

## *Sermon Notes -- Themes from Ephesians*

### “Contending with the Powers of Darkness”

#### Part II – Stand Firm – Ephesians 6:13

#### I. Introduction.

##### A. Stances of the human body.

###### 1. Example

##### B. Paul is concerned with the believer’s stance in the face of fierce opposition.

1. The stance is a position of the mind that is ready for action.
  - a. Romans 12:1-2.

##### C. Ephesians is a prison epistle.

1. Eph. 3:1; 6:20; Col. 4:3, 10, 18, Acts 28
2. Paul is near soldiers each day and he now envisions a metaphor around their battle attire.

##### D. Review of the four R’s.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ our level of awareness.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ a check list in order to insure protection.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ us of our only weapon.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ the culture with the gospel.

#### II. Exposition

##### A. “Full armor of God that you may be able to resist the devil,” vs. 13.

1. Resist – to withstand, to fend off, refuse to cooperate.
  - a. James 4:7; I Timothy 3:7

##### B. “Evil day,” verse 13.

1. A particular day when the powers of darkness engage their scheme – Ephesians 6:10-12.
2. Hendriksen

##### C. “Having done everything to stand firm,” verse 13.

1. An all encompassing statement.
2. Do not be causal; be vigilant.
3. Illustration – The Nazi’s fortress Europe.

##### D. “Having girded your loins with truth,” verse 14.

1. The Roman soldier’s tunic.
2. To cinch up with a belt.
  - a. Exodus 12:11, Luke 12:35; I Peter 1:13

##### E. “Truth,” verse 14. (Theological and Practical)

1. Committed to the Word of God which is truth.
2. But more so the believer’s preparedness to make no accommodation for deceit in his or her life.
  - a. Psalm 34:12-14

##### F. “Put on the breastplate of righteousness,” verse 15

1. A protection of all vital organs.
2. Paul is not speaking of imputed righteousness, but rather practical righteousness.
  - a. Colossians 3:9-14
3. MacArthur
4. Wearing the breastplate means the following:
  - a. I Peter 2:11; II Cor. 10:5; Col. 3:2; Rom. 13:12-14

##### G. “Shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”

1. Preparation – means readiness.
  - a. Titus 3:1
2. We have peace with God – Romans 5:1.
  - a. MacArthur.
3. God’s word to Joshua – Joshua 1:6-8; 5:13-15
4. Our church banners.
5. Speak the gospel of peace.
  - a. Boice

#### III. Points for Reflection

- A. Are you ready to resist in the evil day?
- B. Seriously, have you done everything to stand firm?
- C. Do you live in the truth?
- D. Do you practice righteous living?
- E. Live the gospel and preach the gospel.