**January 13, 2019 “Taking up the Shield of Faith” Ephesians 6:16**

Last week we began our study on the shield of faith and quite honestly never got to the heart of the subject but rather we laid down a foundation of understanding which is essential to application of our passage today.

The foundation we discussed last week was found in Romans 8 where there were a number of questions asked like: “If God be for us who can be against us?” and “who can lay a charge against God’s elect?” and “who will separate us from the love of Christ?” Since the answer to all those questions is “that in all things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us”.

Knowing this, we can better understand the passage in Ephesians 6:10-17 concerning the armor of the Lord which is available to every believer in Christ alone as their only hope of salvation and the only hope for the forgiveness of their sins.

We also discovered that there is a division in the sections of the armor. Note the words that introduce the shield of faith… “in addition to all”. In addition to what?

* Belt of commitment
  + I am in this journey for the long haul and I am ready to do whatever is asked of me. “You have the words of eternal life…” (John 6:68)
* Breastplate of righteousness
  + I will live such a good life among the pagans that they will see my good works and glorify my Father who is in heaven (I Peter 2:12)
* Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace
  + I have peace with God and from God
* In addition to those
  + Shield of faith
  + Helmet of salvation
  + Sword of the Spirit

1. Take up the shield of faith
   1. Shield
      1. Couple of different types
         1. Thureon… heavy wooden shield 2.5 X 4.5 feet
   2. To do what with this shield?
      1. Quench all the fiery darts of the evil one
         1. Not just some… but all
         2. Where do all these darts come from?
            1. The wicked one

Satan himself is the author

According to God’s Word

This is a being

Not just some idea or figment of our imagination

1. What are the fiery darts?
   1. Three main categories
      1. I John 2:15-17
         1. Lust of the flesh
         2. Lust of the eyes
         3. Pride of life
      2. Literally… it is every temptation known to mankind
2. Shield of faith
   1. What is faith?
      1. It in its most basic form
         1. Means to believe God
         2. Hebrews 11:6
   2. Ploy of the devil
      1. Genesis 3:1
         1. Really… did God really say that?
            1. Her answer
            2. Is that correct?

Did God say that the day they would touch the tree they would die?

Proverbs 30:5-9… do not add to His Words

Revelation 22:18-19

* 1. Luke 4:1-13
     1. 40 days in the wilderness
        1. Nothing but gravel and thorns
        2. God has forgotten all about You
           1. If you were my son… I would take care of you
           2. Is this how God treats His Son?
           3. He won’t even give you a crust of bread
     2. Did God say that at the Name of Jesus every knee would bow?
        1. Here you are all alone… nobody is following you
           1. I will give all the kingdoms of the world
           2. Just worship me and everything will be good for you
     3. You think God cares for You?
        1. Do something stupid and put Him to the test
           1. Throw yourself off
           2. Didn’t He say He will guard You?
  2. You see whenever God tell us to do something
     1. Satan is right there to tell us… no, no, no don’t do that
  3. Whenever God’s Word tells us not to do something
     1. Satan is right there to tell us to do it
  4. Jesus’ answer to Satan
     1. God will feed Me in His good time
     2. God will anoint Me in His good time
     3. God will give Me all the kingdoms of this world in His good time
  5. I John 5:10
     1. “the one who does not believe God has made Him to be a liar”
  6. Do you want the blessings of God in your life?
     1. Malachi 3:10
     2. II Corinthians 8:6-7
  7. Do you want to be happy?
     1. Jeremiah 15:16… “Your words were found and I ate them and your words became for me a joy and delight of the heart; for I have been called by your name”
     2. I John 1:4… I write these things that your joy may be full
  8. Do you want to have victory over habits in your life?
     1. Philippians 4:13… I can do all things through Him who strengthens me

1. Faith is believing God
   1. Faith in God is our shield
      1. Genesis 15:1… Do not fear Abram… I am a shield to you
      2. Psalm 46… God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of need

Old Puritan prayer

Oh God, I thank Thee that the issue of the battle between Thyself and Satan has never been uncertain, and will end in victory. I thank Thee that Calvary broke the dragon’s head, and I contend with a vanquished foe, who with all his subtlety and strength, has already been overcome. When I feel the serpent at my heel, may I remember Him whose heel was bruised, but who when bruised broke the devil’s head. My soul with inward joy extols the mighty conqueror. Heal me, oh God, of any wounds received in the great conflict. If I have gathered defilement, if my faith has suffered damage, if my hope is less than bright, if my love is not fervent, if some creature comfort occupies my heart, if my soul sinks under the pressure of the fight, oh Thou, whose every promise is balm, who’s every touch is life, draw near to Thy weary warrior. Refresh me, oh Lord, that I may rise again to wage the strife, and never tire till my enemy is trodden down. Give me such fellowship with Thee that I may defy Satan, unbelief, the flesh, the world, with delight that comes not from a creature, and which a creature cannot mar. Oh Lord, give me a draft of the eternal fountain that lies in Thy immutable everlasting love; then shall my hand never weaken, my feet never stumble, my sword never rust, my helmet never shatter, my breastplate never fall. My strength shall ever rest in the power of Thy might, and my faith shall shield me from every temptation.