

No Trespassing V: “You Gotta be Putting Me On!”

1. Opening

a.

b. Review

- i. We have spent the past 5 weeks looking at the principles of spiritual realities and how unseen things affect the things that we see.
- ii. By now you have learned that the bible speaks of a great cosmic battle from the very beginning of creation to the Book of Revelation where the battle is concluded.
 1. From one end of the bible to the other, this cosmic battle is described.
 2. At the birth of Jesus to His ministry, we discovering Him confronting the very powers of the “god of this earth” and taking absolute authority over them.
 3. At the cross, we find the battle looking as if it might have been lost, that evil might have triumphed.
 4. But at the resurrection, we discover the victory is proclaimed. Easter Sunday will be Victory Sunday!
- iii. Last week we learned some very important principles about “standing” against the efforts of Satan to steal, kill and destroy.
 1. We learned that God has given us back our lives and that we have the victory.
 2. We learned that we battle not “for victory” but “from victory.”
 3. We also learned that we can evaluate how we are fighting by how we pray. If our prayers are filled with pleading, then we might be trying to win; whereas when our prayers are filled with praises it is evidence that we understand our victory and are battling from the position of victory.

c. Introduction to “Putting Me On.”

i. Open up your bibles to Ephesians 6:10-17.

1. *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. (we talked about that one last week – about “resisting and standing”) 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*
- ii. We are going to learn about something that if you have been in church for very long, you have probably heard a half a dozen bible studies or sermons on.
 1. You probably think you already know quite a bit about this subject.
 2. You might have even taught this subject in Sunday School.
- iii. But I am willing to bet that most of the emphasis on this subject has been in the wrong place.
 1. Did you notice the two imperatives? V. 11 “Put on” V.13 “Take up”
 - a. They are orders that tell us what to do.
 - b. But what most of us have learned about this passage would make someone who observed us as thinking that they said something else...like...

- i. Learn all you can about the armor of God.
 - ii. Talk about the armor of God.
 - iii. Teach about the armor of God.
 - iv. Cut out paper models of the armor of God
 - v. Study the armor of God.
 - vi. Go out and GET some armor.
 - vii. Maybe even “polish the armor of God.”
 - c. Knowledge is useful, but if it doesn’t change our behavior, it is wasted
- 2. If Paul had wanted us to spend our time doing these things that I listed above, then he would have given us a host of specifics about each piece of armor.
 - a. Instead he emphasizes the words, “put on” and “take up.”
- 3. For most of our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, if they learned in basic training how useful their armor is, if they learned what it was made of, if they learned how to dry clean it, how to store it, but never PUT IT ON, it would do them no good!
 - a. We have a Navy Chief with us today who has some body armor that our soldiers wear. Lets observe him putting some of this on.
 - i. What all are you “putting on” Kevin? A helmet! A belt? A flak jacket? I see you got some heavy boots too! And even a sword. It looks like you must be pretty well protected.
 - ii. Lets get a child up here who would like to try some of this on.
 - b. It’s a bit cumbersome isn’t it? Heavy? Uncomfortable?
 - i. How about 50 jumping jacks?
 - ii. This isn’t something that you want to wear on a date is it?
 - c. In fact, if you didn’t have to, you probably would take off this stuff as soon as the battle is over.
 - d. In the bombing of the mess hall in Iraq where so many of our soldiers were killed and injured a month or so ago, the casualties would have been much lower had the soldiers been wearing their armor. But none of them were! They thought that they were in a “safe zone!”
- iv. If wearing armor and if putting it on was EASY, then there would be no real need to tell us to “put it on” and “take it up.”
 - 1. But because it is cumbersome and time consuming, not unlike a seat belt, and because the consequences of NOT WEARING it are so great, we are reminded time and again to put it on!
 - a. Thank you Kevin! Go ahead and take off your armor and leave it here so I can talk about it.
- v. Other Passages about “putting on”
 - 1. 1Th 5:8 - But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.
 - 2. Ro 13:12 - The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.
 - 3. Ga 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have (put on) clothed yourselves with Christ.
 - 4. Col 3:10 - and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

2. Observations about the passage and armor in general.

- a. *V11: Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.*
 - i. “Put on (clothe yourself with) the full armor.”
 1. PAN-OPLIA – conjunction of two words, full and armor: could have used just oplia and gotten armor, but the emphasis is upon the FULL armor; any less is incomplete
 2. If “full” wasn’t used here, we could have assumed that being partially armored would be sufficient.
 - a. But Paul tells us to put on each piece of armor and emphasizing its importance as a part of the whole.
 - ii. *“So that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil”*
 1. You might have noticed the “so that.”
 - a. This is the WHY we are to “put on” the full armor of God.
 - b. *be able* is the word dunamais, which can also be translated “have the power or ability” to.
 - c. If we do not put on/take up the FULL armor of God, then we will not be able, we will not have the power to stand firm.
 - i. We say things like “Oh Lord, I’m just going to wear my helmet today...I’m going into a hard hat area.”
 - ii. That is not sufficient. Protection must be complete not partial to be effective.
 - d. You might remember the word “stand firm” we talked about last week. If it was “stand” it would be incomplete. But the word ‘stand firm’ is the perfect tense of stand which means to persist, and to continue without fail.
 - e. If you don’t put on the FULL armor of God then you might have some successes, you might be able to resist the devil in some circumstances.
 - i. But you will not have the ability to stand and continue to stand.
 - iii. *“against the schemes of the devil.”*
 1. The word schemes means to lie in wait [to catch off guard], cunning arts [slick tricks], deceptions.
 2. Satan desires to deceive you, to catch you off guard and to trick you into doing things that will make you ineffective as a Christian.
 3. **The devil seeks to attack your ‘BLIND SIDE’**
 - a. Ever driven on the highway and got ready to change lanes? What do you check before you do? You check your blind spot. You make sure its safe. What happens if you only check your mirrors and then jump lanes? You are going to have an accident!
 - b. Satan hangs back there in the blind spots of your life. He doesn’t want you to see his attacks coming.
 - c. He wants to wreck your life and he will look for places and ways to surprise you and attack when you least expect it.
- b. *V13: Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.*
 - i. Whenever you see the word “therefore” in your bible, you need to ask, “what is the therefore there for?”
 - ii. In this case you only need to look back one verse and find out about the nature of our battle: *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*
 1. We have addressed this principle over and over in the last few weeks.

2. It tells us what this is all about. It is about a struggle, a close in, wrestling battle against unseen spiritual forces. It is not about fighting people or circumstances.
 3. In fact most of what goes on around us is invisible to our eyes. But it is there nonetheless:
 4. 2 Kings 6:13-17 *So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and take him." And it was told him, saying, "Behold, he is in Dothan." 14 He sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. 15 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."*
 - a. I hope you will remember this, that God has armies ready to do His bidding and to war on your behalf!
 - iii. The passage in Ephesians also tells us one more reason to take up the full armor: *Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day.*
 1. Evil days. Those are the days when you feel like you shouldn't have gotten up!
 2. The UPS Driver this week gave me a package and said, "have you ever had one of those days when you should have stayed in bed?"
 3. That is a good description of an "evil day."
 4. Every day really has to potential to become one.
 5. And that is why we take up the FULL ARMOR...so that we can resist in the evil day.
3. 6 Pieces of Armor:
- a. **Belt of Truth** around your waist. – A belt binds the clothing and prevents you from tripping, but also, these belts were large leather belts that protected the groin and most of the stomach.
 - i. Why would Paul tell us to wear the BELT of TRUTH?
 1. **You are only as strong as your belief system.**
 2. While in Cedarville at the Evangelism Celebration with Joe, Kay, Jennifer and Bill and Joyce, we heard speaker after speaker tell us about a shift in our culture.
 - a. Most of us grew up understanding that truth was absolute and had its source outside of ourselves.
 - b. But now days, 91% of young people believe that there is no such thing as absolute truth. Scientific facts, maybe, but not in morality or behavior.
 - c. They don't believe that truth is outside ourselves.
 - i. To them, truth is in your experience and feelings.
 - ii. Truth is what you want it to be.
 - iii. You cannot tell anyone else they are wrong because that violates the sacred view that there is no absolute truth.
 3. According to this world view...
 - a. The only truth is that there is no truth.
 - b. The only heresy is believing in heresy.
 - c. The only one who is wrong is one who believes that others are wrong
 4. Youth...
 - a. 1995 only 10% believed that the Bible is the word of God.
 - b. In 2002, only 4% believed it.
 5. **Your behavior is shaped by your values which are shaped by your beliefs.**
 - ii. Here is a question about truth.
 1. Have you accepted Jesus as Your Savior? Most of us will say yes.

2. What about...
 - a. How has Jesus as your savior changed the way you live, the way you treat people, the way that you see the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the needy and the hurting?
3. While many of us will acknowledge intellectually the truth, if there is a gap between the intellectual assent and the practice, then we are living a lie.
 - a. *“The truth is not in us”* James says.
 - i. So whether you intellectually hold to the truth but deny it in your actions or you simply deny the truth in your mind, you are the same.
 - ii. Either way, you don’t have truth “in you” and you won’t be wearing the belt of truth around your waist.
 - b. **Breastplate of Righteousness** – protects our heart – our attachments.
 - i. Christ’s righteousness became ours when we asked him to become our savior.
 1. We were sinners but Christ died for the ungodly. We became the righteousness of God through Jesus.
 2. We have no inherent goodness, we cannot “make” God accept us.
 3. There is nothing we can do to earn God’s acceptance.
 4. But because of what Jesus did on the cross, all that He has becomes ours.
 5. His righteousness becomes ours.
 6. There is a theological word called “imputation” that describes this wonderful transfer.
 - a. In a very real way, **the breastplate of righteousness is identity armor.**
 - b. We wear the breastplate when we see ourselves IN CHRIST.
 - c. When we recognize that we have no righteousness of our own but that all we have and are is a result of what Jesus did on the cross.
 - c. **Shoes of Preparation of Gospel of Peace** – ever try walking barefoot through a construction zone? Shoes protect you from hazards.
 - i. Before Vietnam, most armies “marched” from one place to another. An army marched, and the one that could march the farthest, the fastest, generally won the battle. Roman Soldiers had the best footwear in the world at their time.
 - ii. Having the readiness to share the Gospel with others will get your eyes off of yourself, your agenda and your needs and be constantly looking to see how God can use you to touch someone’s life for eternity.

These 1st three items are “always on.” Even during periods of rest, you wear these three items.

We “put on” (literally “sink into” the first three, we “take up” the last three.

When you “take up” a weapon it is a conscious thing. It is not a random act. If you strap on a weapon it is because you are planning on using it, you are serious about the danger you are facing!

- d. **Shield of Faith** – (leather or metal) *with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one*
 - i. The shields of the Romans were large, door like structures. They would set up side by side, soak them in water and then elevate them and hide behind them when the arrows flew.

- ii. Faith works the same way. It puts out a thought or feeling that is contrary to what God says. **Faith looks at God, it looks to what He says rather than at the circumstances or feelings we have.**
 - 1. flesh says “you need to retaliate” – faith says “I will trust God to handle my case.”
 - 2. flesh says, “you will always be poor” faith says, “God is able to meet my needs.”
 - iii. Standing together, side by side, our faith becomes a wall.
 - 1. This is the power of a church. The wall of faith that is raised up and protects its members.
 - 2. This is why we have Discovering Hope...membership class...so you can find out how to commit to us and us to you. When we band together we are much stronger than by ourselves.
- e. **Helmet of Salvation** – (protect your head from blows of enemy weapons). Mind of Christ.
- i. I can drop an egg and it will break. But pack it in Styrofoam and it won't. We wrap ourselves in the Salvation, the person of Christ, we are protected.
 - ii. **The location of the battleground is the mind.**
 - 1. You and I must protect our thought life.
 - iii. I have some booklets in back called “A Study of the Mind.”
 - 1. Each family is invited to take one and read it. It can revolutionize your life as you come to realize the role of the mind in living for God.
 - 2. If you have already gotten one, I ask that you not take one.
 - 3. I also ask that after you read this booklet, that you share with someone what you learned. Talk with another Christian...be it in Sunday School or over lunch about what you have learned.
- f. **Sword of the Spirit** – short sword, sharpened on both sides. It is the only offensive weapon we have.
- i. Rhema vs. Logo. It is Rhema. It is personal. Timely. Not ink and paper words. It is alive! Applied by the Holy Spirit to our situation.
 - ii. If you struggle with particular temptations, look up what the bible says about that issue.
 - iii. John Piper wrote in his book *Future Grace*, "*The role of God's Word is to feed faith's appetite for God. And, in doing this, it weans my heart away from the deceptive taste of [sin]*".
 - iv.
 - v. Hebrews 4:12 - *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*
4. How to PUT ON THE ARMOR!
- a. We do so by faith, through prayer and through an intentional act. Pull out the insert in your bulletin. I want us to read this aloud. I hope that as you read this aloud, you will see the value of being intentional about clothing yourself in God's armor.
5. **Our armor is representative of who we are and what we are, in Christ.**
- a. . We must wrap ourselves up in the identity of Christ. Romans 13:14 "*But put on the Lord Jesus Christ*"
 - b. Have you put on Jesus Christ? Have you asked Him to be your savior, your Lord?
 - i. Or are you still wearing your old man?
 - ii. Are you tired of failure, defeat, broken dreams and failed hopes.
 - iii. Then put on Christ. It is as simple as asking by faith. He went to the cross for you. He loved you before you ever even thought about Him.
 - iv. He isn't waiting for you to clean up your life. He wants you just the way you are. He says only, “Come to me.”

v. Come to him today! Pray with me please.
Psalm 91:4 "He will shield you with his wings. He will shelter you with his feathers. His faithful promises are your armor and protection