



Sunday, June 10, 2018

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Ephesians 6:10-14

The first of our defenses that allows us to stand against the devil's schemes (Eph. 6:11) is the belt of truth. Truth is such a foundational defensive weapon because many of the devil's schemes involve us believing lies that he spreads (John 8:44). These lies are not simple, easy-to-dismiss lies. Often the lies that the devil propagates are at the level of our unexamined thoughts, hopes, and fears. So, in order to fasten on the belt of truth, we must not only be absolutely clear on what truth is, but also clear at what level we are believing the lies.

This problem is compounded in our time. One of the biggest lies that has been spread for centuries now is that truth itself is relative. Many today refuse to believe that there is objective truth that must be believed by everyone. For us, as Christians, we may not believe that lie outright, but it shows up in how we interact with others. Many of us shy away from speaking the truth to those who need to hear it and we justify our actions by assuming the cultural lie that it doesn't matter whether the other person believes the truth or not. May God be merciful to us in causing us to speak the truth (in love) to those who need to hear it most!

Context

As Pastor Don noted, much of the battlefield for the spiritual warfare being waged can be found in the immediately preceding passages. Paul has already noted how important it is for husbands and wives to treat each other a certain way, for parents and children to treat each other a certain way, and for employers (masters) and employees (slaves) to treat each other a certain way. So, to follow the flow of thought in this passage would reveal that Paul envisions the spiritual battle taking place in our marriages, in our families, and in our workplaces—three realms in which we often see the devil at work to destroy our faith and witness.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Armor – The Belt of Truth”

Read Ephesians 6:10-14

Why do we need the armor?

- There is a war going on!

- The battle is the Lord's!

What is the “belt of truth”?

- Subjectively: integrity

- Objectively: all truth... gospel

How do we put it on?

- Fill your life with the truth of Scripture: Colossians 3:16

- Fill your life with Christ: Romans 13:14

Discuss

- 1) Why might someone want to ignore the fact that there is a spiritual battle being waged?
- 2) What can we do to ensure that we are constantly aware of the spiritual battle going on in our own hearts/minds and in the lives of those around us?
- 3) As Pastor Don noted, truth is a foundational element in girding up for the spiritual battle because lies abound. What are some lies that are commonly believed in our culture today?
- 4) What are you doing to “fill your life with the truth of Scripture”? And would you say that filling your life with Scripture is having its intended effect (Col. 3:16-17)?
- 5) Pastor Don also mentioned that one of Satan’s aims is to separate us from communion with Christ. How are you currently experiencing communion with Christ? If you’re not, how can we encourage you to commit to time with Him?