



Sunday, June 24, 2018
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Ephesians 6:10-14

The next piece of the armor that Paul mentions that allows us to stand against the devil's schemes (Eph. 6:11) is the breastplate of righteousness. Righteousness is not commonly thought of today. In a world of relativism where people believe that what is true for one person is not necessarily true of another person, it only makes sense that the world would believe that what is right for one person is not necessarily right for another person. But God is not like us. He doesn't operate with such arbitrary standards of justice. He has an objective standard of righteousness, which none of us can meet. Therefore, our only hope is that Jesus—who is perfectly righteous—would give (impute) His righteousness to us.

This objective righteousness is firm ground on which we can stand. In the hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," Martin Luther claims that when though the devil may go against us, "one little word shall fell him." This word was (and is): "liar!" When Satan accuses us, and tells us of our unrighteousness and sin, if we have grasped Christ by faith, we can respond that he is a liar because in Christ we are righteous, no matter what our particular sins are. What a great comfort this is and great armament for the spiritual battle!

Context

The concept of righteousness is widespread throughout the Bible. God is the One who determines right and wrong and righteousness is being right in God's judgment. Because apart from Christ we only sin continually, our only hope in Christ is that He will become our righteousness. As Pastor Don noted, this is expressed clearly in Jeremiah 23:6, when the prophet confesses that the LORD is our righteousness. Therefore, we can be confident that when the Bible speaks about being righteous before God, it is talking about us—if we have trusted Christ by faith.

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 Breastplate of Righteousness”

Read Ephesians 6:10-14

- Illustration – breastplate

- Application – righteousness

- Appropriation – by faith

Jesus is the Armor

- Belt – John 14.6

- Breastplate – Phil. 3.9

- Shoes – Is. 9.6

- Shield – Heb. 12.3

- Helmet – Acts 4.12

- Sword – John 1.14

Discuss

- 1) Pastor Don began by saying that spiritual warfare is not child's play, it's a matter of life and death. How might we, as Christians, be tempted to trivialize or downplay spiritual warfare?

- 2) Pastor Don noted that the "evil day" of Ephesians 6.13 is any time we are tempted to sin or not act in faith. What are some common temptations that we face day-to-day? And what has been your personal experience with standing firm against them or not?

- 3) What is your reaction to the fact that your righteousness before God isn't something you do, but is totally on the basis of what Christ has done?

- 4) Do you ever have doubts about your salvation? If so, how have you dealt with them? Or have you ever counseled with someone who was doubting their salvation?

- 5) How does assurance of salvation enable you to live more confidently despite your circumstances?