

Sunday, May 27, 2018 – 1st Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: Equipped for Battle

Read Ephesians 6:10-18



Life is not always easy. At times it feels like life is a battle. We have equipment for our battle. A part of the struggles we go through in life are spiritual battles. We can be equipped to fight that battle. We can put on the armor of God. Today let us think about that armor.



We are in a spiritual battle. The battle is over our growing in Christ. There is the enemy, the devil, who wants to keep us from growing in Christ. We are hit with the temptations to try to turn us from becoming more like Jesus. Not only do we have the temptations personally, but we are involved in a battle for our culture. We are to be the light for the world around us. We need to stand up and represent Christ. Too often we just want to fit in.



We use the armor of God so we can stand firm. We are not to retreat. We stand up for Christ. When Jesus changed the name of Simon to Peter He said that Peter would be the rock upon which He would build the church. Jesus also said that the gates of Hell cannot prevail against the church. Gates are not something we run from, but which we go through. It is not that we are to be on the defensive, but we should be attacking. Standing firm for Christ and not standing back.

We are to be on the offensive.



The first part is the belt of truth. It seems strange to begin with a belt. We take belts for granted, but it is important for armor. The belt holds everything together. When we are busy fighting the spiritual struggles of life we need to know we have the essentials together. The belt that keeps it all together is truth. Jesus said that He is the truth. We can know that He is the truth. He did not say He was a truth, but that He is the truth. We can trust Him. To do that we have to know who He is and what He tells us. The way we do this is by reading the Scripture. More than just reading the Scripture we need to study it and apply it to our lives.



Our chest is protected by the breastplate of righteousness. The breastplate protects our vital organs. We think of our heart as being the center of our emotions. Righteousness protects us from getting caught up in the wrong emotions. Righteousness is the standard for us in how we are to live. We decide to do what is right. If we are committed to doing what is right we can control our emotions. We are in charge. We can decide that we will follow Jesus and not yield

to temptation. The Bible talks about the battle between our flesh and our spirit. Our flesh is our sinful nature that encourages us to disobey God, while our spirit is that part of us that wants to be in a relationship with God. Having the breastplate of righteousness helps to protect us from temptation.



On our feet we have the Gospel of peace. It is important that we do not slip in our time of battle. We do not want to worry about not falling. The Gospel of peace keeps us steady. It is our foundation. It is the good news of peace. The good news that Jesus came to bring us peace with God. Our foundation is that Jesus loves us. We are important to Jesus. If that is true then a lot of the concerns we have are not important. Know that God loves you and wants the best for you. This is the Good News, the Gospel.



The shield of faith also protects us from temptation. We know what the truth is and we live by faith in that truth. Faith is not just what we believe, but it is living by that faith. It is putting it into practice. When we are tempted to disobey God, our faith can keep us on the right track. We can think of the arrows as being temptations, and our faith keeps those temptations from getting to us. We do not wait until temptation comes to decide we are going to live for Christ. We

make that decision when we spend time with God and then when temptation does come our way we can use our shield to block the temptations.



The helmet of salvation protects our head. Our thoughts are protected by the fact that we are being saved. We belong to Jesus. He died for us. When we take that attitude with our whole life there is nothing that can overcome our thoughts. We are attacked in our thoughts by ideas like we are not good enough to follow Jesus, Jesus does not really care about us, or making some concessions does not hurt. We can keep our helmet on to protect our thoughts.



The Word of God is our sword. That is our offensive weapon. The Word tells us how to go through life. Again we have to know the Word to follow it. We read the Word and then we do what it says. There is no protection for our back, because we are supposed to move forward and not run away. Knowing what the Word says we move against the evil forces that attack us.



Finally we are to pray. As a soldier we need to be in communication with our headquarters. Jesus is our commander. We can talk to Him. We can ask for help and receive orders from Him. We are in a battle. Be in it to win it.