

2020 VISION

Ephesians 6:10-18

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Ephesians 6:10-18 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. -



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14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints... (ESV)



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I. We need to see things as they really are.

A. Resting in His strength.

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

- *Romans 3:16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,*
- *Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*



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I. We need to see things as they really are.

A. Resting in His strength.

- *2 Corinthians 12:9-10 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*



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I. We need to see things as they really are.

B. Standing firmly against the plans of the evil one.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

- *1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*



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- I. We need to see things as they really are.
- C. Knowing that we are fighting an intense spiritual battle.
 - Not fighting each other.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood,

- Fighting against evil spiritual forces.

but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.



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II. Doing all we can to make things better.

A. Putting on the whole armor of God.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day,



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II. Doing all we can to make things better.

B. Doing all we can to stand firm.

and having done all, to stand firm.

- *Psalm 1:1-3 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*



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II. Doing all we can to make things better.

C. Putting on truth.

14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth,

- *2 Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.*
- *Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.*



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II. Doing all we can to make things better.

D. Putting on righteousness.

and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

- *Proverbs 4:23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*



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II. Doing all we can to make things better.

E. Ready to share the gospel.

15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.



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II. Doing all we can to make things better.

F. Exercising faith.

16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

- *Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*



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II. Doing all we can to make things better.

G. Protecting our minds.

17 and take the helmet of salvation,

- *Philippians 4:6-9 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. -*



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II. Doing all we can to make things better.

G. Protecting our minds.

17 and take the helmet of salvation,

- *8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*



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II. Doing all we can to make things better.

H. Skillfully wielding God's Word.

and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

- *Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*



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II. Doing all we can to make things better.

H. Skillfully wielding God's Word.

and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

- *2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling (rightly dividing) the word of truth.*



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II. Doing all we can to make things better.

I. Always praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints...



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For us to find victory in our lives we need to see things the way they really are. We need to rest in His strength as we stand firm against the plans of the evil one knowing that we are fighting an intense spiritual battle. We shouldn't be fighting with each other, but we should fight together against the evil spiritual forces that surround us.



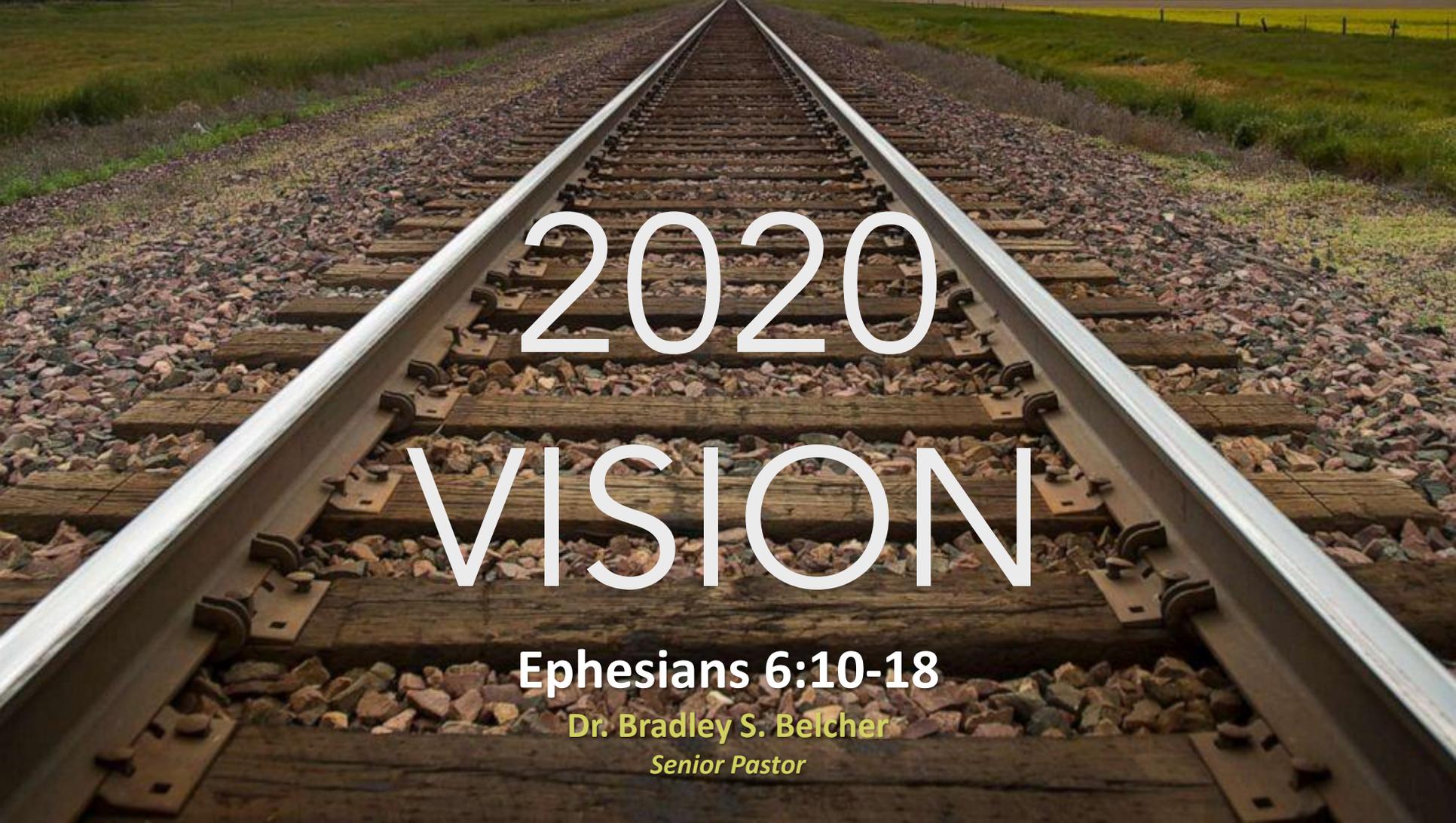
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We need to do all we can to make things better putting on the whole armor of God, standing firm in our pursuit of truth and being careful to walk in righteousness. We need to be ready to share the gospel as we exercise our faith, protecting our minds as we skillfully wield God's Word in our fight against evil. We need to constantly pray for our brothers and sisters as we fight this battle together.



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