

The Shield (Ephesians 6:16)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. Illustration: the supreme value of *the shield*
 - 1. Captain America and Spartan warfare
 - 2. The Roman *scutum*
 - B. *The shield of faith* (Eph 6:16)
 - C. Outline of today's sermon
- II. ***Above all ... in addition to all ... in all circumstances***
 - A. A variant in the Greek text *epi pasin* vs. *en pasin*
 - 1. Either demonstrates the uniqueness of the shield
 - B. The *preeminence of faith* above all other graces (William Gurnall)
 - 1. The importance of faith to Christ (Lk 18:8, Jn 9, Lk 22:32)
 - 2. The great acts of saints are the product of faith (Heb 11, Lk 7:9)
 - 3. We are justified on the basis of faith alone (Romans 4 & 5)
 - 4. The influence of faith on other graces
 - a. repentance (Nineveh believed God)
 - b. love (1 Pet 1:6)
 - c. joy (1 Pet 1:8)
 - d. salvation (1 Pet 1:9, Eph 2:8-9)
 - e. sanctification (Acts 26:18, Hab 2:4, Gal 2:20)
 - f. forgiveness (Lk 17:5-6)
 - g. dead to sin (Ro 6:6-7,11, 1 Jn 3:5-10)
 - h. receive the Holy Spirit (Gal 3:14)
 - i. comfort
- III. ***The shield of faith – What is it and how can you preserve it?***
 - A. What kind of *faith* is not meant
 - 1. Mere mental assent (even demons – Ja 2:19)
 - 2. Temporary faith (Mt 13:21, Jn 6:66)
 - 3. Faith to do the miraculous (even Judas)
 - B. Justifying faith
 - 1. James Smith on justifying faith
 - 2. Philipp Melanchton on justifying faith
 - 3. Keep a watch on your faith (2 Cor 13:5)
 - C. How can you preserve your faith?
 - 1. Attend to the Word of God (public and private)
 - 2. Exercise your faith in prayer
 - 3. Take special care of the areas where you struggle with unbelief
 - 4. Labor to increase your faith by objective and subjective means
 - a. be deliberate about believing God in areas of doubt
 - b. make frequent use of the Lord's Supper
- IV. **Quenching all the fiery darts of the wicked one**
 - A. You will be able to quench them all
 - B. Fiery darts (1 Pet 5:8-9)
 - 1. Walk by faith!