

Title: Put on the Armor is God

Passage: Ephesians 6:10-20

I. SPIRITUAL WARFARE - background

- *Context:* evil and its consequences are real. Spiritual darkness and its influence can be seen and heard
- *Reality:* As a Christian, we have spiritual armor that allows us to stand in victory
- *Book:* "The Christian in Complete Armour"

Stand

- we are not to seek out darkness but rather we are given every spiritual blessing to stand

Ephesians 6:11, 13

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil...Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

- we are to stand on the foundation of Christ.

Matthew 7:24-25

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

II. SPIRITUAL ARMOR - 6 pieces

Ephesians 6:14-18

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

1) BELT OF TRUTH

"Having fastened on the belt of truth"

- Roman soldier belt: put on when preparing for an event as otherwise clothes are worn loosely.

Isaiah 11:5

Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

- As the Anointed Messiah has a special belt, we have one as well of truth
- *Principle:* Make sure you have fastened God's truth and are well and steeped in God's truth.
- *Meaning:* we should be strengthened by the truth of God.
- Victory in the spiritual warfare begins with fixing our minds firmly on the truths of great Christian doctrines
- Satan's schemes: he attacks and twists the truth

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- *Principle:* Live out truthfully (we reflect the truth in our thoughts and attitudes and actions)

Philippians 2:15-16

that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

2) BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

“Having put on the breastplate of righteousness”

- Roman soldier breastplate: layer of metal and leather that covered his neck and body. Chief defensive piece as protected vital organs
- Meaning: righteousness covers and protects our hearts

Value of the heart

Proverbs 4:23

Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

- Everything we say and do comes from our heart
- Heart: our whole inner being where our thoughts, motivations, will, and decisions flow from

Righteousness

- Principle: Remember the righteousness of Christ (it was imputed and transferred to all who place their trust in Christ)

Romans 4:5

And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his *faith is counted as righteousness*,

- Imputes righteousness = transferred righteousness
- When place trust in Jesus, then Jesus' perfection and righteousness is placed upon you.
- When God sees you, He sees the righteousness of Christ and sees you just as if you never sinned and are perfect

- Satan's schemes: he will attack how bad you are
- Truth: Our righteousness is Christ's
- Be reminded of the Gospel. We are bad with our sin but God sent Jesus to be our Savior.
- Be thankful for God's grace and mercy!

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 8:33-34

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

- *Principle:* right living. True righteousness is seen in evidence of us following and walking like Jesus
- We must have desire to fight sin and reflect righteousness in our thoughts

James 2:26

For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

3) GOSPEL SHOES

“Shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.”

- Roman's soldiers shoes: provided fighters a firm connection to the ground and allows them to be ready for combat
- *Meaning:* always be ready to share the Gospel
- *Gospel:* source of true hope and peace, which we are to give out to others
- Clarification on calling: it's not that only some are to share the Gospel. As Christians, we are all to do so.

1 Peter 3:15

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

- *Principle:* As a Christian, you hold the key and have what it takes to bring peace into this world.
- You have the message of the Gospel: 1) First be reconciled to God, 2) Then be able to be reconciled with each other
- True reconciliation can only come through when our hearts are changed and we are first reconciled with God, and then able to be reconciled with others
- Secular means of reconciliation fall short and are not lasting

4) SHIELD OF FAITH

“In all circumstances take out the shield of faith, which which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.”

- Roman soldier's shield:
- four feet tall x 2.5 feet wide, size protected entire body
- reinforced wood with metal and leather,
- extinguish flaming arrows when soaked in water
- link with other shields and provide a firm defense
- Meaning: shield provides three things: 1) Cover us entirely (minds, body, etc.), 2) Link up with faith of others so can provide solid wall of defense, 3) Able to strike down whatever enemy's arrows are thrown
- Satan's schemes: doubts of faith, disbelief and question that your faith is in nothingness
- Response: do we take those doubts to Christ?

5) HELMET OF SALVATION

- Roman soldiers helmet: solidly constructed and heavy such that can withstand an ax attack
- Meaning: protection of our minds against Satan's attacks

2 Corinthians 10:4-6

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

- discern and think clearly of worldview and secular perspectives
- Be reminded of the truth continually (past, present, and future salvation)
- Past: Jesus' sacrifice bringing salvation (justification, propitiation, atonement, redemption)
- Present: identity in Christ with every spiritual blessing, power of sin broken, and empowered by the Spirit to live for God (sanctification)
- Future: set our minds on the future blessings that are sure (glorification)

Colossians 3:1-3

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

6) SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

"The sword of the spirit, which is the word of God"

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Philippians 2:12b-13

...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.