

**Sovereign Grace Church**  
**“Spiritual Armor I” outline**  
January 14, 2018

**Ephesians 6: 10-15**

*Paul, the great apostle of Jesus, found himself a prisoner in Rome in the early 60's AD for the sake of the “war” to establish his Lord's Kingdom as a displacement of Satan's. During this time he wrote three letters and a personal note to a friend. In the letter to the church in Ephesus Paul reflects on the nature of that fight and how it was to be won. In contemplating his Roman guards and their equipment Paul sees a lesson for his own people. Using the various pieces of Roman fighting equipment he makes a useful, not to mention inspired, analogy to the Christian's own fighting equipment provided by Christ.*

*The temptation for the believer, who is still plagued by the residual elements of his own fleshly nature, is to seek to win these spiritual battles by the use of fleshly weapons. Paul realizes that to do this will only play into our enemies hands. Consequently Paul reminds us to take up the equipment and weapons of the Spirit in order to effectively wage this War to Really End All Wars!*

*In our own day this worldly temptation has only increased as we are surrounded by a worldly mindset which takes only the material as real. Though we profess to be on guard against this secular and materialistic mind-set we have all been infected and often find ourselves unwittingly using the very tools of the Devil in our fight for Christ's Kingdom and Righteousness. Such use will only have the effect eating the very cake we are attempting to save!*

*This morning we will consider the first three of the spiritual armor pieces Christ has provided us in our fight against the world, the flesh and the Devil.*

**1. The Nature of Our Fight vv. 10-13**

**2. The Belt of Truth v. 14a**

- **Our Spiritual Belt of Truth Jn 14:6**

- **To be of Use it must be Believed**

**3. The Breastplate of Righteousness v. 14b**

**What is it for the Christian to utilize this breastplate of Righteousness?**

**Rom. 3: 20-21a; II Cor. 5: 21; Eph. 2: 10; Phil. 2: 12-13; Rom. 8: 9, 13-14, 16; Eph. 4: 30**

#### **4. The Gospel Boots v. 15**

**Lessons: Rom. 12: 21**

#### **Questions for Discussion and Reflection**

- 1. What spiritual battles have you participated in recently? What are the primary battles going in within yourself? Your family? Your church? Your culture and society? The world? How are you attempting to impact these battles? Do you find yourself warring against the world with the world's weapons? How might this not work out for you so well? Are you appropriating the Spiritual armor at your disposal? Do you know how? Have you experienced their effectiveness in combat?**
- 2. If truth is not relative then why do so many people disagree about it on so many fundamental issues? If Christianity is true then what about all the other religions of the world? If Christianity is true then it is true to reality. How would you demonstrate this to an unbelieving skeptic? Does a relativistic understanding of truth provide stability in the fight? Does an objectivistic understanding of error? Explain & defend your views.**
- 3. Who or what is the Righteousness that guards your vital spiritual organs? Since the Christian is justified by the righteousness of Christ apart from any contribution of their own does it make a difference whether or not they seek, by God's grace, to make that righteousness live within them? What is the danger of a negative answer? How would you challenge a believer who is making this error?**
- 4. What size of Spiritual shoes do you wear? Why is it important to have a proper fit? Does the gospel you fight with answer the world's concerns and challenges? Is it a gospel of peace? How so? How can you call it a gospel of peace if you are waging war with it? Explain to someone Jesus' Gospel of the Kingdom. Is Jesus' Gospel of the Kingdom the same as the Gospel of Peace? Is this Gospel an invitation or an ultimatum? Or both?**