

Armor of God – Shoes and Shield

Ephesians 6:13-17

April 17-18, 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

- **The Armor of God**
 - Ephesians 6:13-14
 - 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.*
 - 14 *Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,*
 - **Belt of truth = Prepared in truth**
 - **Breastplate of Righteousness = Protection in Righteousness**
- **Feet Fitted with the Readiness that Comes from the Gospel of Peace**
 - Ephesians 6:15
 - 15 *and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.*
 - “...your feet fitted...” = Aorist Middle Participle – point of action performed on the subject by the subject as part of the main verb (to stand); from the root word for “sandal”; literally, “sandaling yourself the feet”

- Picture = Roman armor (caligae but probably no greaves)
 - Roman and Greek armies = long marches and stability in battle
 - U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine = “There is nothing more important to a marching soldier than healthy feet.”
 - All the armor in the world is of little use if the soldier cannot stand, cannot remain standing or cannot be deployed to stand
 - “...*with the readiness...*” = KJV/NASB “with the preparation”; You sandal your feet to be prepared for the battle and the terrain of the battle before you engage in the battle
 - “...*that comes from the gospel...*” = NIV chooses one translation – that the gospel is the source of the readiness (ablative); KJV/NASB choose another translation (“of the gospel”) – that the readiness is for the gospel (ready to share or proclaim the gospel)
 - While neither is inherently wrong, the NIV, by context seems closer to Paul’s meaning – in the context of standing against Satan it is not the sharing of the Gospel that helps a believer to stand but the work of the Gospel
 - “...*of Peace.*” = This tells us the specific aspect or dimension of the Gospel that helps the believer’s footing – peace
 - Paul is probably thinking of Isaiah 52:7 (or Nahum 1:15), “*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’*” – alluded to in Acts 10:36
 - The Peace of the Gospel is absolutely necessary for a believer to stand when Satan attacks
- Peace with God through the Gospel
- Ephesians 2:17-18, “*He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*”
 - Romans 5:1, “*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*”; Cp. Romans 5:10, “...*God’s enemies...*”

- One of Satan’s great attacks is to get a believer, who through salvation has peace with God, to attack God rather than him
- Job = Job 1:11, “...*he will surely curse you to your face.*”; 2:5, “...*he will surely curse you to your face.*”; 2:9, “...*Curse God and die.*”
- A believer firmly prepared to stand through the peace with God that comes through the Gospel will not “fall” for such an attack
- Peace of God through the Gospel
 - Ephesians 2:14-16, “*For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.*”
 - Ephesians 2:22 – Building/Temple
 - 1 Corinthians 12 – Body
 - Ephesians 4 – Unity of Body
 - Ephesians 4:31-32, “*Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*”
 - One of Satan’s great attacks is to get a believer to attack another believer that they have been brought into peace with by God’s salvation through the Gospel

❖ **We are called to stand firm against the attacks of Satan through the peace of God**

• **The Shield of Faith**

➤ Ephesians 6:16

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

- “*In addition to all this...*” = Literally, “in all [things]”; It carries the meaning of “to cover all the rest” – for what would protect the unprotected and even keep the enemies attack from reaching the armor itself

- “...*take up the shield...*” = The shield is not the small shield of combat regularly pictured with gladiators but the full shield of the soldier; derived from the word for door – indicating size
 - Picture = Roman armor (scutum)
 - “...*of faith...*” = The nature of our spiritual shield is faith – it is the covering that will protect before any damage can come to us or against us
 - “...*you can extinguish all the flaming arrows...*” = Historically, flaming or fiery darts were common in the warfare of the time; the intent was not to cause damage by the arrow but by the flame; 220 in one shield
 - Spiritually, the flaming arrows are the temptations to sin that come to a believer’s life
 - If the temptation is stopped (extinguished) before it can come to the believer, then there is no damage to the believer; but if the temptation finds its way into a believer’s life then the flame of sin is able to damage the believer
 - “...*of the evil one.*” = These flaming arrows are the work of evil = Satan and sin itself
- Consider the Ten Commandments and the work of Faith in stopping temptations from becoming sin
 - Faith and Worship
 - Exodus 20:3-6 = Commandments 1 (no other gods) and 2 (no images)
 - Faith keeps me from the temptation to worship something or someone else because I trust that God is who He says He is and no other can compare to Him
 - Faith and Submission/Pride
 - Exodus 20:7-11 = Commandments 3 (His name) and 4 (His day)
 - Faith keeps me from the temptation to dishonor God because I trust that my honor of Him will become His honor of me
 - Faith and Obedience
 - Exodus 20:12 = Commandment 5 (parents)
 - Faith keeps me from the temptation of doing what I want because I trust that He has already worked in the lives of those given to raise me
 - Faith and Anger/Hate/Murder

- Exodus 20:13 = Commandment 6 (kill)
- Faith keeps me from the temptation to murder, hate or be angry with another because I have to trust that God will be the judge of all men
- Faith and Lust/Sexual Sin
 - Exodus 20:14 = Commandment 7 (adultery)
 - Faith keeps me from the temptation of lust and sexual sin because I trust that God has what is best for me and is not withholding from me
- Faith and Greed/Materialism
 - Exodus 20:15, 17 = Commandments 8 (steal) and 10 (covet)
 - Faith keeps me from the temptation of greed and materialism because I trust that God will provide for and take care of me
- Faith and Lying/Deception
 - Exodus 20:16 = Commandment 9 (false testimony)
 - Faith keeps me from the temptation of lying because I know that God will see me through whatever difficult situation I face
- ❖ **We are called to take up the shield of Faith to withstand our enemy the Devil.**

Response

- **As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are to stand firm in His peace and withstand the enemy by faith.**
 - Observers = See and accept His peace by faith
 - Disciples = Know and live in His peace and by faith in Him