

INI-SDG

In the Name of Jesus – To God Alone the Glory

9.13.2009 Pentecost 15 – St. Stephen Lutheran (West Bay) Mountain View, CA

HYMN 444 Verse 1 (*Red Hymnal*)

Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Knights, soldiers, police officers... what in common? How do they get ready for the day?

As Christians, we need different kind of armor. The armor of God's Word! What does it do?

GREETING: Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Word of God I would like to arm you with this morning is taken from:

TEXT– NIV Ephesians 6:10-18 - 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 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.

PRAYER/INTRO: What images come to your mind when you think of battle, war, or fighting... pleasant or unpleasant?

PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD...

1. For Battle.
 - a. David and Goliath (1 Sam 17:42-48)
 - i. This battle was a physical one/But David rejected the physical armor... instead, what did he put on?
 - b. What kind of battle are we facing? **V12** Goliath is a joke to what we face from day to day on a spiritual level!
 - i. We are up against the evil and darkness of this world. **V11** (Paul often pictures this fight) "Of God." (1 Cor. 9:26; 2 Cor. 10:3,4; 1 Tim 6:12) We fight for not material or physical- but the eternal treasure!

HYMN 444 Verse 2 (*Red Hymnal*)

13 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. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD...

2. **For the Home.**
 - a. (Starts here) **V13** What forms of evil have the opportunity to come quickly into our home life?
 - b. On going Christian Education is **NECESSARY** for the on going battle (for ALL ages)! All fight!
 - c. Gideon's victory- Credit? (**Jdg 8:22, 33**) Share within home and across generational gaps! (Grandparents Day)
3. **For School/Work.**
 - a. Getting ready for school/work...get dressed! (Armor? Yes!) **V14,15,16,17** Our defense/offense is God's Word!
 - b. Benefit from the opportunities to be in God's Word. (Bible Classes, Sunday school, Camps, etc) (**Heb 10:23-25**)
4. **For the Day...**
 - a. To begin the day (Open to TLH Hymn: **540 1, 3**)
 - b. In view of The Day to come (Judgment) We fight for our Hope of eternal life in Christ! (The blood He shed!)
 - c. Until *that* Day (Last trumpet) – we fight till we die! **V13** "To stand." (**Phil 2:10**) ...and bow before our Savior.

HYMN 444 Verse 3 (*Red Hymnal*)

PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD...

5. **For Every Part of your Lives!**
 - a. **V18b** Be ready (alert) at all times! (**1 Thess 5:4-8**)
 - b. When God's Word is your daily armor, stand confidently, there're no chinks your enemies can deal a deadly blow!
 - c. Christian Education... breathed in ears and heart by Holy Spirit/Word of God; expelled through the mouth **V18**
 - i. Give glory, praise, and thanks to Christ our Savior, Victor, and Defender!

CLOSING: The strength to stand, to battle, to make yourself, your children, and one another ready... comes NOT from ourselves, but from the Word of God alone. [**V10 and Theme**] Soldiers of Christ arise. The Lord is with you!

The Peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

HYMN 444 Verse 4 (*Red Hymnal*)