

#28. *Armoured With Faith, Part I*

...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.

REVIEW:

- Walking worthy/in love/in the light/wisely
- Standing firm against the devil: his deceitful schemes
- Gird your loins, put on the breastplate, shod your feet...

TODAY (and next Sunday) : “the shield of faith”

1. The problem: a barrage of “flaming arrows”?

2. The problem: Especially deadly attacks? Temptations to actually disobey God

e.g. gossip / malice / stealing / dishonour your parent(s) / indulge sinful sexual desire

Still involve lies, accusations... Still attempts to deceive us... But here the devil is not attacking our view of ourselves or our view of our salvation or our view of God, but rather he is actually tempting us to sin: to disobey God... doing what we ought not do – or failing to do what we ought. Sins of commission and sins of omission.

“Flaming arrows” = temptations to destructive behaviour: Why God hates sin and so should we.

3. The protection: a shield

4. The protection: faith

Defn: The desire and ability to trust and obey God

What we've got to protect ourselves? A shield: just the thing.

Thyreon, from the word “door” Two layers of wood glued together, covered in hide and bound with iron.

Faith: the God-given desire and ability to trust and obey God:

Taking up the shield means seeing the flaming arrow in the bow and the bow being bent – and deliberating choosing to obey God!

TAKING UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH

1. Be clear on the obedience you are called to

Psalm 119:105

2. Be committed to obeying God

Psalm 119:9,11

3. Be consistent in giving in to the godly desire