

Stand! (Ephesians 6:13-14)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. Illustration out of Greek Mythology: Achilles
 - B. Recap of last meetings
 - 1. An Ancient, Brutal, Cunning Foe
 - 2. His wiles or schemes
 - C. Outline of today's sermon
- II. **The whole armor of God**
- III. **What does it mean to *stand***
 - A. Literally to stand, as opposed to falling
 - B. Making a resolution or covenant
 - C. Facing the foe
 - 1. Martyrs examples
 - 2. Thomas Hardcastle "no armor for the back"
 - D. As opposed to sitting, lying down or sleeping
 - 1. 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - E. Not on your own strength
 - 1. 1 Peter 5:12, 1 Cor 15:1
 - 2. David and Goliath, Gideon
 - 3. Romans 8
 - F. Stand together with the church
 - 1. pray for one another
- IV. **How is it that we can *stand* ...**
 - A. Considering the harshness of our foe?
 - B. With an armor forged and furnished by God
 - 1. Isaiah 59:17-20
 - 2. Be imitators of God by wearing His armor
- V. **Application**
 - A. Do not consider it strange when you suffer
 - 1. Jesus suffered
 - 2. A word from Spurgeon on suffering
 - 3. Paul's experience in Ephesus (1 Cor 16:8-9)
 - 4. Know that 'ministry is war!' (P. Tripp)
 - 5. Beware of corporate warfare against the church where
 - a. Christ is no longer preached
 - b. Compromise with the world is permitted
 - c. Sin is tolerated in the ranks (not disciplined)
 - d. Programs and activities replace worship
 - e. Self replaces Christ as focus (self-esteem, purpose, etc)
 - 6. This can be avoided by maintaining a *theology of the cross*