

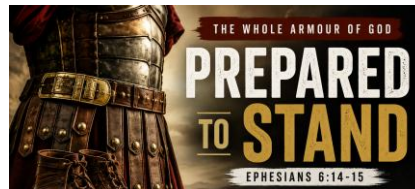
Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 6:14-15 – The Whole Armour of God – the first things

Today's Message:

"Prepared to Stand"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we began the climax of the book – our WARFARE in Christ. Every believer is engaged in an invisible spiritual battle. The Christian life is not simply about learning truth – it is about standing for truth in a world where Satan actively opposes the work of God. Today, we will begin to study the whole armour of God we have been commanded to put on daily. The battle is often won or lost before it begins. The first three pieces of armour are not weapons picked up in the heat of battle – they are things the soldier must put on before the battle even starts. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Ephesians 6:14-15

A. Truth Secures – you must prepare and stabilize yourself with truth

1. The foundation of the Christian's armour is _____ that holds your life together.

- **Ephesians 6:14** – *STAND THEREFORE, having your loins girt about with **truth**...*

"Stand therefore" – 4th time "stand" is used – the goal of Christian warfare is to **STAND!**

"Loins girt about..." – something drawn around the waist; to bind with a belt or sash.

"With truth" – place of stability – truth holds the Christian life together!

Comparing Scriptures

- **Isaiah 11:5** – And righteousness shall be THE GIRDLE of **his loins**, and faithfulness THE GIRDLE of **his reins**.
- **John 14:6** – Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, **the truth**, and the life...
- **John 17:17** – Sanctify them through **thy truth**: **THY WORD is truth**.

Satan's Attack – **Genesis 3:1** – ... Yea, hath God said... **John 8:44** – ... for he is a liar...

- **Common attacks:**
 - ✓ Doubting Scripture, half-truths, false doctrine, rationalizing sin, living hypocritically

Biblical Examples

- **Positive:** Joseph, Daniel, Nathanael | **Negative:** Ananias + Sapphira, Gehazi, Judas

Personal Application

- Prepare with truth before the day begins – read and learn the Bible, memorize verses...
- Anchor your mind and life in God's truth. Are you truthful with God? Others? Yourself?

W1828 "Stand"

To be placed or situated; not to be overthrown or taken.
Hold your position.
Do not retreat.
Do not surrender!

Gird with Truth

If Satan can get you to remove truth from your life, everything else begins falling apart.

What if you don't:

Tossed to and fro
Spiritual confusion
Trust feelings
Small compromises
Easy target

Truth includes:

God's Word
Sound doctrine
Honesty
Integrity
Sincerity

"Stand therefore..."

Do not be willingly ignorant. Satan knows how you prepare for each day spiritually. Does he find you easy to deceive, easy to tempt, or firmly prepared to stand?

B. Righteousness Protects – you must prepare and protect your heart

2. The Christian life must be lived in righteousness which _____ a vulnerable heart.

Vulnerability

*One well-placed
spear... and the
battle is over.*

Proverbs 4:23

*Keep thy heart
with all diligence;
for out of it are
the issues of life.*

What if you don't:

*Unconfessed sin
leads to spiritual
weakness.
The enemy gets an
advantage through:
Guilt
Shame
Hypocrisy
Discouragement*

- **Ephesians 6:14** – ... having on the breastplate of righteousness...

"The breastplate" – armour for the breast; OT holy vestment of the high priest (**Ex 28:4**)

"Righteousness" – purity of heart and rectitude of life; in Scripture compared to holiness

Comparing Scriptures

- **Isaiah 59:17** – For he put on **righteousness** as a BREASTPLATE...
- **Jeremiah 23:6** – ... *this is his name...* THE LORD OUR **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.
- **Jeremiah 17:9** – The HEART is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked...

Spiritual Meaning

- **Positional Righteousness** – We stand righteous because of Jesus Christ (**2 Cor 5:21**)
- **Practical Righteousness** – We must live righteously because God dwells inside of us.

Satan's Attack – **2 Corinth 2:11** – Lest Satan should get an advantage of us...

- **Common attacks:**
✓ Guilt, shame, compromise, moral failure, unconfessed sin, secret sin, hypocrisy

Biblical Examples

- **Positive:** Job, Daniel, Joseph | **Negative:** David after Bathsheba, Samson, Demas

Personal Application

- Where in your life are you vulnerable? Examine your _____ and walk in righteousness.

C. The Gospel Guides – you must prepare your daily walk

3. The Christian life must be lived for Jesus' sake and with Gospel hope and _____.

Halting Progress

*If Satan cannot
destroy your faith, he
will try to stop your
forward movement.*

What if you don't:

*Without Gospel purpose
and footing, Christians:
Stop serving
Stop witnessing
Stop living with purpose
Become isolated
Become unstable
Become fearful
Become discouraged
Become easily offended
Spiritually backslide*

- **Ephesians 6:15** – ... your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

"And your feet shod" – having shoes on – Gospel shoes! Ready for the battle for souls!

"Preparation of the gospel" – prepared or fit for use or service; previous measures taken!

Comparing Scriptures

- **Psalms 18:36** – Thou hast **enlarged** MY STEPS under me, that MY FEET did not slip.
- **Psalms 40:2** – ... and set MY FEET **upon a rock**, and established my goings.
- **Isaiah 52:7** – How beautiful... are THE FEET of him... bringeth **good tidings... peace**
- **Romans 10:15** – ... How beautiful are THE FEET... that preach **the gospel of peace**...

Satan's Attack – **Luke 22:31** – ... Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you...

- **Common attacks:**
✓ Fear, isolation, instability, division, silence, discouragement, hopelessness, distress

Biblical Examples

- **Positive:** Philip, Paul, Barnabas | **Negative:** Jonah, Mark quit, Elijah was ready to die

Personal Application

- Jesus is peace. Be at peace and rest in Christ, and be ready to _____ the Gospel of peace!

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand..."

Before you start your day of busyness, anchor your mind in God's truth and live with integrity.
Before you face the world and its problems, examine your heart, repent, and walk in righteousness.
Before you encounter others, remember the Gospel of your peace and be ready to share it.