

“Are You Ready for Battle?”

Ephesians 6:10,16-17

INTRODUCTION: *The importance of “fight songs”*

(college ‘marching bands’, locker rooms & Luther’s fight song – #657 LSB, vv. 1-2)

- I. THE DEVIL USES *FIERY DARTS* (v.16)
 - A. Used in open warfare before hand-to-hand combat (Psalm 91:5)
 - B. Note the movie - *Braveheart*
 - C. These are temptations to wound you and soften you up

- II. GOD PROVIDES US WITH A SHIELD (v. 16)
 - A. This is the shield of faith & God Himself is our shield
 - B. He gives us shield-bearers for help & protection
 - C. Permit me to introduce you to some of my shield-bearers
 - D. The famous high school experiment: *The A-B-C line experiment*

- III. GOD HAS GIVEN US A CUSTOM-FITTED HELMET (v. 17)
 - A. This is *the helmet of salvation* (Isa.59:17; Eph.2:8-9)
 - B. The devil tries, but cannot take this from us (2 Pt. 5:8)
 - C. A song: *The Lions May Eat My Body, But They cannot Swallow My Soul*
 - D. This promise is for **Caleb Mayan** today!

- IV. THE SWORD GOD PROVIDES IS VERY SHARP (V.17)
 - A. This is a “short sword” for hand-to-hand combat
 - B. Back to the movie - *Braveheart*
 - C. This sword is God’s powerful Word
 - D. God’s Word is for our *hand-to-hand combat* : sermons, Bible classes, private devotions

- V. THE VICTORY DEPENDS NOT ON US, BUT ON OUR LORD (V.10)
 - A. The Roman soldier in St. Paul’s day had his weapons & armor
supplied to him by his commander
 - B. So do we! (vv. 10-11)

CONCLUSION: *Back to our fight song - A Mighty Fortress is Our God #657* (vv. 3-4)

Hymn 657 (Lutheran Service Book)

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod
And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
Has sworn to work us woe.
With craft and dreadful might
He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

2. No strength of ours can match his might.
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
Whom God Himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is He,
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God’s only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

3. Though hordes of devils fill the land
All threat’ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;
They cannot overpower us.
Let this world’s tyrant rage;
In battle we’ll engage.
His might is doomed to fail;
God’s judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

4. God’s Word forever shall abide,
No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side
With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
Goods, honour, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom’s ours forever!