

Series: Ephesians: Christ's Life In Us

Sermon: Spiritual Armor (part 1)

**Passage: Ephesians 6:13-15**

Illustration:

Need: Christians must actively put on God's spiritual armor to stand firm against Satan's schemes!

### **I. Truth**

- The first piece of armor that a Roman soldier would "put on" was the belt/girdle. The belt would hold the scabbard for the sword and a stabilizer for the breastplate. From the belt would hang strips of leather to the knees forming a skirt of protection for the abdomen, groin, and thighs.
- Objective truth = scripture correctly understood (doctrine). Believing truth statements is not enough.
- Subjective truth = when believers embrace doctrine and fashion their lives according to it (truthfulness/integrity).
- When lies, deception, or hiddenness enter a believer, every layer of defense breaks down.

### **II. Righteousness**

- The breastplate was made of bronze, strips of wood covered in leather, or chainmail. It protected both the chest and back from the neck to the waist. The breastplate attached to the belt/girdle for stability.
- Imputed righteousness = God applies the righteousness of Christ on those who, by faith, believe.
- Personal Holiness = the righteousness of Christ that is displayed in our lives in obedience to God's Word.
- "Many, if not most, of the emotional & relational problems Christians experience are caused by a lack of personal holiness." (John MacArthur) "an anemic devotional life - pursuit of holiness" Brody Holloway

### **III. Peace**

- Heavy sandals were used for shoes. The leather sole was typically 3/4 inch thick or more. The sandal bottom was covered in exposed hobnails (cleats) for stability. Leather straps tied the sandal to the foot, around the ankle, and up the leg to the mid-shin.
- The "gospel of peace" refers to the fact that we are at peace with God through the work of the gospel.
- One of Satan's schemes is to trick believers into believing that they are removed from God's favor.
- An accurate & settled understanding of the true gospel is essential to our stability & confidence to stand.

### **IV. Armor Check:**

- How is your life girded with truth? Where are the lies, deception, and hidden areas?
- How are you actively pursuing holiness (righteousness) in your daily life?
- How stable and confident are you in your understanding of the gospel and the peace you have with God?