

THE ARMOR OF GOD

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS WITH PASTOR JACK ABELEN

Knowing our Adversary and the Armor of God

Week 4: Ephesians 6:14a - Having Girded your Waist with Truth

Introduction

- A. Paul's letter to the Ephesians unfolds our glorious place in Christ as Paul shows us our position in Him (Eph.1:7,11,17-19; 2:6-7; 3:19). From our sitting in Christ (ch.1-3) to our walking with Him (ch.4-6), Paul finally turns to our need to be able to stand in Him as we face the enemy of our souls, the last topic of this important letter.
- B. It is the adversary that we have spent the last 3 weeks studying (Eph.6:10-13). We have looked at everything from his creation and fall, to his methods of operations against both the world that is lost and the saints that know God.
- C. So our sitting in Christ, a positional truth, and our walking with Him, a practical reality, is opposed by the warfare that seeks to keep us from standing in Christ. Thus the armor God provides is found here (Eph.6:14-18) and that will be our study for the next several weeks.
- D. Paul begins this section leading up to the armor (Eph.6:10-13) with some important injunctions:
 1. God must be our strength and we must look to Him alone (10).
 2. We are obligated to put on this armor God provides if we hope to stand firm against the wiles of the devil (11,13).
 3. Our battle is not with man or with a system but with fallen angels in powerful places (12). This battle is serious, strenuous as the word wrestle suggests, and it is daily (13).
 4. Even when fully equipped, constant prayer is necessary if we are to walk worthy of our calling (18).

The Armor of God

- A. The very fact that armor is available shows the danger of the battle. Yet God who loves us knows just what we need.
- B. We need to be strong in Him *before* seeking to use this armor He provides. It is His armor, provided by God, and we must know Him first, and only then can we stand in the strength and protection this armor provides (10,11).
- C. To wear this armor is to appropriate God's provisions by faith (Jn.15:5)(Php.4:13). It is an armor that will need to be worn daily in this world (1Co.10:12). This is especially true after great victories when our guard can be let down. Look at the attack on Jesus (Mt.3-4), or the stumble of David (2Sa.24), or Paul's thorn in the flesh and its purpose (2Co.12).
- D. Everything we need God has provided (2Pe.1:3) and it is vital we wear each piece, the whole armor (11). Some folks emphasize one piece over another, strong in one area yet weak in another. We need it all!
- E. So let's dress a soldier in the armor God has given, looking both at the external usage of the pieces and then the spiritual application we learn from it.

Girded with Truth

- A. The armor consists of 6 pieces which fall into two categories. The first category includes those things always worn, introduced by the word having. The second category of items are put on as needed, introduced by the word taking.

- B. This first item is one always worn, the girdle or belt.
- C. The function of the belt was to provide mobility and freedom when needed for running or fighting, as the long tunic often worn was cinched up through the belt freeing the legs and arms.
- D. We read of it at the first Passover (Ex.12:11) and Jesus mentions it in the context of the disciples being ready for Him when He comes again (Lk.12:35-37). The belt that girds us prepares us to move, makes us and keeps us ready. Spiritually, it is truth that girds the saint.

Truth Subjectively Applied

- A. When the word truth is used subjectively, it speaks of truthfulness or sincerity of commitment. In our warfare with the enemy, we are made ready by a sincere commitment to Jesus Christ (Heb.12:1-2).
- B. Despite all cost, we must have a heart and love for the Lord (2Ti.2:3-4). It was the “all in” heart that kept John, Paul, Peter, Moses, David, and many others from falling due to difficulty or hardship. Remember David buying the threshing floor (2Sa.24:24) and the widow in her giving (Mk.12:43-44).
- C. With this piece of armor comes a dedication to win (1Co.9:24-25). In comparison to the athletes of our day who give it all to be the best, what are we doing in terms of sincere diligence to be sure we will find victory in Christ?
- D. A lethargic regiment of spiritual living won't do (Mt.13:20-22). Instead we are called to be living sacrifices (Rom.12:1-2), fully committed, girded with truthfulness of commitment. We should be satisfied with nothing less than excellence (Php.1:9-11) and set large goals for we serve a large God (Act.2:17).

Truth Objectively Applied

- A. When the word truth is used objectively, it speaks of the final authority of the Word of God. And when used in that context, it speaks about having our minds and hearts readied with a clear understanding of, and commitment to, the authority of the Word of God.
- B. Mastered by the truth of God's Word, my responses and actions are governed and I am ready to move forward and stand in battle (1Co.3:18)(1Co.1:21).

Conclusion

- A. Next week we will focus on the breastplate of righteousness.