

Ephesians: From Death to Life
The Armor of God (Part 1)
Ephesians 6:13-15

The world, along with many in contemporary, cultural Christendom, see the concept of religion as a means to make the world a better place, or a means to cultivate a humanly defined spirituality. We tend to think more highly of ourselves than we ought with regard to our own goodness, which creates this false idea that we are good people who need religion to make us better people. We tend to treat our salvation as a call to moralism or a call to therapy when in fact, Christ saves us and calls us to war.

1. Christ prepares us with divine truth.
2. Christ empowers us with a practical righteousness.
3. Christ mobilizes us with the gospel of peace.

It is important to recognize that since Christ at the cross has already defeated the devil, we are not embarking on a new campaign. We don't have to come up with a new battle plan and strategy. We simply stand still in Christ's victory. We will not be saved by starting new battles with Satan, but by living in confident faith that Christ has already fought that battle and shares His victory with those who trust in Him.

Reflection

Consider a time when you gave in to temptation. What aspect of gospel truth had you failed to remember and live by? How can you stand firm the next time that temptation comes? When are you most likely to be fearful about speaking out about Christ? How does the armor described in this passage give you courage to speak on behalf of Christ? What would it look like for you to "put on the whole armor of God" this week? Would anything change? Do you see the mission of God and the armor of God as a means of waging war against the culture or as a means for becoming bold enough to love the culture and share the truth of the gospel with those who need to hear it?