

Putting on the Armour of God

△ Eph 6:10-18, 21-24

Intro

Today we are looking again at the armour of God

We have done this as well in 2023

When we used Alice's book: Treasures in the Darkness

As a sermon series on the armour of God

So this time we will do it from a different angle

But: The end first

△ Eph 6:21-24

Ephesians ends as a circular letter,

with an appeal and a blessing

Not to specific people in the congregation

As this letter was not originally intended for Ephesus alone

Appeal

To welcome Tychicus

He was an evangelist to Ephesus and Crete

¹² I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

△ 2 Tim 4:12

¹² As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there.

△ Titus 3:12

Titus was in Crete

He may be the bearer of this letter

To the churches in the area of Ephesus

The appeal is to introduce him to the congregations as a worthy representation of Paul.

Blessing

Love with faith

emphesing that faith or love in itself is not enough

It is a combination of the two

Interacting with each other

Undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ

About commitment

Assuming that the readers have this

But also challenging them and us

is our love for Jesus undying?

Or is it a spur of the moment

It is only in our firm and lasting relationship with Christ that we can stand firm as Christians

Standing firm

And with that we can focus on the practical side of what standing firm means

The Armour of God

The Need for the Armour of God

Why do we need an armour as Christians?

Is Christianity not all about the love of God?

God?

Is the message of Christianity not about peace

About avoiding conflict?

Did Jesus not say that we need to turn to other cheek?

So where does the armour come in

And who are we to fight?

The armour is not for us to fight but to defend ourselves

But not against people, but against

1. The devil's schemes

2. The rulers, the authorities, powers of this dark world, the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms

I.e. satan's minions

Worldview

What, do we need to believe in this as 21C Christians?

Surely that is superstition based on an outdated view of the world?

If so, why is it in the Bible

If so, why do we call the Spirit of God the Holy Spirit

If there are not non so Holy Spirits

Or even evil spirits

Is this worldview outdated, or have we been deceived in the West that these things do not exist?

The word spirit can mean many

different things

Related to the observed world

An animating or vital principle; the immaterial or sentient element of a person.

Breath, and related senses.

A substance, essence, etc., formerly believed to animate or provide life; a volatile substance, esp. one extracted by distillation

Related to the spiritual world

The divine nature or essential power of God.

An incorporeal, supernatural, rational being, and extended uses.

And it is easy to confuse both categories

As we do not take the spiritual world seriously

And do we take God seriously if we do not take the rest seriously

Paul clearly does take this very seriously

Why do we need to Armour of God?

It is a useful spiritual discipline to put on the Armour of God daily.

But it is specifically required if we are planning to do God's work

Satan and his minions do not mind if we go about our daily business

But if we do something that proclaims God's name, to work for God's Kingdom

God's name, to work for God's Kingdom

Church services

Prayer Ministry

Evangelism

Or just talking about your family and friends about Jesus

Or it can be useful to protect against temptations

The enemy loves to distract us from Christ

And he does that by using our character weaknesses

Each one of us have different weaknesses

**Pride, Anger, Lust, Fear and Anxiety,
Addictions, Procrastination, Revenge, Laziness,
Wanting to be busy**

And he will use that to attack us or tempt us in

How does the Armour of God work

It is not a rote prayer that you say and then you are protected

It works in two ways:

1. It reminds us who we are in Christ

That we do not need to be afraid, that we have life everlasting, that our relationship with Christ is solid

2. It tells the opposing spiritual forces whose protection we enjoy

In exactly the same way

That we do not need to be afraid, that we have life everlasting, that our relationship with Christ is solid

But it is therefore important that when we pray the armour - that we do it out loud

So all the world will hear

Including those opposing spiritual forces

It is based on our relationship with God

It that is not real, the armour does not mean anything

However, it can help us to remind us of our relationship with Christ.

The result: "Stand firm"

Preparing for the day of evil

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand your ground**, and after you have done everything, **to stand**. ¹⁴ **Stand firm** then

"Stand your ground"

"to stand"

"Stand firm"

The enemy cannot harm you

But he can upset your equilibrium - your mental and spiritual wellbeing

But we asked to stand on the foundation that is Christ

And that is what the armour allows us to do

Stand firm - do not let yourself be distracted, be upset, be tempted,

But to stand firm in our faith in Jesus

Christ our Lord

Who is and was and is to come

Who can do through us imaginably
more than all we can ask or image

Standing on his promise of salvation

Standing on that nothing can separate
us from the love of Christ

Putting on the Armour of God

Using Pauline Eyles Armour of
God document

Amen