

Sunday Morning, November 8, 2015
Know Your Defense
Ephesians 6:13-14

I. God's Armor: the Belt of Truth

A. The *Foundational* Importance of the Belt

B. So, the *Foundational* Importance of Truth

1. The *Foundational* Importance of Objective Truth - God's Truth to Us

A. Truth as Armor: to Know the Word

Eph. 1:13; Eph. 4:21; Jn. 14:6; 1 Pet. 5:9; Jn. 17:17; Isa. 8:19, 20;
Prov. 1:17; Jn. 8:31, 32

B. Truth as Armor: to Be Convinced of the Word

2 Tim 3:13; Heb. 10:23; 1 Tim. 6:12

2. The *Foundational* Importance of Personally Living Truthfully

Eph. 4:22-25; Eph. 5:8, 9; 1 Tim. 1:18-20

II. God's Armor: the Breastplate of Righteousness

A. The *Critical* Importance of the Breastplate

B. So, the *Critical* Importance of Righteousness

1. The *Critical* Importance of Objective Righteousness-Christ's Righteousness for Us
2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 4:5; 1 Cor. 1:30; Jer. 23:5, 33:16

A. Righteousness as Armor: from Guilt of past Sins

B. Righteousness as Armor: from Doubts from Present Sins

2. The *Critical* Importance of Personally Living Righteously

Eph. 4:1; Eph. 1:4; Eph. 5:25, 3, 9; 4:24

A. Growth in Righteousness Gives Assurance One Is Christ's
1 Jn. 3:3; 1 Jn. 2:4, 3:6, 9

B. Growth in Righteousness Gives Courage to Fight
1 Jn. 1:6; Eph. 4:30; Jonah 2:8; Prov. 28:1

C. Growth in Righteousness Gives Protection from Sin's Consequences
Zech. 5:4; Rom. 3:13; Ps. 15:2, 5; Ps. 84:11

Quotes

“How can we answer the devil’s accusations and twisting of Scripture if we do not ourselves know God’s Word? Bad theology is deadly. Sound doctrine is not, as many seem to assume today at least implicitly, a distraction from the real life of Christian discipleship, but preparation for it.”
Michael Horton

"Not everyone that now applauds truth, will follow it, when once it comes to show them the way to prison. Not every one that preaches for it, or disputes for it, will suffer for it."
William Gurnall

"We are called to absolute dependance upon the Lord Jesus Christ and His righteousness. There is no hope apart from that. Anyone who is not clear about this doctrine is already defeated by the devil"
Martin Lloyd-Jones

“Christ’s own righteousness alone stands in God’s judgment and therefore in the face of Satan’s accusation. After all, Satan is often right when he accuses us, and he terrifies our consciences with the fear that we have fallen out of favor with God. If somehow he can undermine our faith in Christ and the sufficiency of *his* righteousness, what could constitute a more sterling victory?”
Michael Horton

“Christ, the Scripture, your hearts, and Satan's devices are the four prime things that should be first and most studied and searched. If any cast off study of these, they cannot be safe here, nor happy hereafter. It is my work as a Christian, but much more as I am a watchman, to do my best to discover the fullness of Christ, the emptiness of the creature, and the snares of the great deceiver.”
Thomas Brookes

"If I were the devil, one of my first aims would be to stop folk from digging into the Bible. Knowing that it is the Word of God... I would do all I could to surround it with the spiritual equivalent of pits, thorn hedges and man traps to frighten people off... How? Well, I should try to distract all clergy from preaching and teaching the Bible, and spread the feeling that to study this ancient book directly is a burdensome extra which modern Christians can forgo without loss. I should broadcast doubts about the truth and relevance and good sense and straightforwardness of the Bible, and if any still insisted on reading it I should lure them into assuming that the benefits of the practice lies in the noble and tranquil feelings evoked by it rather than in noting what Scripture actually says. At all costs I should want to keep them from using their minds in a disciplined way to get the measure of its message."
J. I. Packer

"We must have all discovered long since that feelings come and go. and the devil, of course is well aware of that. So his special strategy at this point is to try to make us rely unduly upon our feelings and sensations and sensibilities. He persuades many people to base the whole of the Christians position upon them. They had some wonderful feelings on a certain occasion and they have based everything upon that experience. Or they may have had wonderful feelings in the presence of God in prayer, or at service, or elsewhere; and they have been relying upon the. Then, for some reason or another, their feelings seem distant to them. They are aware of a dryness; and a coldness; they do not feel any longer what they used to feel; and their whole position is shaken. The devil suggests to them that they are not Christians at all, that they have never been Christians. The one thing which had proven to them that they were Christians has gone and so they are left with nothing."
Lloyd-Jones