## Sermon Notes -- Themes from Ephesians

"Contending with the Powers of Darkness" Part II – Stand Firm – Ephesians 6:13

## I. Introduction.

- A. Stances of the human body.
  - 1. Example
- B. Paul is concerned with the believer's stance in the face of fierce opposition.
  - 1. The stance is a position of the mind that is ready for action. a. Romans 12:1-2.
- C. Ephesians is a prison epistle.
  - 1. Eph. 3:1; 6:20; Col. 4:3, 10, 18, Acts 28
  - 2. Paul is near soldiers each day and he now envisions a metaphor around their battle attire.
- D. Review of the four R's.
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_ our level of awareness.
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_ a check list in order to insure protection.
  - 3. \_\_\_\_\_ us of our only weapon.
  - 4. \_\_\_\_\_ the culture with the gospel.

## II. Exposition

- A. "<u>Full</u> armor of God that you may be able to <u>resist</u> the devil," vs. 13.
  - 1. Resist to withstand, to fend off, refuse to cooperate. a. James 4:7; I Timothy 3:7
- B. "Evil day," verse 13.
  - 1. A particular day when the powers of darkness engage their scheme Ephesians 6:10-12.
  - 2. Hendriksen
- C. "Having done everything to stand firm," verse 13.
  - 1. An all encompassing statement.
  - 2. Do not be causal; be vigilant.
  - 3. Illustration The Nazi's fortress Europe.

- D. "Having girded your loins with truth," verse 14.
  - 1. The Roman soldier's tunic.
  - 2. To cinch up with a belt.
    - a. Exodus 12:11, Luke 12:35; I Peter 1:13
- E. "Truth," verse 14. (Theological and Practical)
  - 1. Committed to the Word of God which is truth.
  - 2. But more so the believer's preparedness to make no accommodation for deceit in his or her life.
    - a. Psalm 34:12-14
- F. "Put on the breastplate of righteousness," verse 15
  - 1. A protection of all vital organs.
  - 2. Paul is not speaking of <u>imputed righteousness</u>, but rather <u>practical righteousness</u>.
    - a. Colossians 3:9-14
  - 3. MacArthur
  - 4. Wearing the breastplate means the following:
    - a. I Peter 2:11; II Cor. 10:5; Col. 3:2; Rom. 13:12-14
- G. "Shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace."
  - 1. Preparation means readiness.
    - a. Titus 3:1
  - 2. We have peace with God Romans 5:1.
    - a. MacArthur.
  - 3. God's word to Joshua Joshua 1:6-8; 5:13-15
  - 4. Our church banners.
  - 5. Speak the gospel of peace.
    - a. Boice

## III. Points for Reflection

- A. Are you ready to resist in the evil day?
- B. Seriously, have you done everything to stand firm?
- C. Do you live in the truth?
- D. Do you practice righteous living?
- E. Live the gospel and preach the gospel.