

The Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-18

Part 1

INTRODUCTION:

Paul writing to the church in Ephesus ends his letter with instruction on how to face spiritual warfare. These last few weeks we have covered a gamut of topics regarding spiritual warfare from tactics to temptation to being an instrument of the enemy. This morning I want us to begin looking at the Armor of God that Paul writes about in *Ephesians 6*. Paul was writing to this church warning them to expect evil forces to come against them as they stand firm for Christ, the True Messiah and Savior of the World.

N.T. Wright

Paul clearly supposes that the forces of evil that put Jesus on the cross have been seriously upset by the victory of the **resurrection**. They are now positively panic-stricken at the thought that the message of this Jesus is everywhere challenging their power and authority, and that communities loyal to Jesus as Lord and king are springing up, bringing together peoples and communities in a new unity, a new humanity, that shows evidence of the creator's sovereign power and hence of their own imminent destruction. They are therefore doing their best to oppose this gospel, to distract or depress the young Christians, to blow them off course by false teaching or temptations to anger or immorality (see *4:17–5:20*, where these are the main themes).

Sometimes this attack will take the frontal form of actual authorities in towns and cities who try to prevent Christians from spreading the message. Sometimes it will take the more oblique form of persuading Christians to invest time and energy in irrelevant side-issues, or to become fascinated by distorted teaching. Sometimes it will be simply the age-old temptations of money, sex and power. But in each case what individuals and the whole church must do is, first, to recognize that attacks are coming; second, to learn how to put on the complete armor which God offers; and, third, to stand firm and undismayed.¹

Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil. For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. This is why you must take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand. Stand, therefore,

with truth like a belt around your waist,
righteousness like armor on your chest,
and your feet sandaled with readiness
for the gospel of peace.

In every situation take the shield of faith,
and with it you will be able to extinguish
all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Take the helmet of salvation,
and the sword of the Spirit,
which is God's word.

Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert in this with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.²

¹Wright, T. (2004). *Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon* (pp. 75–76). London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

²*The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version*. (2009). (Eph 6:10–18). Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.

I. The Belt of Truth

Jeremy Myers

After all, when we think of the armor of a soldier, we immediately think of the breastplate, which covered their vital organs. We think of the helmet which protected their head. We think of the shield which helped fend off the attacks of the enemy. Maybe we think of the sword, a vital part of the armor for defense and counter-attacks. But few of us ever think much about the...belt. I mean, come on, a belt? How important is that?

But curiously, in this list of spiritual armor here, Paul puts it very first on the list! Right at the top of the list. This means it is one of the most important pieces—yes, the belt! That is because, if you understand what it was for, you also understand why the belt was one of the key components to the soldier's armor. Why? Because on a Roman soldier, the belt held everything in place. They had these big, baggy tunics which they wore under their armor, and the belt kept the tunic cinched in close.



In battle, if they had a longer tunic, they would take the four corners of the tunic, and fold it up underneath the belt to keep their legs free and to keep from getting tangled. This was called “girding up the loins.” In fact, here in *Ephesians 6:14*, probably the most literal translation of the verse would be “Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth.” We don’t use the word “loin” much, so just so you know, your loin is your thigh. But nobody wears their belt on their thigh. Paul, by phrasing the first piece of spiritual armor in this way, is referring to that practice of getting the robe up out of your way.³

John 14:6

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life...

Proverbs 23:23

Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.

Mark Twain

“A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.”

Winston Churchill

The truth is so precious that it is often bodyguarded by a pack of lies.

³https://redeeminggod.com/sermons/ephesians/ephesians_6_14a/

II. Breastplate of Righteousness

Psalm 98:4-9

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn— shout for joy before the LORD, the King. Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

III. Sandals for the Gospel of Peace

Steve Bezner

Sometimes I joke about what I would do if I had one day left to live. Eat junk, go crazy, etc. Today it hit me: Jesus knew. And He washed feet.

Romans 10:8-15

The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “**How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!**”⁴

Philippians 4:7-9

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

CONCLUSION:

Carlos Wallace

“God, please grant me the ability to recognize devilish intentions, the armor to defend all attacks and the ability to trust despite past wrongdoings.”

⁴[*The Holy Bible: New International Version*](#). (1984). (Ro 10:8–15). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.