

I. QUICK REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK

- A. Spiritual warfare does not begin with our strength, our power, or even our armor, it begins with God's. The bible describes God as a God of war, and He does not call us into battle and then expect us to manufacture the strength to fight; He arms us with powerful weapons and armor necessary for us to stand.
- B. Paul repeatedly emphasizes the command to "stand" in his description of the believer's spiritual warfare. The Greek word carries the idea of remaining firm, holding your ground, maintaining your priestly position of authority before God, and refusing to be moved by the enemy's attacks.
- C. We also learned that God uses spiritual warfare in our lives to test, humble, refine, train, and reveal Himself to us.

II. FOUR FOLD BATTLEFRONTS OF THE BELIEVER

- A. Christianity is not a cruise ship, but a battleship, not a playground but a battle ground.
- B. There is a real war happening, and the stakes are extremely high. Scripture describes the believer being in a multifaceted battle. **There are four primary battles that we face daily.**
 - 1. **THE WORLD** – the pressure around us
 - a) The fallen world system seeks to conform us to its values and desires.
 - 2. **THE FLESH** – the sinful desires within us
 - a) Our fallen desires wage war against the Spirit and seek to draw us away from obedience to God.
 - 3. **THE DEVIL** – the spiritual enemy against us
 - a) Satan and demonic powers seek to deceive, tempt, accuse, intimidate, and oppose God's purposes.
 - 4. **THE MIND** – the war of words in us

- a. The mind is where lies must be confronted with God's truth and every thought brought into obedience to Christ.

III. CONTEXT OF OUR STUDY TODAY

- A. In our study today, Paul equips the believer with the armor of God, armor designed not only for protection and defense, but also for spiritual resistance, and advancement of the gospel.
- B. Paul describes seven essential components of our spiritual armor that equip us to stand firm, not only against the schemes of Satan, but in every battlefield we face as followers of Christ.
- C. In Paul's list of armor, he lists protection over the two primary battle grounds of the believer, the heart, (breastplate) and the mind (helmet of salvation).

IV. EPHESIANS 6:14-20

- 1. ***¹⁴Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— ¹⁹and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.***

V. PAUL TELLS US TO PUT ON GOD'S ARMOR

- A. Paul's description of the armor of God is deeply rooted in the Old Testament, particularly the book of Isaiah. He is not simply looking at a Roman soldier and creating spiritual analogies from his equipment. Paul reaches back to Isaiah's picture of God as the Divine Warrior and the Messiah clothed for battle.

B. Paul isn't instructing us to put on just any armor, but the very armor God Himself wears.

1. BELT OF TRUTH

a) ***"Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist."-Is 11:5***

2. BREAST PLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

a) ***"For He put on righteousness as a breastplate"— Isaiah 59:17***

3. FEET WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

a) ***"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace...who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'"— Isaiah 52:7***

4. SHIELD OF FAITH

a) ***"The LORD is my strength and my shield."— Psalm 28:7***

b) ***I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."-Gen 15:1***

5. HELMET OF SALVATION

a) ***"And a helmet of salvation on His head."— Isaiah 59:17***

6. SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

a) ***"He made My mouth like a sharp sword."— Isaiah 49:2***

b) ***For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword-Heb 4:12***

VI. VRS 14

1. ***⁴Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth,***

B. To gird your waist is to live soberly and with urgency. We can never defeat the enemies of our souls in spiritual passivity, and in a lukewarm state.

C. Jesus called us to live ready and alert at all times.

1. ³⁵**"Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning;** ³⁶**and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master-Lk 12:35-36**

D. To gird our waist with truth is to live in agreement with truth, but also to live truthfully before God.

1. A man of integrity, with a clear conscience, can face the enemy without fear. **Unless we practice the truth, we cannot use the Word of truth.** Once compromise gets into the life of a believer, everything begins to fall apart.

a) **Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.-Ps 51:6**

VII. VRS 14B

1. ***having put on the breastplate of righteousness***

- B. We fight spiritual battles with Christ's righteousness not our own. Authority, and victory do not flow from our own goodness or performance, but from our position in Christ and the righteousness He has graciously credited to us.
- C. The breastplate protects our heart, which is the place of our will, emotions, and desires.

1. **Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.— Proverbs 4:23**

VIII. VRS 15

1. ¹⁵***and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace***

- B. A soldier's boots are essential in battle because everything a soldier does depends on having secure footing, mobility, endurance, and stability.
- C. Jesus keeps us in supernatural peace in the middle of the battle, and we bring the gospel of peace where the enemy has brought war.

IX. VRS 16

1. **¹⁶above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.**

B. "Above all" speaks of the importance of this part of the armor. The faith of the believer in Christ's total victory is what enables the believer to quench the lies of the enemy that seeks to convince us that we are a victim and defeated.

1. ***For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith. -1Jn 5:4***

C. Faith takes what you already know about God and applies it to the specific attack you're experiencing. It deliberately turns from what Satan is saying to what God has said.

D. Faith and trust in God protects us from doubts about God, accusations, condemnation, fear, discouragement, temptations, and inflamed lusts and passions of the flesh.

X. VRS 17

1. **¹⁷*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;***

B. The helmet of salvation protects us from the enemies lies that war in our thought life and mindsets. We combat lies by breaking agreement with lies and coming into agreement with truth found in God's word.

XI. VRS 18

1. **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***

B. Prayer not only keeps us in communion with God, but it releases God's heavenly resources, help, and strength from heaven.

- C. (all perseverance) Sometimes Satan cannot get you through obvious temptations so he will try to wear you down with fatigue in the warfare so you question God's timing, the worth of the fight, what the point of all of it is anyway, and why even keep trying.

XII. VRS 19-20

- 1. ***¹⁹and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.***
- B. Paul now turns to the offensive dimension of the armor—the advancement and proclamation of the gospel. One of Satan's primary objectives is to hinder and silence the message of Christ.
- C. Paul understood this firsthand, because as he wrote this letter, he was under Roman imprisonment precisely because of his faithful proclamation of the gospel. Yet even in chains, the gospel could not be chained.
 - 1. The spiritual battle is not simply, "how can I keep Satan from bothering me?" It includes, how can the gospel continue advancing despite satanic opposition?"
- D. Paul knew that the gospel must advance in the midst of the spiritual war and the primary thing that pushes it forward is intercessory prayer for it to continue to go forth with boldness.
 - 1. You can chain the preacher, but you cannot chain the gospel. You can imprison the messenger, but you cannot imprison the message.
 - a) ***I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.-2 Tim 2:9***