**November 11, 2018 “The Breastplate of Righteousness” Ephesians 6:14**

Last week on Friday, I was asked to deliver a Veteran’s Day address to the Osseo Public School. In that address, I brokered the fact that armed forces are necessary for our nation to continue into the future with the same liberties and freedoms we as a nation have enjoyed for many years. While there are many theories as to who first uttered the words, “Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty”, it remains true that liberty must be guarded and defended at all times or it will be lost forever. Man, with his inherited sinful nature, always tries to wrest power and authority from the many to the few. That tendency must be thwarted at every turn if liberty is to remain.

So how does this relate to our passage today? Note this passage reminds us as Christians that we are in a daily if not moment by moment spiritual battle and the only way that battle can be waged with victory is when you and I follow the instructions given to us. Note the passage does not say to us… study systematic theology until the gray matter between your ears is so loaded with information that the devil cannot invade you thoughts. Rather the passage tell us two times that we are to “put on the full armor of God” and to “take up the full armor of God” for one reason only and that is to “stand firm against the schemes (plural) of the devil.

Example… Romans 1:21-32

It is time that we face the fact that this Christian life is a war “against the spiritual forces of the wickedness in the heavenly places”.

Last week we looked at the “belt of truth or truthfulness” which was identified as commitment to Christ in all things. Interestingly, this week I came across an article concerning one the elite companies within the Israeli army and they, the army personnel, spoke of how they used the term “gird up you loins” still today to imply that all your efforts, all your training and all your emotions were to go into completing the task assigned to you. Gird up your loins… means be committed to the completing the mission.

Now that commitment has been established, let’s look today at the second piece of armor mentioned. The breastplate of righteousness.

For us to really comprehend what is to be discussed when we talk about “having put on the breastplate of righteousness” we need to understand that this device was intended to protect two areas of the soldier’s body. Both areas could be described into one main context which would be referred to as “the vitals”. One of the areas is the heart itself and the rest oftentimes referred to in the Bible as the “bowels” contains all the rest of the organs.

1. Breastplate
   1. We have all seen pictures of the Conquistadors with the steel breastplates to protect the wearer from sword/spear thrusts and from arrows shot from afar
   2. Romans usually had one made of thick leather or thickly woven fabric
   3. Police of today wear a bullet proof vest… breastplate
      1. Proverbs 23:7… as a man thinks in “his heart”
         1. refers to our thinking
         2. II Corinthians 10:3-5
      2. I John 3:11-17… bowels of compassion
         1. emotions or desires
            1. corruption is all around us for both
2. Righteousness
   1. Three types described in the Word of God
      1. Luke 18:9-14
         1. Self-righteousness
            1. Matthew 5:20
            2. Philippians 3:1-8
            3. Isaiah 64:6
      2. II Corinthians 5:20-21
         1. Clothed in the righteousness of Christ
            1. Philippians 3:8-11
            2. Imputed righteousness of Christ
            3. Galatians 5:13-17
      3. Philippians 3:12-21
         1. Applicable righteousness
            1. Matthew 5:13-20
            2. Matthew 25:31-46

When did we do this??????

They did not even recognize the deed…

* + - * 1. Philippians 2:12

Let that righteousness work its way out in your life

Do you know who the most joyful Christians are? They are the ones who not only love the Lord Jesus Christ but they live like He is the only thing that matters in their lives. Once that hierarchy is established in their lives, love, joy peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness and self-control is the result.

When our thinking and our emotions are subject to Christ… Satan cannot penetrate that armor no matter what he slings at you and me.