

Armor of God – Belt and Breastplate

Ephesians 6:13-17

April 10-11, 2010

- Sermon's theme = All members of the Church, the Body of Christ, are to wear the armor of God to be able to stand against those that would oppose them and Him.

Introduction

- Open Bible to Ephesians 6
- Spiritual Warfare
 - ✓ The Command – Be Strong and Put On
 - ✓ The Conflict – Not against Physical but Spiritual
 - ✓ The Armor – 6 Elements

Exegesis

- **Restatement of the Command and Conflict of Spiritual Warfare**
 - Ephesians 6:13
 - 13 *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.*
 - **Command: Put on the full armor of God**
 - Ephesians 6:13
 - 13 *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.*
 - “...*put on the full armor of God...*” = Remember, the command for a believer is to put on the armor – Aorist (point of time), right now
 - “...*put on the full armor of God...*” = Remember, the armor is of the Lord's fashioning and choosing – He knows what we need and He is the one to provide it. Remember, also, it is the full armor that is required – a piece or two leaves you unprotected and wrongly confident against attack

- “...*you may be able to stand your ground...*” = Literally, “that you might be made able to stand”; the armor results in your standing – there is no standing without the armor of God
- “...*to stand.*” = The armor is not for show or demonstration but is given to enable us to stand – stand against the onslaught of our adversary
- We, as disciples of Jesus Christ, must take up and put on the armor supplied by God as it is what will allow us to stand (not be overcome) by our adversary
- **Conflict: The day of evil**
 - Ephesians 6:13
 - 13 *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.*
 - “...*when the day of evil comes...*” = “when” not “if”; It is not the day of disaster or confusion but evil – the character of our Adversary. While there is a coming day of evil (end of days), this is applicable to every day of evil – which are largely unknown to us until they are upon us.
 - We (remembering the words of verse 12) are in conflict against Spiritual not Physical forces.
- ❖ **As disciples of Jesus Christ, we need to put on the armor of God so that we can withstand the attack of our real Adversary, the Devil.**
- **The Belt of Truth**
 - Ephesians 6:14
 - 14 *Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,*
 - “*Stand firm then...*” = The Imperative (command) of verses 14-16 – all other verbs are participles off-shooting from this verb
 - “...*belt...*” = KJV, “having your loins girt”; NASB, “having girded your loins”; Literally, “tighten the belt around your waist, get ready, prepare yourself”; Cp. Luke 12:35-38 (disciples sent out ready to respond to their master’s directions); This is the first instruction because it was the action/clothing on which all other articles relied

- “...of truth...” = What is genuine, sincere; the opposite of false or a lie; While certainly this applies to the Word of God, since that is specifically mentioned later, this seems to designate the knowledge and belief of the truth
- The Father as truth
 - Jeremiah 10:10; John 17:3; 1 Thess. 1:9
- Jesus as truth
 - John 14:6; 1:14; 1 John 5:20; Revelation 1:5; 3:7, 14; 19:11
- The Spirit as truth
 - 1 John 5:6
- The Word of God as truth
 - Psalm 119: 86, 138; John 8:32
- Disciples in truth
 - John 18:37; 1 John 1:8
- Satan as against the truth
 - John 8:44; Acts 5:3; Revelation 12:9; 20:10
- There is truth (singular – may be multi-faceted but there are not multiple truths)
- God is what is true (either the God of the Bible is true and all other religious/spiritual beliefs are false or one of them is true and He is false but it can't be both)
- To be in the truth or of the truth is to be in or of God (John 1:14; John 15:1-5)

❖ **We are given and called to wear the foundation of truth to stand against the Devil and his lies**

• **The Breastplate of Righteousness**

- Ephesians 6:14

14 *Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,*

 - “...breastplate...” = The coat of mail that covered the vital organs from the neck to the waist or thighs
 - “...of righteousness...” = The quality of being or doing right; Probably an allusion to Isaiah 59:17 (“*He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head...*”)

- The position of a believer
 - Romans 5:1; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Philippians 1:11
 - The practice of a believer
 - Ephesians 5:9; 1 Timothy 6:11; 1 John 3:7
 - The breastplate of righteousness is supplied by God as all righteousness is His righteousness
 - We are only righteous because we are in Him and do His will
 - We need His righteousness to protect our lives as Satan will utilize any opening to see sin take root in our lives
- ❖ We are given and called to wear the righteousness of God to stand against the Devil and the sin he would bring into our lives**

Response

- **As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are to know His truth and be covered by His righteousness.**
 - Observers = See and accept His truth and righteousness
 - Disciples = Know and live in His truth and righteousness