

EPHESIANS 6:16 THE SHEILD OF FAITH PART 1

REVIEW: Eph. 6:15 Feet in readiness.

INTRO:

- The first 3 articles we were to put on. The wording was "having" put on the belt of truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, having shod our feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.
- These first 3 were attached to the body.
- But here and the last two as well, we are told to "take up." We must exercise ourselves in and with these articles of warfare.
- This verse tells us we have an enemy, he is the "evil one" and he is always at war with the Christian.
- He aims to destroy and kill.
- Now the mention of these weapons are pictures of spiritual truths.
- This verse also introduces us to the 4th article of armor, the shield of faith.
- This faith shield is trustworthy, it is large, and it is able to quench "all" the fiery darts/arrows of the wicked one.
- He is able to come at us from every conceivable angle.
- Trial, temptations, accusations, persecutions, doubts, fears or lusts, just to name some.
- This shield must be taken up and it must be large.
- This shield must be held up and to be of any practical use it must stand, be held up, between our souls and the fiery arrows.
- Notice the connection between this shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit, and the "word of God."
- Faith must rest on the God of the word, and the word of God
- God's word does not profit us if unmixed with faith; for faith makes the word live and Gods word always comes to us with faith.
- We will attempt to discover what faith the apostle is writing about and what type of faith he is not talking about.

Read Eph. 6:16

- Above all= in addition to all. (in every circumstance?)
- Shield= A large shield used by the heavy infantry. It's size was 4-4.5' X 2.5' It was the largest of all their shields. Some were completely rectangular and later were made oval.
- They were used at the front lines.
- The soldiers standing tight, side by side, would form a huge barrier or wall sometimes extending as long as a mile or more.
- It was to be impregnable if they could hold their footing.
- It protected the army from the overhead danger of the flaming arrows.

- **Should not our faith protect us corporately as a massive impregnable wall from the insurgence of the world, it's culture, from worldliness and a man centered gospel? Yes. (One faith Eph. 4:5)**
- **Standing behind them could be the archers protected by the wall of shields, ready to launch their attack.**
- **They were made of combustible material, wood, but were covered with either leather that had been soaked with water, or thin protective metal.**
- **Fiery darts= Arrows dipped or tipped with combustible material, pitch or tar, then set of fire.**
 - **So fitting a description for the devils stinging temptations and trials.**
 - **These fiery darts, if not caught with the shield, could set the victim on fire, enflaming him, or burst open and spread to those around him.**
 - **What an apt picture of sin and temptation. If struck we burn with jealousy, envy, anger, and lust to name a few.**
- **The wicked= wicked one, evil one, pernicious one.**
- **Here we are to consider ourselves ready for satans attacks by taking up the shield made up of "faith."**

Let us begin then with the questions, what faith is this and what it is not!