

SERMON: DRESSED TO KILL

Ephesians 6:10-18

(10) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. (11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (13) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having all, to stand. (14) Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; (15) And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (16) Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quince all the fiery darts of the wicked. (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. (18) Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

Introduction

Let me begin by saying that we honor the men and women who have served and are serving in all branches of our armed services. We also honor their families who maintained households in their absence and prayed, while on pins and needles, that they would come home safely.

In this fallen world we need police officers to protect us from those among us that would harm the innocent. Concurrently, we need the military to protect us from those of other nations who would seek to destroy us. Interpersonal relationships are different from international relationships. When Jesus told us to turn the other cheek, He was referring to interpersonal relationships. A nation cannot turn the other cheek when the enemy is invading; the citizens must be protected. Without getting into a theological debate, some Christians do not make this distinction and do not support our military and do not advocate war under any circumstances. David's slaying of Goliath was acceptable because that was an international conflict. When David had Uriah killed, that was a sin because that was personal. I'm sure you readily see the difference.

The Bible describes Christians with many metaphors. Sometimes we are called the children of a loving family. Sometimes we are described as a flock of sheep. In our text and in other Scriptures we are described as soldiers in a righteous army, fighting a spiritual war against satan and his imps. We must constantly remind ourselves that our weapons of warfare are spiritual and not carnal. In our spiritual warfare we should never

sink to the level of the devil and his cohorts. Long before the Geneva Convention there were godly conventions. I would be one of the first to say, there must be support and accountability for both the police and the military. The two are not mutually exclusive. They are mutually supportive.

Now as bad as it sounds, a soldier has been trained to kill. He or she is a trained killer. They hope they never have to use their training, but they are ready, if the need arises. When a soldier is fully equipped, he or she is dressed to kill. This text tells us what equipment we need to be victorious against satan. This text is familiar to most of us, so this sermon, really, is a review.

Now let me tell you about the figure of speech I've chosen as the subject of today's sermon. There are several theories about the origin. Here is the one that make sense to me. Before soldiers would go into battle, the commanding officer would give them a pep talk. It would go something like this: "You are dressed to kill the enemy. You are not dressed to be killed. You are fully trained and fully equipped with government issued weaponry. Defeat is not an option for our country. If you have to die for your country to secure victory, we commend you to God. You have the training, discipline, courage, and equipment to achieve victory for your country."

When these soldiers returned home and began to date, they dressed to impress the young ladies. Their shoes were shining like the noon day sun. Their hair was immaculately cut and combed. The suit and tie matched perfectly and the cuff links and tie clamp were bejeweled.

Just as victory was won on the battle field, they wanted to win the young lady's heart and develop a relationship that would end in marriage. They wanted to kill her coyness and develop true love. They thought one of the ways to win her heart was to be "dressed to kill."

Now back to our Scripture. Paul knew that the Roman soldiers were the best equipped and best trained of that day. Paul also knew that Christians have to constantly fight evil spiritual forces. In order to be successful against these forces Christians must be as trained and as equipped spiritually as the Roman soldiers were trained and equipped physically. Paul described the armor that a Roman soldier would have worn and related each to a spiritual quality that Christians must possess to defeat satan.

Let's look at them. I know for most of us this is a review.

Exposition

1. The Belt Of Truth.

2. The Breastplate Of Righteousness.

3. Shoes Fitted With The Readiness Of The Gospel.

4. The Shield Of Faith.

5. The Helmet of Salvation.

6. The Sword Of The Spirit (Word Of God).

7. Prayer On All Occasions For Fellow Soldiers.

Closing Statements

When we put on the whole armor of God we are dressed to kill. We can kill selfishness, envy, strife, hatred, racism, discouragement, and all the other enemies that are against us. There is victory in Jesus. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory.

End Notes

1. The sandals of the Roman soldiers, like the Roman chariots, were a work of art and technology. The sandals were so comfortable that the soldier never needed to take them off. They slept with them on, so they were ready to run or walk at a moment's notice. The sandals also had cleats, so the soldiers could turn quickly without slipping or falling.

2. Paul admonishes us to keep on the whole armor. Because of the weight of the armor and the heat in the battlefield, soldiers were tempted to remove pieces of the body armor. Of course, that would make them more vulnerable. It is similar today, when people don't want to wear seat belts or remove the helmet while playing sports or riding a bicycles.

3. Some of the other expressions used to describe a well-dressed man were "sharp as a tack" and "clean as a chitlin'."

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