

Series: Ephesians: Christ's Life In Us

Sermon: Spiritual Armor (part 2)

Passage: Ephesians 6:16-17

Illustration:

Need: Warning: to those who are in Christ - "Armor Up, We Are At War!"

I. Faith (shield)

- A Roman soldier's shield measured 2.5x4ft and was made of wood covered with canvas and leather. Metal was attached along the top & bottom edges with an iron half-ball in the center. Shields could be linked together to form a wall around or covering above a group of soldiers.
- Faith is simply believing what God has said; taking Him at His word. Trusting in who God is over anything we might think, see, hear, feel, or experience.
- When believers exercise their shield of faith (believing what God says) in the face of Satans attacks (fiery darts), we are able to deflect and extinguish them.
- The righteous must live by faith (Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11, Heb. 10:38 all quoted from Hab. 2:4)

II. Salvation (helmet)

- The last piece of armor a Roman soldier would grab was his helmet. The helmet was made of bronze and rested on a leather skull cap. The helmet covered the back of the neck and had side plates attached to protect the face.
- Believers experience God's salvation (justification) by His grace, through faith alone in Jesus alone.
- Our helmet is the confident hope and assurance of our eternal future with Christ (eternal security).
- 1 Pet. 1:3-9; 1 Thes. 5:8-11

III. Scripture (sword)

- A Roman soldier could potentially have two swords. One was a heavy, double-edged broad sword that measured up to 3-4 feet long. The other was a short sword or dagger. This dagger was sheathed on the girdle belt, also double edged but was only about 2 feet long, used for close hand combat. This second sword is that to which Paul referred.
- This is the only offensive weapon in God's spiritual armor. It's designed to stand firm, not advance.
- Our sword is not the Holy Spirit, but God's words (scripture) expressed, empowered the Spirit.
- Speaking scripture is not magical formulas. It is speaking God's truth to the enemy's lies. Heb. 4:12
- Jesus demonstrated the use of the sword in His encounter with Satan (Matt. 4 & Luke 4).
- We speak God's words in the name of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Accuracy is imperative. One must understand God's word in order to wield it effectively.
- Read, study, meditate, memorize, engage.

IV. Take up your shield, helmet, and sword!

- Are you overwhelmed by the enemy's lies? FAITH is believing and trusting in who God is & what He says.
- Do you wrestle with doubt and fear? If you are SAVED by grace through faith, you are secure in Christ.
- Do you know your Bible? Read it. Study it. Meditate on it. Memorize it. Speak it into your battle!