

The Whole Armor of God

TEXT: Eph. 6:10-20

INTRODUCTION:

- A. THROUGHOUT THE AGES GOD AND SATAN HAVE BEEN AT **WAR** (**Gen. 3**).
- B. WE ARE **MERELY SOLDIERS** IN GOD'S ARMY (**2 Tim.2:3**).
 - 1. Our life as Christians is described in terms of warfare (**2 Tim. 4:7; 1 Tim. 1:18**).
 - 2. Our **enemy is the Devil** (**vs. 11**).
- C. IN OUR TEXT PAUL SAYS QUITE A BIT ABOUT OUR WARFARE.

I. THE STRENGTH OF THE SOLDIER IS GOD (vs. 10-11).

- A. IT WAS GOD'S STRENGTH THROUGH WHICH CHRIST IS VICTORIOUS (**Eph. 1:19-20**).
- B. IN GOD WE CAN DO ALL (**Phil. 4:13**).
- C. WHO CAN BE AGAINST US? (**Rom. 8:31**).
- D. GOD'S ARMOR, HIS PROVISION, WILL GIVE US VICTORY OVER SATAN (**vs. 11, 13**).

II. THE NATURE OF OUR WARFARE (vs. 12).

- A. NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD (**2 Cor. 10:3**).
 - 1. Fits the nature of the kingdom (**John 18:36; 1 Cor. 15:50**).
 - 2. In keeping with both Christ's teaching and logic (**Matt. 26:51-53**).
 - 3. In keeping with his purpose (**Matt. 26:54**).
- B. IT IS A SPIRITUAL BATTLE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL.
 - 1. Our enemy is **deadly** (**1 Pet. 2:11**).
 - 2. Our enemy is **merciless** (**1 Pet. 5:8**).
 - 3. Our enemy is **tricky** (**2 Cor. 11:3**).
 - 4. Our enemy is **known for espionage** (**2 Cor. 11:13-15**).
- C. WE NEED GOD'S ARMOR SO THAT WE MIGHT STAND (**vs. 13**).

III. WHAT IS GOD'S ARMOR? (vs. 14-17).

- A. DEFENSIVE ARMOR.
 - 1. The **Breastplate** of **Righteousness** (**vs. 14**).
 - a. Righteous behavior keeps us too busy to become entangled.
 - b. Abstaining from sin helps to prevent affection for sin (**2 Tim. 2:3-4**).
 - 2. The **Shield** of **Faith** (**vs. 16**).
 - a. The Christian is provided a means of escape when tempted (**1 Cor. 10:13**).
 - b. **Faith is our escape**, our Protector (**1 Pet. 1:5**).
 - c. When faith is weak, so is our defense (**Heb. 3:12; Luke 22:31-32**).

Faith is the Victory (1 John 5:4-5).

- 3. The **Helmet** of **Salvation**.
 - a. **Hope** of Salvation (**1 Thess. 5:8**)
 - b. Such a goal keeps the head straight (**Col. 3:1-2**).
- B. OFFENSIVE WEAPONS, OR ARMOR.

1. **Feet shod** with the **Preparation** of the **Gospel** (vs. 15)
 - a. Before entering battle, one must prepare (**2 Tim. 2:15; Heb. 5:12**).
 - b. We must take the initiative – the battle will not come to us (**Matt. 28:19**).
 - c. If we don't go, the devil will send out his angels (**Matt. 9:37-38**).
 2. The **Sword** of the Spirit – The **Word of God** (vs. 17).
 - a. We don't seek to destroy the enemy, but win him over (**Luke 19:10**).
 - b. False notions must be removed (**2 Cor. 10:3-5**).
 - c. His heart must be pricked (**2 Cor. 7:10**).
 - d. Truth must be planted (**Jas. 1:21; John 8:31-32**).
 - e. Those who do not yield to the Sword will be judged by it (**John 12:48; Heb. 4:12-13**).
- C. GENERAL PIECE OF ARMOR – THE **GIRDLE OF TRUTH** – HOLDS ARMOR TOGETHER AND SUPPORTS THE SWORD. WITHOUT IT THERE IS NO ARMOR.
- D. PUT ON THE **WHOLE ARMOR** (vs. 11).
- E. THEN **STAND** – WE MUST ENTER THE BATTLE (vs. 13).

IV. THE CHRISTIAN IS CONSTANTLY READY (vs. 18-20).

- A. CONTINUALLY IN CONTACT WITH HQ (vs. 18).
- B. CONTINUALLY VIGILANT (vs. 18:b; **1 Pet. 5:8; Heb. 3:12**).
- C. SUPPORTING THOSE WHO ARE ON THE FRONT (vs. 19-20).

V. THE REWARD IS GREAT!

- A. VICTORY (**1 Cor. 15:55-57**).
- B. A CROWN (**2 Tim. 4:6-8; Rev. 2:10**).