

THE NEW HUMANITY OF JESUS THE CHRIST:

MEDITATIONS IN THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL'S ADDRESS TO THE EPHESIAN FAITHFUL

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**AGAINST COSMIC POWERS**

(EPHESIANS 6:12)

**I. Introduction**

**II. Against the Cosmic Powers over this Present Darkness (Eph 6:12)**

- A. "For"—6:12 gives a further reason for why we must put on the armor of God.
- B. We put on the armor of God because we do not wrestle against flesh and blood (6:12a).
  - 1. The church's enemies are not flesh and blood, not human.
  - 2. The church's enemies have real, independent existence from us.
    - a. They are not products of our imaginations.
    - b. They are not the sum total of our bad thoughts/deeds.
- C. We put on the armor of God because we wrestle against the rulers of darkness (6:12b-e).
  - 1. There are some initial considerations to make:
    - a. Paul assumes that his listeners know what he is talking about.
    - b. Paul is (most likely) speaking about one group of beings.
    - c. Paul is referring to the demonic powers—the government of evil—that pervades the present age.
  - 2. The government of evil can be described in the following ways:
    - a. They are "the rulers."
      - i. Authority is implied.
      - ii. Intelligence (and cunning) is implied.
      - iii. Association with the prince of the air himself is implied.
    - b. They are "the authorities."
    - c. They are "the cosmic powers over this present darkness."  
—The rulers-powers are manifested in false religions (Dt 32:17; Ps 96:5; 1 Cor 10:20).
    - d. They are "the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

- D. What is God's agenda in revealing the rulers?
  - 1. It is not to make us afraid.
  - 2. It is to help us see the world realistically.
  - 3. It is to show us where we stand as God's children.  
—God has put the Christian into a state of war against Satan.
  - 4. It is to show us our need to depend on God.  
—6:12 is part of the case for putting on the armor of God.

**III. Standing with God against the Powers**

*By revealing the cosmic powers to us, God is showing us how much we need him. He is calling us to flee to him—to embrace all that he has given to us in Christ, as well as to depend on him for daily empowerment—so that we can live boldly against these arrogant powers. In short, God is calling us to resist the cosmic powers by living as his new and holy humanity in the world, reborn in Jesus Christ.*

**IV. Good News for God's Struggling Children**

Thankfully, our final victory over the powers does not depend on *our* dependence on God.

*"Then comes the end, when **he** [Jesus Christ] delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power."  
(1 Cor 15:24)*