



Sunday, July 8, 2018

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Ephesians 6:10-16

Ephesians 6 is interesting in that, while other portions of Scripture encourage us to be on the offensive, the main point that Paul makes about “standing firm” is a defensive posture. Perhaps in no other aspect of the armor of God is this more apparent than the shield of faith. A shield is the most defensive weapon of all. To be sure, a shield could be used as an offensive weapon, but its primary purpose is to defend—in this case, against the flaming arrows of the devil himself.

Pastor Don noted how these arrows are aimed, not at our physical bodies (Eph. 6:12), but at our various passions—envy, lust, greed, fear, pride, despair, anger, etc. Often in the Christian life, when one passion has been “ignited” (we have given into temptation), other passions begin to be ignited as well and we find ourselves deeper and deeper in sin and further and further from the intimate fellowship with God we so desperately need. So, understanding how Satan’s lies manifest themselves in our lives and understanding our own passions in order to protect ourselves and keep ourselves in the faith (Jude 20-21).

Context

As Pastor Don has noted several times, the description of the armor of God is basically an elaborate illustration of what it means to “put on Christ.” One of the fascinating things about the Bible is that, because we know Christ is fully God, everything the Old Testament says about God can be said about Christ as well. In this case, the many points that reference God as our “shield” can be applied to Christ as well. When we embrace Him by faith, or as John Paton said, we “rest our whole weight on Christ,” we find that that Christ becomes like a shield around us, and the more we rest our weight on Him, the better He defends us against the schemes of the devil (Eph. 6:12).

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 – Shield of Faith”

Read Ephesians 6:10-16

Ephesians 6.16

Shield

- Make it clear Physical illustration
- Make it dynamic Spiritual correlation
 - Faith
 - Arrows
 - Extinguish
 - Community
- Make it mine Personal application
 - Resist the devil
 - James 4:7: “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
 - 1 Peter 5:8-9: “Be alert and sober-minded. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”

Discuss

- 1) When was a time that your faith was under attack? How did you handle that?
- 2) Pastor Don mentioned that Satan's "arrows" come in the form of lies—lies which "ignite our passions" and make God out to be a liar. What lies have been most prevalent in your mind since you've become a Christian? And how have those lies affected your view of God in those moments?
- 3) How do you know what condition your faith is in? How do you know if your faith in Christ is strong or weak?
- 4) How has your faith enabled you to resist the devil and stand firm in Christ?
- 5) How has living in community with other Christians enabled you to resist the devil and stand firm in Christ?