

Ephesians 6 - The Whole Armor Of God Sunday PM 02/20/22

Introduction:

Ephesians 6:13 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. **14** Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16** above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. **17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; **18** praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

Rome ruled the world, had the greatest soldiers, and greatest equipment. Paul had seen these men close up as he had been arrested and kept under guard. Perhaps it was one of those times when the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write this passage. Although there are Old Testaments references to these things. ***Isaiah 59:17*** For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.

A) The Belt of Truth

1. The belt was wide and made of leather. Place where the sword would be held but also held together the Roman garments so they could move.
 - a. Anyone who has had trouble keeping their pants up due to not having a belt will understand.
2. The Christian belt, holds it all together is truth.
 - a. The word of God is truth, ***John 17.17***
 - b. A love for the truth, a person of integrity.

Proverbs 23:23 Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.

3. We are to seek the truth, recognize it, and hold on to it.

John 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

B) Breast plate of righteousness

1. This protects the main part of the body, vital organs.
2. Roman breast plate covered the front and the back. In case of an ambush or a need to retreat.
 - a. Flee fornication
 - b. Flee youthful lust, ***2 Timothy 2.22***
3. This is what others see and our righteousness protects us.
4. Righteousness is defined by God; He is righteous and desires us to live right by His law.

C) The Shoes of the Gospel

1. Easy to over look footwear but the Roman soldier was called upon to march. They could march 20 to 30 miles in a day.
 - a. Shoes were more like our sports shoes with cleats.
 - b. March over rocks, thorns, briars, in mud, etc.
2. Jesus gave His marching orders.

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
3. We must be prepared to take the Gospel to a lost world.
4. Notice we at war but the message is one of peace.
 - a. Peace is mentioned as one of the elements in the fruit of the spirit.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,

longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- b. Peace with God. **Romans 10:15** *And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"*
- c. It is through Christ we are reconciled to God, brought near by the blood of Christ.
- d. There is also peace with our fellowman.

Ephesians 2:13 *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.*

- 5. Our message is one of peace.

D) The shield of faith

- 1. Romans had two shields, one was small and used in hand to hand combat, the other was 4 ft. by 2 ft. made of wood, covered with leather.
 - a. Made to interlock with the next shield to provide a moving wall in battle.
 - b. Arrows and spears would be stopped by such shields.
- 2. Our shield is faith.
 - a. Faith in God, His promises, His word.

Hebrews 6:18 *that by two immutable things, in which it is*

impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

- b. God said it and that settles it can protect us. From satan's fiery darts – lies, bitterness, hateful thoughts, doubts, envy, etc.
- c. No match for the shield of faith.

E) Helmet of salvation

1 Thessalonians 5:8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

- 1. Head trauma is often deadly. Strike the head and a person dies.
- 2. Our head – thoughts we have, often in scripture referred to as our heart.

Proverbs 23:7a For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

- a. Some people have spiritual heart trouble because of their thoughts.

Matthew 15:19 "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

- 3. We are to dwell upon the word of God, as our thoughts will control our actions.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.

F) The sword of the spirit

- 1. Only offensive weapon mentioned- no bow and arrow, no spear.

2. Required skill, was both offensive and defensive.

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

3. A sharp, two-edged sword.
 - a. Jesus used the word of God to silence His critics.
 - b. He used the word to instruct His disciples.
4. The sword of the Spirit was given by the Holy Spirit to instruct us.

G) Prayer – talking to God.

1. ***1 Thess. 5.17*** pray without ceasing
2. Two words for prayer
 - a. Giving of thanks and petitions
 - b. Request for specific things
3. We are to make our request made known to God.
4. For all saints – one another.

Conclusion:

Be ready, be equipped, and wage the good warfare. Stand fast, stand firm, stand with the Lord.