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THE DAY OF EVIL

The Apostle Paul said that there is a real enemy – the devil. He intends to bring harm to God’s people and God’s reputation. He uses powers, cohorts, lies and schemes to bring destruction to us. So Paul said what WE must do: *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, **so that when the day of evil comes**, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”* (Ephesians 6:10-13).

Are we in “the day of evil?” Why do you think we are or aren’t?

Paul said, “when” and not “if.” There are times when we’re oppressed, challenged, tempted, tested, discouraged, prideful or broken. Satan uses all these along with false teaching and pain, aiming at our destruction. For all of us, we will face the “day of evil.” When we do, we need the armor of God.

Last week, we looked at the first piece of armor, the belt of truth. What did you observe or learn about this?

Read Ephesians 6:10-14.

What is the goal of putting on the armor of God?

ABOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS

The second piece of armor is “the breastplate of righteousness.” Our working definition of “righteousness” is “what is deemed right by the Lord.”

What do we learn about righteousness from the following verses?
Romans 1:17

Romans 3:21-24

2 Corinthians 5:21

Philippians 3:8-9

2 Timothy 3:16-17

1 Peter 2:24

How is 1 John 1:9 an important part of putting on the Armor?

Why might this be our breastplate?

DISCUSS GOD'S PROVISION OF ARMOR

The Scriptures don't present the armor of God as a theological truth without essential application. We are told to "put it on!"

How would knowing that we have the righteousness of God help us stand against the devil? To what kinds of darts of the devil would this piece of armor be essential?

How would this armor help Peter after his denial of Jesus? (Read John 18:13-27) What does the devil do when we have failed or sinned?

If we have positional righteousness (see above), why are we so regularly called to practice righteousness? (See 2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 4:22-24; 1 Timothy 6:11)

How is our righteousness evidence that God works in us?

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

- For our friends and family suffering from loss of many kinds
- For those in authority, upcoming elections, that we might live peaceful lives
- For God's people to shine bright in these dark days
- For our students whose lives are challenged
- For unity, love, and forbearance in our Trinity family
- For Trinity's elders, pastors, directors, and staff
- For the church around the world including our global partners