must turn one way or another in facing Christ in me”**

**>>If Christ is in us, a holy habitation, then our calling is to Stand Firm, equipped by God, actively engaged, so people can be confronted by Christ.**

**P1 – Stand Firm (10-13)** (Daniel 6:10 is perfect example “Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published (saying he couldn't pray), he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.) (Gospel – Luke 4 – Jesus proclaims freedom! Today is the day!!)

1. Paul, in prison, looks up in prayer and sees a battle raging. What is this battle? What is it over?
  - a. As Christians we fight not against flesh, but the forces of evil. Our calling is to STAND FIRM
2. What Paul Sees is a titanic battle between Good and Evil – over what? Souls!
  - a. Rulers and Authorities (not potentates but cosmic) cosmic dark powers, spiritual evil.
  - b. Paul is linking this to the rest of the book – primarily, that we are to be a unit of Christ that stands firm, together, with God's message in enemy territory. We are the first fruits of the Resurrection and it is in that power that we are able to STAND FIRM
  - c. Battle is NOT against flesh and blood / but spiritual (reading Vanderbilt professor Sally McFague – ecofeminist theologian – She's never heard the Gospel!)<sup>i</sup>
3. We stand against an evil day (judgment) that is coming. Pompeii<sup>ii</sup> When the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius destroyed the city [of Pompeii in A.D. 79], many people were buried in the ruins. Some took cover underground, and the place became their burial chamber. Those who chose a high hiding place were also unable to escape destruction. But a Roman sentinel was found at the city gate, his hands still grasping his weapon. That was where he had been placed by the captain. While the earth shook beneath him, while the flood of ashes and cinders overwhelmed him, he stood at his post; and it was there he was found a thousand years later

**Our calling is to Stand Firm, equipped by God, actively engaged, so people can be confronted by Christ.**

**P2 – Equipped by God (14-17)**

1. What are the six armors for Christians? Which are defensive? Offensive?
2. Defensive Weapons
  - a. Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Righteousness (Character not brute force wins wars)
  - b. Shield of Faith, Helmet of Salvation (Gifts given by God)
3. Offensive Weapons (Sword of Spirit, Gospel feet)
  - a. Sword - The sword (gladius, 20–24 inches long) used when close battle was joined with the enemy and the heavy pikes that frontline soldiers carried were no longer practical. Thus Paul implies that the battle is to be joined especially by engaging those who do not know God's word (the gospel) with its message, **after** one is spiritually prepared in the other ways listed here. >> The battle is fought by the Spirit through His strength, STAND FIRM
  - b. Gospel Readiness – Echo of Isaiah 52:7 (Irony) How precious are the feet of them that bring good news – That good news comes via the image of a Roman Caligula (half boot)... usually with spikes to root into the ground
4. How do you put on this armor? (Spiritual Disciplines) (Prayer, teamwork, outreach)
  - a. Engaged by courage!
    - i. Billy Graham - Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened.
    - ii. General Patton - Courage is fear that has said its prayers
    - iii. Astronaut Buzz Aldrin (moon) Bravery comes along as a gradual accumulation of discipline
  - b. Prayer – Helps us see what already is! (meditation, prayer, fasting, study, worship, solitude) Teamwork – we are not alone! (Stewardship, submission, confession, celebration, guidance) Outreach – moves us forward (stewardship, service, evangelism)

**Our calling is to Stand Firm, equipped by God, actively engaged, so people can be confronted by Christ.**

**P3 – Active and Engaged (18) (this is probably the hardest part!!)**

1. How does one be Active while Standing firm?
  - a. Roman soldiers were vulnerable as individuals... but together they formed a unit that was impenetrable. (Shields up, pikes held, move together)
  - b. Prayer for one another becomes the practical ACTION of standing firm – together
2. Standing firm is hard work and isn't easy (Dave Cialone)<sup>iii</sup> IT IS HARD... but we can stand firm
3. Prayer is done, in the Spirit, FOR all the saints – Goals... time with God for the benefit of the community – Romans 8:26-27 says that we pray and the Spirit intercedes with words we don't even understand. If we start... God picks up... and finishes.

4. Gordon McDonald in DJ –“Biblical masculinity paints a picture of man that begins with an ear turned to heaven, whose energies are directed at protecting, inspiring, motivating, and freeing others. This man is a giver, not a taker; he lives by design, not by default. He knows how to run toward the action, how to stand in the heat, and how to kneel in a moment of quietness.

***Our calling is to Stand Firm, equipped by God, actively engaged, so people can be confronted by Christ.***

**A— Application Points**

4. If you had to compare your spiritual armor to this list, where are you strong? Weak? What do you need to do to prepare for battle? What is at stake if you don't?
5. What evidence do you see of the battle in your life? Your church? Your community? Your nation? The world? What would it mean for you to “stand firm” in these particular battlefields?

As Jim Elliot prayer, let us pray, “Lord, make me a crisis man. Let me not be a milepost on a single road, but make me a fork in the road that people must turn one way or another in facing Christ in me.”

As we move into the prayers of the people –let us take a few moments to reflect on these two questions (What do you need to do to prepare?) and (Where do you need to “stand firm”)

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i When I was in seminary, I came across two very different theologians. In the 1800 and early 1900s there were the German theologians like Adolf von Harnak and Hegel. They were “Christians in name only”. They used our words, and creeds, but gave each word a different meaning. For instance they would recite the creed saying “We believe in the resurrection” – and they would say it with “fingers crossed” and then explain that, “What we really mean when we say ‘resurrection’ is the idea of the love being birthed in the hearts of all humanity”. Same words, different meaning. It made (and makes) me so angry. Imagine my surprise when I came across a theologian named Sally McFague, Vanderbilt theology professor, who was described as an “eco-feminist-theologian” and my reaction was sadness and not anger. She said things like, “I believe in a cosmic force of goodness”... never once mentioning the creeds or Scriptures. I sat back in my study, after reading her work, and realized that she’d never been told the Gospel. She didn’t know the whole story! Point – We can’t get mad at those who don’t know!

ii Dave Cialone - Gordon MacDonald's article "Biblical Masculinity proved to be personally challenging for several reasons. I suppose the primary cause for my conviction is that I have consistently displayed weakness in my role as a husband and father. Much like Adam who sat by silently while the serpent lured Eve into sin, I have been passive and unengaged. Might Adam have said nothing because he wanted to avoid conflict with Eve? Life is messy and I often stick my head in the sand waiting for problems to go away as opposed to dealing with them head on.

Early in my marriage I would often get blustery with Stacy when she wanted to talk about certain subjects. A primary reason for why I verbally blasted my wife into submission is that she was forcing me to deal with the realities of life. And since these realities were sticky and complicated, I did not want to deal with them. The bottom line is that as a 25 year-old, I really did not know what I was doing. Thus my masculinity was threatened. My defense mechanism was to ignore the problem. If Stacy brought up a touchy subject like finances, relational issues, child-rearing and such, the message I often sent was, “Be quiet and submit.” The irony of course is that I used the guise of strong male leadership to mask my own inadequacies. Even our church supported the traditional role of the strong male leader and the quiet, supportive wife. However, this allowed me to wear a mask and forced Stacy to allow certain things to go unchallenged as she sought to do God's will by supporting her husband.

I'd like to say that this situation has been totally reversed now that I'm 40 but the sad fact remains that certain habits have been hard to break. I would still say that much of my “leadership” tends to be reactive and distant as opposed to proactive and engaged.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

<sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>iii</sup>

C – HBO’s miniseries “Band of Brothers” – Easy Company’s leader, Lieutenant Winters leads his men valiantly into battle. After D-Day they are sent to the Battle of the Bulge. A soldier leaving the front lines pulls Winters aside and says ominously, “Looks like you guys are going to be surrounded” Without hesitation Winter’s replies, “We’re paratroopers, Lieutenant. We’re supposed to be surrounded”

“Finally... be strong in the Lord” – Paul is bringing this book (Ephesians) to a conclusion as if he’s giving a charge to men and women about to go into battle... and he’s rooting them in the truth... Chris has won the battle... Peace is coming... until then... Stand Firm!

***We are called to stand strong, in the Lord’s strength, with His armor, and emboldened by His presence...***

**P1 – We are called to stand strong in the Lord’s strength against spiritual forces and evil days (10-13)**

1. Paul’s starting point is a position of strength... yes we’re surrounded... but we’re placed on top of the hill
  - a. In the Lord... we reside in His a) completed work b) strength c)strong position (A defensive battle)!
2. Paul sees a titanic battle between Good and Evil... The decisive battle won... skirmishes still continue
  - a. Cosmo-crats... spiritual powers... are real! But not able to stand against the Creator! Baal, in the OT for instance... was the “god of the waters and chaos”. We serve the one who created the waters!
  - b. St. Bonaventure – “When you are too sure of yourself, you are less on guard against the enemy. Be alert, therefore, for the devil, who, **if he can claim even one hair of your head, will lose no time in making a braid of it.**
  - c. **Stand** in the midst of evil days – ultimately... and the “already evil days”
3. Our job is to stand firm... Pompeii – Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79AD... people took cover where ever they could... except for one soldier. A Roman Sentinel was found at the city gate, his hands still grasping his weapon. That was where he had been placed by the captain. While the earth shook beneath and floods of ash and cinders overwhelmed... he remained... standing at his post, to be found 1000 years later!

***We are called to stand strong, in the Lord’s strength, with His armor, and emboldened by His presence...***

**P2 – We stand strong, equipped by the Messiah’s own armor! (14-17)**

1. We may “stand” ... but it’s with the Lord’s strength... and the Messiah’s armour
  - a. “belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, gospel of peace”... Quote from Isaiah 11... Messiah’s clothes
  - b. We’re playing dress - up
2. Element of teamwork...Paul is bringing to conclusion this idea of Christ as our head... we’re his body... and we’re wearing His clothes!
  - c. Most of these weapons are defensive... holding ground... and Roman images flood their minds == A roman legion who held their shields together and kept their swords outward were invincible...

***We are called to stand strong, in the Lord’s strength, with His armor, and emboldened by His presence...***

**P3 – We enjoy the Lord’s presence in this battle as we pray! (18-20)**

2. Be strong (v 10) Stand your ground (v. 13) Stand firm (v14)
  1. How? Courage!
  2. General Patton – Courage is fear that has said it’s prayers
3. So... to stand effectively, we must “say our prayers”
  - a. To see correctly – The battle rages... we sit on the high hill with Christ defending us!
    - i. St. Patrick’s Breastplate
  - b. To be emboldened to move forward! Ambassador (one who sees the strength behind them!)

Jim Elliott – He was a missionary to the Auca Indians in Ecuador... Died as a martyr. He prayed, “Lord, make me a crisis man. Let me not be a milepost on a single road, but make me a fork in the road; that people must turn one way or another in facing Christ in me.”

(Simplified Steps 1&2 = 1. Restate, simply, each verse. 2. State spiritual lesson in each. 3. Outline.)<sup>1</sup>

1) Analyze Text

- Make a translation starting with interlinear and footnote extreme variant readings<sup>iv, v, vi, vii</sup>
- Analyze interesting words or phrases in exegetical dictionaries, lexicons, and figures of speech resources<sup>viii, ix, x</sup>
- Note allusions cross-references and correlations<sup>xi</sup>
- Look at structural notes in commentaries<sup>xii</sup> and backgrounds<sup>xiii, xiv</sup>

**Philology**

*Figures of Speech:*

Verse	Figure	Name of Figure	Plain meaning

*Word Studies:*

*Poetical / Structural analysis:*

*Correlations:*

*Macro Themes Theological Ideas:*

2) Research

- Simplify each verse writing “what it says”
- Review comments by others<sup>xv</sup>
- Synthesize in an outline passage<sup>xvi</sup>
- Synthesize exegetical outline into spiritual lesson outline.

*(add comments/outline here)*

3) Homiletic Ideas

- Pray. What “spiritual lessons” are most pressing
- What does the congregation need to hear? What mental models do they bring that need to be challenged?
- What value, project, ideal of the congregation does this address?
- How does it fit the series?
  - How does this clearly point to Jesus?

- Think Visually From [xplane.com](http://xplane.com):

*Rule # 1 - Prepare visually. Get away from the computer. Draw out your ideas to clarify your presentation. The process of visualizing the presentation, your ideas, and flow of thought in a visual light will help you gain greater clarity and a clearer picture of your presentation.*

*Rule # 2 - Clear introduction. A clear roadmap is a critical element of a good presentation. Give your audience a definitive view of the topics you plan to cover. You do not need to go into any depth, just introduce the main points. Remember, judgments are made within the first two minutes.*

*Rule # 4 - Visuals, visuals, visuals. Pictures are worth a thousand words. No matter what, incorporate visuals to support your points. Bullet points do not count as "visuals."*

*Rule # 5 - Turn complexity to simplicity. Simple and clear meaning is much more powerful. Translate complex information into concrete visual images. Explaining a process? Visually map it out using images to reinforce the progress.*

*Rule # 8 - Make numbers or figures relevant. If you are speaking of large monumental figures, break down the numbers to make the statistics relevant today. It's not about the numbers, it's about what the numbers mean.*

*Rule # 10 - Conclusion. It's important to start strong, but even more important to end stronger. End your presentation with the most important piece. What you want your listener to walk away with?*

*(brainstorm here)*

4) Write the Sermon

❖ Outline Big Idea

- [Audience] can/should [what] by/because
- Key word
- Rationale

❖ Conclusion/Application

- Restate Big Idea
- Pick an Application Response
  - Thought Response (Something to Admit, Believe, Consider, or Decide? ) (Discussion in s. group or w. pastor)
  - Physical Response (Step out/Stand up for prayer) (Creativity writing, drawing creating)
  - Liturgical Response (Creed, Eucharist or Recessional Invitation)
- Show the why – What are the compelling reasons for doing what this scripture says?
- Show the how - What Steps do I need to do?
- Show the cost / benefit - People will do--and only do--what they believe to be in their best interest. What is the benefit for following God in this area? What will it cost us if we don't follow God in this area?
- Ask for the order - What do you want to do about what you heard today? 1) Baby steps 2) The big ask

5) Add a Bible Study<sup>xvii</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Simplified 1. **“What does it say”** List outstanding obvious **facts** without paraphrase. 2. **“What does it mean?”** List spiritual lessons or **principles** learned from the facts. 3 **“What does it mean to me?”** Rewrite lessons into personal **questions**.

**Notes**

- <sup>iv</sup> The Interlinear NASB-NIV Parallel New Testament (0310401704) (BS1965 1986)
- <sup>v</sup> The Interlinear Niv Hebrew-English Old Testament/4 Volumes in 1/Genesis-Malachi. (031040200X) (BS715 1976)
- <sup>vi</sup> Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament (3438060108)(BS2325.M43 1994)
- <sup>vii</sup> The Message (0891097287) (BS2095.P473 1993), The Anchor Bible (Double Day Publishers) (BS192.1.A1), The New Living Translation (0842340505) (BS195.N394 1996), Word Biblical Commentary (Thomas Nelson)(BS492.2X), 26 Translations of the Holy Bible (AMG / Zondervan), Jewish Tanakah (JPS) (BS895.J4 1985)
- <sup>viii</sup> The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament (0310202756) (BS1965.2 1998) OR Analytical Key to the Old Testament, 4 Volumes (0801067545)
- <sup>ix</sup> New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology (PA 881.B76) Z  
New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis (PJ4833.N48) Z  
Expository Dictionary of Bible Words (BS440.R525 1985) N
- <sup>x</sup> Dictionary of Biblical Imagery (BS537.D48 1998) N  
Figures of Speech Used in the Bible (BS 537.B8) N
- <sup>xi</sup> Literary Structure of the Old Testament (0-8010-2187-1) N  
Treasury of Scripture Knowledge H  
Topical Analysis of the Bible (Elwell) (BS543.E49 1991) L  
Zondervan Dictionary of Biblical Themes (0310206685) N  
NIV Study Bible Column Notes
- <sup>xii</sup> Expositor's Biblical Commentary H  
Word Biblical Commentary L  
The Anchor Bible N  
The Outline Bible 0842337016 N
- <sup>xiii</sup> NIV Study Bible H  
Bible Knowledge Commentary (book overview section) H
- <sup>xiv</sup> IVP Bible Background Commentary (Genesis - Deuteronomy BS1151.2.I86 1997) (New Testament BS2341.2.K445 1993) L  
Expositor's / Word / Anchor
- <sup>xv</sup> Thomas Oden's Ancient's Commentaries N  
Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers (BS500.H27 1998) N  
Early Church Fathers L
- <sup>xvi</sup> Expositor's Biblical Commentary H  
With the Word (Wiersbe) BS491.2.W52 1991) L  
Bible Knowledge Commentary H  
Bible Exposition Commentary (Wiersbe) (Expository Outlines on the New Testament BS2341.2.W543 1992) (Old Testament BS491.2.W5 1993) L/L  
NIV Serendipity Bible (BS195.N37 1988) N
- <sup>xvii</sup> Serendipity Bible (CDROM), BibleMaster.com, etc.

**Key Words**

Abuses	dangers	habits	locations	places	sacrifices	subjects	units
alternatives	declarations	handicaps	marks	please	satisfactions	supports	urges
answers	definitions	honors	measures memories	points	sayings	suppositions	uses
approaches	degrees	hopes	mercies	positions	scales	symptoms	vacancies
areas	details	hungers	methods models	possibilities	scars	systems	values
arguments	directives	hurts	mountains	precautions	schemes	tactics	variations
aspects	divisions		mysteries	predictions	schools	talents	varieties
assumptions	doors	ideals		problems	seals	tasks	ventures
assurances		ideas	names	promises	seasons	teachings	verifications
attitudes	effects	idols	natures	proofs	secrets	tendencies	views
	elements	impacts	needs	provisions	selections	tests	violations
barriers	examples	implications	norms		sentiments	theories thoughts	virtues
beginnings	explanations	impressions	numbers	qualifications	services	ties	visions
beliefs	extremes	issues		qualities	shields	times	vocations
benefits		items	objectives	questions	situations	titles	voices
blemishes	facets		obligations	quests	skills	tokens	wants
blessings	factors	joys	obstacles		solutions	tones	warnings
blots	facts	judgments	offenses	reactions	solicitations	topics	ways
boundaries	faults	justifications	opinions	reasons	sources	traces	weaknesses
	fears		options	records	spheres	trials	weapons
causes	feelings	keys	orders	references	statements	triumphs	words
challenges	flaws		origins	regulations	states	troubles	works
changes	forces	laws	parts	responses	steps	truths	worries
circumstances	forms	lessons	paths	restraints	stipulations	types	wrongs
commands	fundamentals	levels	penalties	results	stresses	uncertainties	yokes
comparisons		lights	perceptions	rewards	strokes	undertakings	zones
criteria	gains	limits	perils	roads	styles		
criticisms	gifts	links	pictures	roles			
customs	guides	loads	pieces				

<b>Look at God's Word</b>	<b>Textual Analysis</b>	<b>Exegetical Analysis</b>	<b>Lessons (Homiletics)</b>	<b>Listen to His voice</b>
<i>Begin by reading the passage of Scripture. Underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study</i>		<i>What does the passage say? Use the words of the text to list the most outstanding and obvious facts. Don't paraphrase; be literal as you list the facts. Put simplifications in [ ].</i>	<i>What does the passage mean? Identify a lesson to learn from each fact. Focus on spiritual lessons.</i>	<i>What does the passage mean to me? Rewrite the lessons from the previous column in the form of questions. Be personal as you formulate your questions.</i>
12 Therefore, just				