

# The Christian Armor

Beginning: April 25, 2010 – Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe  
Ephesians 6:10-18

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Christians Are Strangers And Pilgrims

1. Hebrews 11:13 *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of [them], and embraced [them], and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*
2. 1 Peter 2:11 *Dearly beloved, I beseech [you] as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*
3. Definition of a Pilgrim – “One who embarks on a quest for something conceived of as sacred.”
4. And isn't that what each one of us is? As believers we have embarked on a quest for something that is sacred.
  - a. Hebrews 12:2 *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
  - b. 2 Peter 3:12 *Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*
  - c. Hebrews 11:10 *For he (Abraham) looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker [is] God.*
  - d. Ephesians 6:18 *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

### B. Christians Are Also Soldiers

1. 2 Tim. 2:3-4 *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of [this] life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*
2. 2 Cor. 10:4 *(For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*
3. 1 Tim. 1:18 *This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;*
4. 1 Tim. 6:12 *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*
5. Rev. 19:14 *And the armies [which were] in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.*
6. 2 Tim. 4:7 *I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith:*
7. So, fighting a good fight and finishing the course is all about faith. It is our faith that

- perseveres. We cannot persevere through our works. That is why we read in Heb 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*
8. Luke 22:32 *But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*
  9. Now every soldier needs the supplies and the authority to go to war.
    - a. He needs a sovereign charge -- 1 Cor. 9:7 *Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?*
    - b. He needs a sufficient supply -- Phil. 4:19 *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*
    - c. He needs a selfless companion -- Heb 13:5 *[Let your] conversation [be] without covetousness; [and be] content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*
  10. Now we are going to concentrate on the supply that God has for every soldier in his army.

## II. THE PRESENTATION OF THE SOLDIER (Eph. 6:10-13)

### A. A Soldier Must Present Himself In Strength, 10a

1. The phrase “be strong” is one word in the Greek language.
2. The word ENDUNAMOO is present, passive, imperative, and it indicates that a person is to already be in this stance before he enters into battle.
3. Psalm 71:16 *I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD: I will make mention of thy righteousness, [even] of thine only.*
4. Our strength, that in which we stand passively, is the righteousness of Jesus Christ, and it is not our own righteousness but in “thine only,” or Jesus’ righteousness.
5. This strength is passive, because it is not wrought of our own selves but is graciously given by God through the Holy Spirit and upon the finished work of Jesus Christ.
6. So, we must “be strong” before we engage in any spiritual battle. We cannot fight spiritual battles with our own strength.
7. 2 Cor. 10:4 *(For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*
8. We are to “be strong in the Lord,” not in ourselves.

### B. A Soldier Must Present Himself In The “Power Of His Might,” 10b

1. Eph 3:16 *That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*
2. Col 1:11 *Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;*
3. Rev. 7:12 *Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, [be] unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.*
4. Eph. 6:12 *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places].*

C. A Soldier Must Be Dressed In The Whole Armor Of God, 11

1. For a soldier to present himself partially dressed for battle is a shame and disgrace for the entire army.
2. We must do several things in order to be completely ready:
  - a. We must present our body -- Rom. 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service.*
  - b. We must put off the old man -- Col. 3:9 *Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;*
  - c. We must put on the new man -- Eph 4:24 *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*
  - d. We must stand -- Gal. 5:1 -- *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.* See also Eph. 6:14.
  - e. We must give attendance to reading – 1 Tim. 4:13 *Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.* Someone compared the reading of the Bible to the cow's eating. The cow eats all the time. The cow will take in as much food as possible, but she does not digest it right away. She must continue eating by bringing up the food again and again and chewing the cud. This is the way we are to read the Bible. At the first reading, there is no digestion; but on the second and future readings, there is a good digestion of its meaning, and spiritual growth begins to set in. This will make us ready soldiers for Christ.
  - f. There are some other things we must do, but the list would be too long to include here at this time.
3. The soldier must be willing to stand against the wiles (Greek: METHODEIA, craftiness, trickery) of the enemy, in our case, the devil, 6:11.
4. The soldier must know the enemy
  - a. The enemy is crafty -- Eph 4:14 *That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*
  - b. He is the enemy of righteousness – (Elymus) - Paul said in Acts 13:10 . . . *O full of all subtilty and all mischief, [thou] child of the devil, [thou] enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?*
5. The soldier must be mainly defensive
  - a. Psalm 59:9 *[Because of] his strength will I wait upon thee: for God [is] my defence.* Hebrew MISGAB, a refuge.
  - b. Psalm 89:18 *For the LORD [is] our defence; and the Holy One of Israel [is] our king.* Hebrew MAWGANE, meaning “shield.” This word is translated “hiding place” in Isaiah 32:2.
  - c. Acts 22:1 *Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defence [which I make] now unto you.*
  - d. Phil. 1:17 *But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.* Greek word APOLOGIA, or an apology or logical evidence of the

- feasibility of the Gospel and proof of its power.
- e. The only offensive piece of the Christian's armor is the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. We will speak about this particularly later.
6. At the end of the battle, 13b
    - a. We are to have done all -- everything that we can do to further the purpose and will of our Savior. In the story of the woman with an alabaster box, she came and put an ointment on the Lord. Jesus said, *She did what she could.*
    - b. We are unworthy servants -- Lu 17:10 *So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.*
  7. We are to remain standing
    - a. We are not to stand idle -- Matt 20:6 *And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?*
    - b. We are not to stand gazing -- Acts 1:11 *Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*
    - c. We are to stand in grace -- Rom. 5:2 *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.* See also 1 Peter 5:12 *By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.*
    - d. We are to stand against the wiles of the devil -- Eph. 6:11, which we have already read.
    - e. We are to stand fast in the Lord -- Phil. 4:1 *Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, [my] dearly beloved.*
    - f. We are to stand in biblical traditions -- 2 Thes. 2:15 *Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.*
    - g. We are to stand cautious -- 1 Cor. 10:12 *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.* Also 1 Tim. 3:7
    - h. We are to stand with the brethren -- Acts 2:14 *But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all [ye] that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:*
    - i. Our soldier here, dressed in his full armor, is ready for the defense of the Gospel, and he is ready to use the one instrument of offense, which is the sword of the Spirit, the word of God. 2 Tim. 4:2 *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.* Phil. 1:17 . . . *knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.*
    - j. When the battle is completely over and done, we are to remain standing. Our captain will be sure that we stand. -- Prov. 12:7 *The wicked are overthrown, and [are] not; but the house of the righteous shall stand.*
    - k. When the Gladiators fought, the victor would stand with his foot on the defeated

opponent's neck. This should be our victory over the wiles of the devil and our victory over the world.

### III. BELT OF TRUTH (Eph. 6:14a)

- A. The Text: 14 -- Eph 6:14 *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth . . .*
- B. The idea here is that we should always be ready to serve the Lord and to expect his coming at any time.
- C. In Exodus, the children of Israel were to be ready to eat the Passover quickly with their loins girded (Exodus 12:11).
- D. So, we could say that having the loins girt about means to be ready.
  1. Ready to every Performance -- Titus 3:1 *Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,*
  2. Ready to give Propagation -- 1 Peter 3:15 *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*
  3. Instant in Prayer -- Rom. 12:12 *Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;*
  4. Instant in Preaching -- 2 Tim. 4:2 *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*
- E. But we are not just to be instant in a flippant way but in TRUTH.
  1. Truth comes from God through Jesus Christ – John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, [but] grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
  2. We are to worship in truth -- John 4:23 *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*
  3. The truth will set us free -- John 8:32 *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*
  4. The truth of Scripture sanctifies us -- John 17:17 *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*
  5. Some change the truth to error – Rom. 1:18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; — Rom. 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*
    - a. Those who speak error do not have permission to hold the truth in their hands. When they do, they always pervert it, change it to their own liking and use.
    - b. They turn the truth of God into a lie and serve created things more than the Creator of all things.
  6. God will judge with truth, not a perversion of it – Rom. 2:2 *But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.*

7. We are to rejoice in the truth – 1 Cor. 13:6 (Love) *Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;*
  8. See also 2 Cor. 6:4-10
  9. All who do not believe the truth are condemned – 2 Thess 2:12 *That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*
  10. Joy in knowing that believers walk in truth -- 3 John 1:4 *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*
- F. So, we must be prepared for this great battle, the one that we fight in the spiritual world.
1. I heard a radio talk show host say this week that there is a revival coming, and we all know that we need revival.
  2. But he was speaking of a revival of “we the people” in America. Now, I am not opposed to this kind of revival, because I believe it is good for our country.
  3. We are definitely having a political revival among certain of the citizens of this country; but we are also having a revival concerning pornography, sexual promiscuity, riotous living, etc.
  4. But we need a revival that goes far beyond what we can experience in this earthly life. We need a spiritual, biblical, heaven-sent revival.
  5. Until we do, believers will not have their loins girt about with truth; and we in the spiritual realm will not be prepared to fight the many battles that could very well come upon us.
  6. Remember, “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth . . .”
    - a. Truth about God
    - b. Truth about Creation
    - c. Truth about Adam and Eve
    - d. Truth about the great flood in Noah’s day
    - e. Truth about the blessings of God on the nation of Israel
    - f. Truth about the types in the Tabernacle and the Temple
    - g. Truth about the coming Messiah
    - h. Truth about Jesus’ being that Messiah
    - i. Truth about his birth
    - j. Truth about his ministry
    - k. Truth about his death, burial, and resurrection
    - l. Truth about his ascension into heaven and his oneness with God
    - m. Truth about his redemption and salvation to all who believe
    - n. Truth about the Bible
    - o. Truth about the church
    - p. Truth about the Spirit’s indwelling of the believers
    - q. Truth about the coming of Jesus Christ
    - r. Truth about eternity and our everlasting rewards
    - s. Prov. 23:23 *Buy the truth, and sell [it] not; [also] wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.*
  7. Wear your Truth Belt proudly.

#### IV. THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (Eph. 6:14b)

- A. First, we must hunger and thirst after righteousness – Matt 5:6 *Blessed [are] they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*
  - 1. Notice John 4:13-15
  - 2. Whosoever drinks of THIS water (from the earthly well) shall thirst again. All human efforts and carnal weapons are insufficient to save the soul. Therefore, the Law cannot save. It takes the grace of God to save a sinking soul.
  - 3. Whosoever drinks of the water that Jesus gives shall never thirst, but it is everlasting life. Every believer must have a good thirst for righteousness.
  - 4. The woman said, “Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not . . .”
- B. This righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees
  - 1. Matt 5:20 *For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed [the righteousness] of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*
- C. We are to “seek” Christ’s righteousness – Matt 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*
- D. There are also enemies of righteousness – (Elymus the sorcerer) – Saul said to him in Acts 13:10 *And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, [thou] child of the devil, [thou] enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? Therefore, we must be aware of this and look out for those who are enemies of righteousness.*
  - 1. Legalists are against Christ’s righteousness, for they say a person must keep all the law of Moses in order to be saved. They do not understand that Christ’s righteousness is imputed to every believer without the law – Ro 3:21 *But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;*
  - 2. Antinomians are against Christ’s righteousness – These believe that believers are bound by no laws, that we are saved by grace and are not under any law and can live our lives pretty much as we want without any repercussions;
    - a. But notice Jesus’ explanation of the law – Matt. 5:43-44 *Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*
  - 3. Universalists are against Christ’s righteousness – “universalism” is a principle that asserts that all people are under the consideration and Love of God (Wikipedia). In Universalism, everyone is eventually saved; because a loving God would never, never send anyone to Hell. But if this were true, the righteousness of Christ would be of no value. Why would he need to come to the earth and live a perfect life in our place? Why would he have to be the perfect substitutional sacrifice for our sins? Rom. 5:10 *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*
- E. We may be persecuted for the sake of righteousness – Matt 5:10 *Blessed [are] they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* See also 1 Peter 3:14.

1. Many of our forefathers were persecuted for righteousness' sake.
  2. Families of ancient Baptists were cast out of their homes and cast into the wilderness with threats of death to those who would give them food or shelter. These families starved or froze to death. They were persecuted for righteousness' sake.
  3. Many great believers in Christ and followers of Scripture were taken to the stake to be burned with either a fast or slow burning. The fast burning was for the smaller accusations; the slow burning was for those who were presumptuous in their declarations of the truth of Scripture without wavering or recanting their doctrinal positions.
  4. Many were drowned, parts of their bodies were cut off, including the ears, the tongue, eyes poked out, etc. This was persecution for righteousness' sake.
- F. The world will be judged in righteousness – Acts 17:31 *Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by [that] man whom he hath ordained; [whereof] he hath given assurance unto all [men], in that he hath raised him from the dead.*
1. Those who hated righteousness will one day be judged by it, the perfect justice and equity of God through his Son, Jesus Christ.
  2. That righteousness will be measured by the perfect righteousness of God's Son, Jesus, whom God declared and gave assurance that he is the perfectly righteous One when he raised Jesus from the dead.
- G. Righteousness is revealed from faith to faith, from one saved person to another, either through personal witness or through the preaching of the word of God. – Rom. 1:17 *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*
1. So, in order to put on the breastplate of righteousness, we must declare that righteousness to others and give to them the Gospel of the righteousness of Jesus Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation.
  2. We must also live by faith, which is the evidence of God's righteousness, which we wear as a shield.
  3. Rom. 4:5 *But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*
- H. Righteousness is a gift of God -- Rom. 5:17 *For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)*
- I. Grace reigns through righteousness – Rom. 5:21 *That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*
- J. We are to yield our members (of the body) as instruments of righteousness unto God – Rom. 6:13 *Neither yield ye your members [as] instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness unto God.*
- K. We are to be servants of righteousness - Ro 6:19 *I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to*

*uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*

- L. Righteousness is not meat and drink - Rom. 14:17, but “peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”
- M. Righteousness itself is called an armor in 2 Cor. 6:7 *By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,*
- N. There is no fellowship between righteousness and unrighteousness, 2 Cor. 6:14 *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*
- O. We are to increase the fruits of our righteousness, -- 2 Cor. 9:10 *Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for [your] food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;*) -- Phil 1:11 *Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.;* – James 3:18 *And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.*
- P. Satan’s ministers are transformed into the ministers of righteousness, – 2 Cor 11:15 *Therefore [it is] no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*
- Q. The scriptures are given for the profit of instruction in righteousness, – 2 Tim. 3:16 *All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*
- R. And those who use milk are unskillful in the word of righteousness, – Heb 5:13 *For every one that useth milk [is] unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.*
- S. Then we may receive a crown of righteousness later, – 2 Tim. 4:8 *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*
- T. In heaven we who have this breastplate of righteousness will be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints, – Rev. 19:8 *And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

## V. FEET SHOD WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE (Eph. 6:15)

### A. The Feet Shod

1. The Greek word, HUPODEO, means “to bind on”
2. Rom. 10:15 *And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*
3. Isaiah 52:7 *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!*
4. Matt 10:14 *And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.*
  - a. If people do not hear our message, we are to depart from them and shake off the dust of our feet, because these people may mix error with truth and cause our

effectiveness to diminish.

- b. If people do not receive us, that means that we are not to endeavor to be a part of their false doctrine but to stay away. That would be like having dirty feet and not feet that are prepared to preach the Gospel.
- B. The Preparation
1. John the Baptist was to prepare the way of the Lord -- Matt 3:3 *For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*
    - a. John the Baptist was prepared to preach the Gospel.
    - b. He preached “Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 3:2)
  2. Preparation must be certain -- 1 Cor. 14:8 *For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?*
    - a. John Gill says on this verse: “the allusion is to the custom of many nations, Jews and others, who, when about to engage in war, made use of musical instruments, particularly the trumpet, to gather the soldiers together, prepare them for the battle, give them notice of it, and animate them to it; the sound of the trumpet was the alarm of war (Jeremiah 4:5).”
    - b. Before we can preach the Gospel, we must be prepared.
  3. We are to be prepared unto every good work -- 2 Tim. 2:21 *If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, [and] prepared unto every good work.*
  4. To be prepared, our feet must be guided -- Luke 1:79 *To give light to them that sit in darkness and [in] the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*
- C. The Gospel
1. Our feet being prepared with the Gospel means that we should be willing to take the Gospel with us wherever we go.
  2. The extent of our delivering the Gospel
    - a. To all nations -- Matt 28:19-20 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.*
    - b. To all the world -- Mark 16:15 *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*
    - c. To the regions beyond -- 2 Cor. 10:16 *To preach the gospel in the [regions] beyond you, [and] not to boast in another man’s line of things made ready to our hand.*
  3. The essentials of the Gospel
    - a. We must be sure to preach the right Gospel, not a perverted gospel.
    - b. We must preach only one Gospel -- Gal. 1:7-9 *Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any [man] preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him*

- be accursed.*
- c. The definition of the Gospel – 1 Cor. 15:1-4 *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*
  - d. The power of the Gospel – Ro 1:16-17 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*
  - e. Names of the Gospel
    - (1) Eleven times the Gospel is called the Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16; Rom. 15:19; Rom. 15:29; 1 Cor. 9:12, 18; 2 Cor. 4:4; 9:13; 10:14; Gal. 1:7; Phil. 1:27; 1 Thes. 3:2; 2 Thes. 1:8)
    - (2) Seven times the Gospel is called the Gospel of God (Rom. 1:1; 15:16; 2 Cor. 11:7; 1 Thes. 2:2, 8, 9; 1 Tim. 1:11; 1 Peter 4:17)
    - (3) Four times the Gospel is called the Gospel of the kingdom (Mat. 4:23; 9:35; 24:14; Mark 1:14)
    - (4) Once the Gospel is called the Gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24).
    - (5) Once the Gospel is called the Gospel of his Son (Rom. 1:9)
    - (6) Twice the Gospel is called the Gospel of peace (Rom. 10:15; Eph. 6:15)
    - (7) Once the Gospel is called the Gospel of your salvation (Eph. 1:13)
    - (8) Once the Gospel is called the Gospel of circumcision and the Gospel of uncircumcision (Gal. 2:7)
4. The Gospel of Peace
- a. The way of peace -- Luke 1:79 *To give light to them that sit in darkness and [in] the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*
  - b. The Gospel brings salvation, and salvation brings peace -- In Luke 7:50 we see the woman with the alabaster box, *And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.*
  - c. Salvation brought peace to the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment -- Luke 8:48 *And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.*
  - d. Jesus gives peace -- John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. -- John 16:33 *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**
  - e. Peace is preached through Jesus Christ -- Acts 10:36 *The word which [God] sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)*
  - f. The peace from God – Rom. 1:7 *To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called*

*[to be] saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

- g. The peace of God – Php 4:7 *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.* – Col 3:15 *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*
- h. The peace with God -- Rom. 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

### **Sweet Peace, The Gift Of God's Love**

By Peter Bilhorn - 1887

*There comes to my heart one sweet strain,  
A glad and a joyous refrain,  
I sing it again and again,  
Sweet peace, the gift of God's love.*

*Peace, peace, sweet peace,  
Wonderful gift from above,  
Oh, wonderful, wonderful peace,  
Sweet peace, the gift of God's love*

- i. Our feet are to be shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace.

## VI. THE SHIELD OF FAITH (Eph. 6:16)

### A. The Lord Is Our Shield

- 1. Gen, 15:1 *After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I [am] thy shield, [and] thy exceeding great reward.*
- 2. 2 Sam. 22:3 *The God of my rock; in him will I trust: [he is] my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence. . . . 6 Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great.* See also Psalm 18:35.
- 3. Psalm 3:3 *But thou, O LORD, [art] a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.*

### B. Faith Wields The Shield

- 1. Our faith will remove mountains -- Matt 21:21 *Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this [which is done] to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.*
  - a. Mountains are in the way of our serving God. Sometimes they must be removed. It is only by faith that we can do this.
  - b. Faith was omitted by the Pharisees and others – Matt 23:23 *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and*

*have omitted the weightier [matters] of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*

- c. We must have faith in God -- Mark 11:22 *And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.*
- d. We do not need an increase in faith, just faith – Luke 17:5-6 *And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. 6 And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.*
- e. Some people are full of faith – Acts 6:5 *And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost . . .*  
See Also Acts 6:8 - Stephen was full of faith and power.
- f. Barnabas was full of faith and the Holy Spirit, also - Acts 11:24 *For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.*
- g. We are encouraged to continue in faith -Acts 14:22 *Confirming the souls of the disciples, [and] exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*
  - (1) Satan would love for us to lay down our shield of faith.
  - (2) Faith is our protection just as the shield protects the soldier.
- h. Our hearts are purified by faith - Acts 15:8 *And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them (the Gentiles) the Holy Ghost, even as [he did] unto us; 9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. See Rmans 10:6-8*
- i. The righteousness of God is by faith – Rom. 3:22 *Even the righteousness of God [which is] by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*
- j. We have access to grace through faith – Rom. 5:2 *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*
- k. Faith comes by hearing the word of God – Rom. 10:17 *So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
- l. Our faith must stand in the power of God – 1Co 2:5 *That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*
- m. Faith must be exercised with love – 1 Cor. 13:2 *And though I have [the gift of] prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.*
- n. We are to stand fast in the faith – 1 Cor. 16:13 *Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.*
- o. We are to walk by faith, not by sight – 2 Cor. 5:7 *(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)*
- p. Examine yourselves -- 2 Cor. 13:5 *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*
- q. We are to strive together in faith -- Phil. 1:27 *Only let your conversation be as it*

- becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;*
- r. Faith is also a breastplate – 1 Thes 5:8 *But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.*
  - s. Now we need to remember that some will turn from “the faith.” – 1 Tim. 4:1 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*
  - t. We are to fight the good fight of faith – 1 Tim. 6:12 *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*
  - u. When it is done, we are to stand – 2 Tim. 4:7 *I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith:*
  - v. There are so many other scriptures we can use concerning faith and the shield of faith, but we do not have the time.
2. The shield of faith protects us against the fiery darts of the wicked (one).
- a. From catching away the word of God -- Mt 13:19 *When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth [it] not, then cometh the wicked [one], and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*
  - b. The wicked one cannot touch us -- 1 John 5:18 *We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.*
    - (1) His fiery darts are coming at us every day.
    - (2) With the shield of faith we can quench them.
    - (3) What are some of these darts?
      - (a) See Proverbs 6:16-19 – These are six things the Lord hates. Surely these are darts that Satan throws our way, and we need to use the shield of faith to quench each one of these darts.
      - (b) How can we do this? – Phil. 4:8 *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things [are] honest, whatsoever things [are] just, whatsoever things [are] pure, whatsoever things [are] lovely, whatsoever things [are] of good report; if [there be] any virtue, and if [there be] any praise, think on these things.*
      - (c) Persecution -- Acts 13:50 *But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. 2 Tim. 3:12 *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**
      - (d) Laziness – Heb 6:12 *That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*
      - (e) Fear --Matt 10:28 *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able*

*to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. – Rom. 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

- c. Remember that we have the shield of faith to protect us, but we must use that shield against the fiery darts of the wicked one, Satan.
- d. This armor will protect us mostly in defense. Later we will talk about offense, but now we talk only of defense. – Phil. 1:17 *But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.* This word “defence” in the New Testament is the word for apology or what we call in theology “apologetics,” standing for what you believe and never backing up from the truth.
- e. The truth will set us free from the fiery darts of the wicked one, and we protect ourselves from this wicked one by the shield of faith.

## VII. THE HELMET OF SALVATION (Eph. :17)

### A. The Helmet

- 1. Goliath’s helmet did him no good (1 Samuel 17:4-7) READ
  - a. Goliath’s helmet was a human, natural, carnal helmet, which is of no value either to gain God’s mercy and grace or to wield God’s judgment.
  - b. See the weak protection from the carnal helmet: Deut. 32:37-39
- 2. Saul clothed David with an armor (1 Sam. 17:38-51)
  - a. Saul’s eyes were upon the carnal victory of Israel’s army, not upon the Lord’s victory.
  - b. But David’s armor was one of spiritual value—see verses above.
- 3. See also Isaiah 59:15-17 (The Lord put on his armor), so we, then, are dressed like the Lord when we put on our armor.
- 4. See also 1 Thess. 5:8 – “for an helmet, the hope of salvation”

### B. Of Salvation

- 1. The helmet in this armor represents salvation, and it is a defensive part of the armor as are all but one of the pieces.
- 2. So, we must consider a little about salvation.
  - a. Salvation is not by works
    - (1) Eph. 2:8-10 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*
    - (2) Titus 3:5 *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*
  - b. Salvation is not by law
    - (1) Rom. 3:21 *But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;*
    - (2) Gal. 2:16 *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by*

*the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

- (3) Gal. 2:21 *I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness [come] by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*
  - (4) Gal. 3:11 *But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, [it is] evident: for, The just shall live by faith.*
  - (5) Gal. 3:13 *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed [is] every one that hangeth on a tree:*
  - (6) Gal. 3:17 *And this I say, [that] the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.*
  - (7) Gal. 3:18 *For if the inheritance [be] of the law, [it is] no more of promise: but God gave [it] to Abraham by promise.*
  - (8) Gal. 5:4 *Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.*
  - (9) Gal. 6:13 *For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.*
- c. Salvation is by grace
- (1) Eph. 2:8-9
  - (2) 1 Cor 1:4 *I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;*
  - (3) 1 Cor. 15:10 *But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which [was bestowed] upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*
  - (4) Titus 2:11 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*
- d. Salvation is through faith
- (1) Eph. 2:8-9
  - (2) Mark 5:34 *And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.*
  - (3) Luke 7:50 *And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.*
  - (4) Acts 15:9 *And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.*
  - (5) Acts 20:21 *Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*
  - (6) Rom. 3:22 *Even the righteousness of God [which is] by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*
  - (7) Rom. 3:28 *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.*
  - (8) Rom. 4:5 *But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*
  - (9) Rom. 4:16 *Therefore [it is] of faith, that [it might be] by grace; to the end the*

*promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,*

(10) Rom. 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

(11) Rom. 10:17 *So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

e. Salvation is our protection

(1) Rom. 8:1 *[There is] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

(2) John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

(3) John 3:36 *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

3. The Helmet Protects The Head

a. The Conscience

(1) This is where our brain and our sense of consciousness is.

(2) We believe in the freedom of a man's conscience. It is the call of salvation by grace through faith that demands freedom of conscience.

(3) That is why Baptists (and other like-minded believers) brought this freedom to America.

(4) One man should not think for another man.

(5) One man should not force another man into an opinion. Dale Carnegie said, "A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still."

(6) One man should not think that he is more important than another. We are to "love one another," which is mentioned 12 times in the New Testament.

b. The Mind

(1) Phil. 2:5 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

(2) Mark 12:30 *And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment.*

(3) Rom. 8:7 *Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*

(4) Rom. 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

(5) 1 Cor. 2:16 *For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

(6) 2 Cor. 8:12 *For if there be first a willing mind, [it is] accepted according to that a man hath, [and] not according to that he hath not.*

(7) Eph. 4:23 *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*

(8) Phil. 3:19 *Whose end [is] destruction, whose God [is their] belly, and [whose] glory [is] in their shame, who mind earthly things.)*

(9) Col. 3:12 *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of*

- mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;*
- (10) 1 Peter 1:13 *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

#### VIII. THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT (Eph. 6:17)

##### A. This is the word of God

1. Heb. 4:12 *For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*
2. Rev. 1:16 *And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance [was] as the sun shineth in his strength.*
3. Rev. 2:16 *Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.*
4. Rev. 19:15 *And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*
5. Matt 4:4 *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*
6. Rev. 12:11 *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

##### B. The Word of God Is Quick

1. Heb 4:12 *For the word of God is quick . . .*
2. This means that it is living.
3. It is not living in the way the critics of scripture explain it today. They believe the word of God is living in the sense that it changes as time goes by; but we know that the word of God is settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89).
4. It is not living in the sense that we can interpret it as we like, as the Unitarians believe. Some churches have no doctrine, because they believe that doctrine is a personal matter, and scripture can be interpreted according to the situation (situation ethics).
5. But the word of God is living in the sense that it has God's breath all over it, in it, and all through it. It is breathed by God, and it is put above his own name: *for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name* (Psalm 138:2). This intimates the name of God as it was placed in the temple at Jerusalem and portends the coming of the Messiah under which the temple will be done away and God's name will not be in "a place," but will be in spirit John 4:21 *Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.*
6. His word is his promise, and the Old Testament law cannot change God's promises to Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David.
7. So, the word of God lives in the sense that his promises are contained in it, and these promises are sure. Rom. 4:16 *Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the*

*end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,*

C. The Word Is Powerful

1. The Greek word here for powerful is *energace*, and it means “active, or effective.”
2. It is made ineffective through tradition - Mark 7:13 *Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.*
3. It is made ineffective through corruption - 2 Cor. 2:17 *For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.*
4. It is made ineffective by the way it is handled - 2 Cor. 4:2 *But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.*
5. It is effective only to those who believe - 1 Thess 2:13 *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received [it] not [as] the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*
6. It is effective for life - Luke 4:4 *And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.*
7. It is effective because it is not bound - 2 Tim. 2:9 *Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, [even] unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. It is not under the bondage of the law, under bondage to man’s opinion, under bondage to religious opinions or to modern translators.*
8. The word produces fruit - Luke 8:11 *Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.*
9. The word of God makes disciples
  - a. Acts 6:7 *And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.*
  - b. Rom. 10:17 *So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
  - c. Eph 1:13 *In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*
10. The word abides in the believer - 1 John 2:14 *I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him [that is] from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*
11. That is why we cannot add to it or subtract from it - Rev. 22:18-19 *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the*

- things which are written in this book.*
12. So we are to pray that the word of God will have free course, or be propagated rapidly throughout the world - 2 Thess 3:1 *Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have [free] course, and be glorified, even as [it is] with you:*

## IX. THE CONCLUSION (Eph. 6:18)

### A. Praying Always

1. Wearing the armor is not sufficient to accommodate the order of God. He is interested in the execution of our duties, not simply a statue to set on a mantle. In other words, we must be active in our service for God.
2. I have a wooden sword under the pulpit, but it has fought no battles; it has not cut anything; it has not been used for any defensive or offensive purpose. It is simply to be used as a pointer. That kind of sword is of no value in a battle.
3. After the armor is put on, the warrior must use it for defense and offense as God instructs.
4. In putting on this armor, let us look at . . .
  - a. Eph. 4:24 *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*
  - b. Col 3:10 *And have put on the new [man], which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*
5. But the first step to the exercise of using our armor is also a preparation, not only of the body, but also of the mind.
6. "Praying always" -
  - a. I recently read a story of a blind man who was taken to the nursing home where he was going to live. They brought him into the lobby of the home, and he said, "I just love my room." The nurse said, "You have not been in your room yet; how can you say you love it.?" He said, "Well, that is because I decided before I ever came here that I would love it." The man said, "Your mind is like a bank: whatever you put into it, you will draw out of it later."
  - b. Every believer (or warrior in God's army) must prepare his mind for God's service. We have already noticed the verse: Phil. 2:5 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*
  - c. The Bible is filled with instructions for us to pray, and this prayer life is in preparation of battles that will come our way.
    - (1) The word "prayer" is used 21 times in the New Testament
      - (a) Matt. 21:13 "My house shall be called the house of prayer."
      - (b) Mt 21:22 *And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*
      - (c) Matt. 23:14: the Pharisees are called hypocrites, because they "for a pretence make long prayer."
      - (d) Jesus knew prayer was important, for he prayed all night before he chose his 12 disciples - Luke 6:12
      - (e) The first church "continued with one accord in prayer and supplication" -

Acts 1:14.

- (f) There was an “hour of prayer” in Acts 3:1
  - (g) The church chose deacons so that the apostles could give themselves “continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.” - Acts 6:4
  - (h) When Peter was in prison, “prayer was made without ceasing” - Acts 12:5.
  - (i) We should pray for the lost that they might be saved - Rom. 10:1
  - (j) Paul tells us in Romans 12:12 that we should continue “instant in prayer.”
  - (k) We can help one another with prayer - 2 Cor. 1:11.
  - (l) Prayer helps us to not be anxious - Phil. 4:6 *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*
  - (m) Remember that our prayers are effective: James 5:16 . . . *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*
  - (n) 1 Tim. 2:1 *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks, be made for all men;*
  - (o) Paul tells us in Colossians the same thing that he tells us here in Ephesians: Col. 4:2 *Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;*
- (2) Of course, we are to pray “in the Spirit” - Eph. 6:18.
7. Watching thereunto (Eph. 6:18)
- a. The Greek word for “watch” is AGRUPNEO and means “not asleep.”
  - b. Rom. 13:11 *And that, knowing the time, that now [it is] high time to awake out of sleep: for now [is] our salvation nearer than when we believed.*
  - c. Watching means to be alert and aware of what is going on around us.
  - d. Many people are ignorant of the situation in the world. Many live in their own living rooms around their TV’s and their families and friends and never look beyond their own lives to realize the sin and weariness around them, how that Satan is deceiving millions of people and is having an advantage because of the ignorance of believers.
  - e. In New Testament times there were four watches of the night, but our watch is 24 hours a day.
  - f. Rev. 3:2 *Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.*
  - g. We are guardians of the truth and reconcilers of men to God through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. See 2 Cor. 5:20.
  - h. In watching, we must also sound an alarm when things are not right.
    - (1) Acts 20:31 *Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*
    - (2) 1 Cor. 4:14 *I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn [you].*
  - i. We are to watch with all perseverance
    - (1) To persevere means to “endure continually.”
    - (2) Have a boy, girl, man, or woman to hold a small glass of water with hand

stretched out from the body. Ask if it is heavy. He will say “no.” Then cause him to stay there for a long period of time and see if the glass of water gets heavier and heavier. When he gets to the place where he cannot hold it any longer, say, “I thought you said this it was not heavy.”

- (3) Problems, situations, etc., get heavier as we must endure them.
- (4) Our Christian testimony must be endured, but not only endured, but endured continually - perseverance.
- (5) Our faith is what helps us to persevere.
  - (a) Rom. 4:12 *And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which [he had] being [yet] uncircumcised.*
  - (b) Rom. 4:19 *And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara’s womb:*
  - (c) Rom. 5:2 *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*
  - (d) Rom. 10:17 *So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
    - i) There is no visible verb in this clause, so “cometh” has been supplied.
    - ii) The idea of a continual process of the coming of faith and the hearing of the word is strongly implied here. This is perseverance.

#### 8. Supplication of All Saints

- a. The Greek word for “supplication” is DEESIS and the root word means “begging.”
  - b. Supplication is mentioned only three times in the KJV New Testament, and it is always associated with prayer.
  - c. So, our praying should be begging, because we are the beggars, and God is the provider. 1 Cor. 4:7 *For who maketh thee to differ [from another]? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive [it], why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received [it]?*
9. So the conclusion is that, after we have put on God’s armor, we are still to watch and pray with all supplication and perseverance, praying in the Spirit of God, and that for all saints. Pray not only for yourself and your effectiveness in God’s kingdom, but pray that all saints will be effective in God’s kingdom to bring men to the message of the Gospel of God, be saved, put on the armor of God, and serve him with all diligence and honor.

THE END