**January 6, 2019 “Take Up the Shield of Faith” Ephesians 6:10-17**

Over the last several months we have been studying the book of Ephesian. This letter was written by the Apostle Paul to the local church in Ephesus but it was also written to those “who are faithful in Christ Jesus” which means all who desire to live their lives for the glory of God.

We found in our study that the book is divided into two sections. The first three chapters tell us who we are in Christ Jesus and the remaining three chapters tell us how to live out this Christian life as we look toward our eternal home in the presence of God.

One of the things that makes the Bible unique is that it does not sugar coat its contents. Jesus told us that this world is going to hate us just like it did Him and that we should expect trials and difficulties in this world that has been tainted by sin. Paul, following up on that theme tells us in chapter six that we are going to be involved in a battle against the schemes of the devil and he wanted those in Ephesus along with us to understand that. He also wanted us to know that we are not alone in the battle nor are we to consider that we are unprepared for the fight. That is why in these few verses, Paul outlines the armor that we are to put on so that while we may be living in the heat of the conflict there is no reason why we should not expect to be victorious if we follow the instructions he is giving to the church in Ephesus.

In this battle called life, we should always keep in mind the passage of Scripture found in Romans 8 starting at verse 31:

* If God is for us who can be against us?
* Will we not freely receive what we need from God?
* Who is going to bring a charge of condemnation against us?
* Who is the One who declares us justified… (just as though we had never sinned)?
* Who will separate us from the love of God?
* In all these things we are more that conquerors
  + What things?
  + Romans 8:35-39

Note II Chronicles 20:1-4

* First thing they did was
  + Be afraid
  + Turned their attention to the Lord
    - II Chronicles 20:13
* II Chronicles 20:14-15
  + Battle is not yours but the Lord’s
* II Chronicles 20:17-19
  + Note what they were to do
  + Position themselves
    - Stand
    - Ephesians 6:11… stand firm
    - Ephesians 6:13… stand firm
    - Ephesians 6:14… stand firm

1. Note the divisions of the armor
   1. Loins or belt of truth
   2. Breastplate of righteousness
   3. Feet shod with the Gospel of Peace
2. Look at each one of the three
   1. Belt of truth
      1. Remember… “gird up your loins”
         1. Be committed to the course
         2. Isaiah 50:7-9
   2. Breastplate of righteousness
      1. Covers the heart and bowels
         1. Heart
            1. As a man thinks in his heart so is he
            2. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks
            3. Guard your minds… what goes in and what comes out
         2. Bowels… your emotions
            1. Be angry and sin not
            2. The joy of the Lord is my strength
      2. Living our lives in obedience to Christ
         1. Living lives set apart for His glory
   3. Shoes shod with the Gospel of peace
      1. Romans 5:1
      2. II Corinthians 5:14-21
         1. We not only have peace with God but we also have peace from God
            1. John 3:16-18

Nonbelievers are judged already… right now they live in judgment

* + - * 1. John 3:36… the wrath of God abides on him
        2. Revelation 20:11-15

So where do you stand with Christ? Are you condemned? Or is all your hope resting on Christ alone and nothing else?

At the start of this New Year… start off walking anew with Christ