June 9, 2013 Sermon Application Handout
"Suit Up!" Part 2
Ephesians 6:14-15

I. Introduction

1. Before you begin, take a moment to pray and ask God to give you a greater awareness of the spiritual battle you face daily. Ask Him to assist you in taking your thoughts captive by applying His Word when you are tempted to sin in light of the battle!

2. Now read Ephesians 6:10-20 in one sitting. What does this passage say about God? Is there a sin to avoid? What is a specific teaching that can be understood from this passage? What is one thing from this passage for which you can thank God? What is one thing from this passage you should ask God to help you do?

II. The N_____ of the Armor

3. Why is it so necessary that we put on the full armor of God? What does 1 Corin. 10:12 warn all believers about? Who does not want Christians to stand firm (see 1 Peter 5:8-9)?

4. When it comes to standing firm in a spiritual battle, what is God's part and what is the believer's part? (See Eph. 3:20; Phil 2:12-13; Col 1:29; 2 Peter 1:3-7)?

5. Carefully read and consider Job 1. Do you believe that Satan is subject to God's will? Why or why not? (See also Luke 8:26-39).

6. Read Romans 8:28-29. What is one reason why God allows Satan to attack His beloved saints? What is the continuing activity of God toward the believer?

7. As you reflect on your past trials, have you seen growth in your walk with the Lord? If you have difficulty figuring that out, briefly review the grace virtues in Galatians 5:22-23.

8. How does knowing the bigger picture (Rom 8:28-29) give you encouragement in the heat of the battle? How can you encourage another Christian who is facing their own spiritual battle with this truth?

III. The I_____ of the Armor

9. Re-read Ephesians 6:13-14 and 1 Peter 5:8. Why are believers to "constantly" stand firm and be on the alert? What is the danger of not having a sense of urgency when it comes to standing firm?

10. What four Greek participles follow the imperative (command) to stand that denote the means of standing (see vv. 14-16)?

    Stand firm:
    a) Having f_____ on the belt of truth.
    b) Having p_____ o_____ the breastplate of righteousness.
    c) Having put on the r_____ given by the Gospel of peace.
    d) Having taken up the S_____ of F_____.

11. Does God allow us to pick and choose which piece of armor to put on daily? How do we harm ourselves and others when we fail to put it on fully?

IV. The S_____ of the Armor

12. Before a Roman soldier put on his armor, he would put a belt around his waist. This held his garments together and served as a place in which to hang his armor. In like manner, when a Christian is involved in a spiritual battle, what does God's Word call us to bind or gird ourselves with?

13. Read Isaiah 11:5. When we compare this to Ephesians 5:14, what is the intent behind girding ourselves with truth? What is Paul trying to recall your commitment to and why would it be so important to have a full commitment to it? When it comes down to it, what are we fighting for; what's at stake? (Also see Mark 8:34).

14. The next piece of armor Paul describes in verse 14 is the breastplate of righteousness. In ancient times, the breastplate was several strips of thin iron that wrapped around the chest and back laterally. They were riveted to leather straps which tied the pieces together. This protected a soldier's torso from his neck to the top of his thighs. This was very complicated to put on and required the help of others. In like manner how can the body of Christ or the Christian community play a role in helping one another to live a holy life thereby protecting each other against the assaults of the devil? (See Romans 13:12-14 to help formulate your answer).

15. Based on your answer above, why would it be vitally important to keep your breastplate of righteousness in place? How can a commitment to practicing the righteousness of Christ allow you to resist the attack of the Devil?

16. Write down one specific application you will make in your life today as a result of your study.

"The foe we have to do with keeps no holidays, never slumbers and never sleeps. So long as we have breath in our bodies we must keep on our armour and remember we are on enemy's ground." (JC Ryle *Holiness*)

Resources:

The Holy War by John Bunyan
The Christian in Complete Armour by William Gurnall
Demons: A Biblically Based Perspective by Alex Konya
How to Meet the Enemy: Arming Yourself for Spiritual Warfare by John MacArthur
Spiritual Warfare: Fight to Win (CD Set from Grace Books) by John MacArthur
Powers of Evil by Sydney Page
Power Encounters: Reclaiming Spiritual Warfare by David Powilson

Youtube video describing 1st Century AD Roman Armor:
(http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzTt2uKUhYk).