

Eph 6:10-18 the armor of God

- Starting with v. 10 Paul goes into a the most detailed explanation of spiritual warfare in the NT, it appears he was using Roman armor as an illustration.
- Part of having a biblical worldview is in understanding that there really is a war going on and it's led by a real devil?
- Is that therefore an excuse to use when you sin? (the devil made me do it) James 1:13-15
- V.10 whose fight is this? (Eph 3:20, 1 Cor. 16:13)
- The LORD was often described in the OT as a warrior wearing armor (Is. 59:16-17).
- V.11 What does it mean to take your stand? How many times does Paul say "stand" in 13-14?
- The term "stand" is a military term for holding one's position.
- It is His armor, not ours. Our victory is in Him (Php 2:13, Jos 1:9, 2 Cor 10:4, Col 2:15).

Eph 6

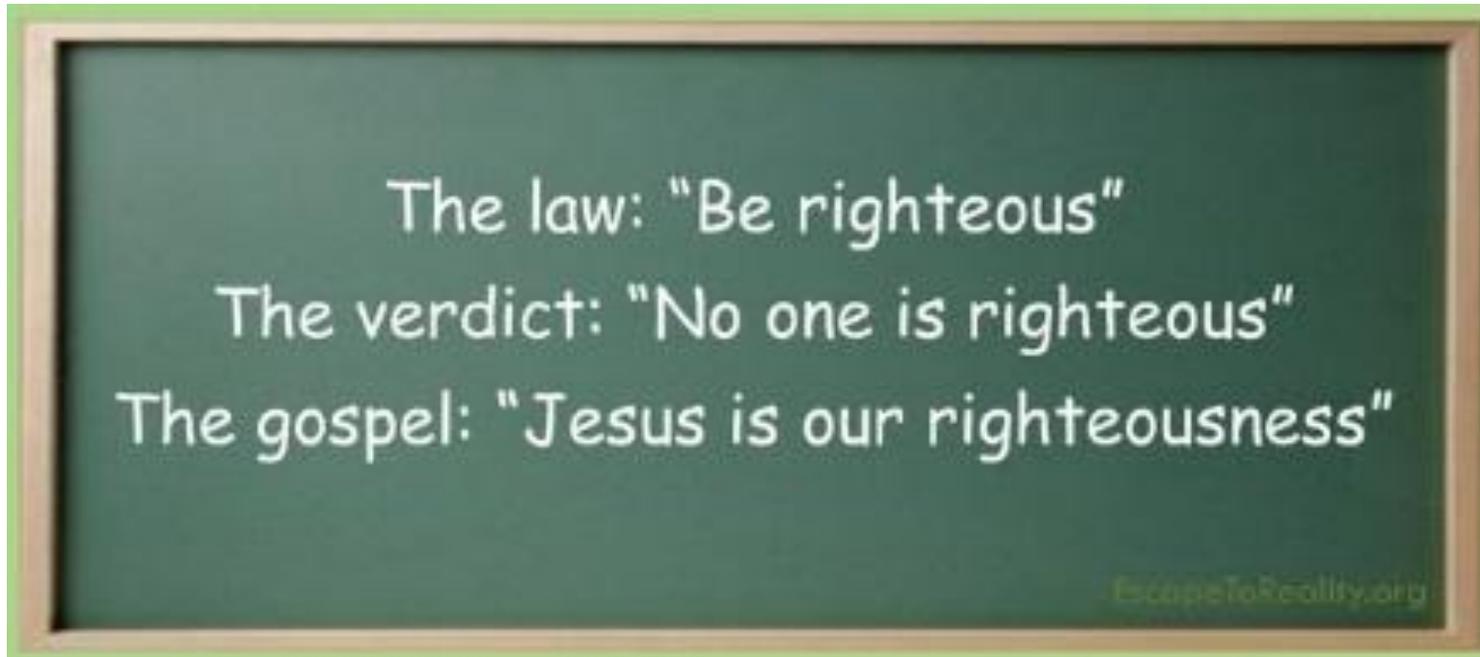
- V.12 with the violence throughout the world it looks like our fight is against flesh and blood, what does Paul mean here?
- What are the rulers, authorities, power, spiritual forces of evil?
- 1 Pet 5:8, Mt 4:8-10, Lk 22:31-32,
- What is the belt of truth (Jn 17:7, Acts 17:11, 2 Tim 3:16)?
- Think about how truthful the world is today.
- Is there any belief in absolute truth?
- What did Jesus say He was in Jn. 14:6?

- The belt—known as the *cingulum* or *balteus*—played a crucial role in the effectiveness of a soldier's armor. It was the belt that held the scabbard, without which there would be no place to put a sword. Imagine an overzealous soldier, fired up and charging out into battle—but without his belt, and consequently without a weapon!
- In addition, the Nelson Study Bible says from the belt "hung strips of leather to protect the lower body."



Eph 6

- The breastplate of righteousness
 - What does a breastplate protect?
 - Jer 23:4-6, Is 53:1-11, Rom 3:21-28, 1 Cor 1:30, 2 Cor 5:21, Rom 10:4
 - Once again the Lord is often pictured as a warrior in armor, Is 59:16-17



- The breastplate was a central part of the Roman soldier's armor—it provided protection for the torso, which contains vital organs like the heart, lungs and so on.
- Without a breastplate, a soldier would be asking for death, as any attack could instantly become fatal. With a sturdy breastplate, the very same attacks become ineffective and useless, as blows glance off the armor.



The Gospel of Peace

- What does it mean to have your feet fitted with the Gospel of peace? (Eph 6:15)
 - Where else do we see imagery of feet with the Gospel? (Is 52:7, Nah 1:15, Rom 10:14-16)
 - Shoes, like the belt, may initially seem superfluous in a discussion about spiritual armor. Who thinks about their footwear?
 - The gospel of the Kingdom, the gospel of Jesus Christ, the gospel of the Kingdom of God, the gospel of the grace of God, the gospel of peace—these are some of descriptions attached to the word gospel throughout the New Testament. Do all these different qualifiers mean that there are multiple gospels set forth in the Bible? No. The Greek word translated gospel—euaggelion—simply means "good news."

- Imagine a fully armed soldier. He has his sword, his shield, his helmet, his breastplate and his belt...but his feet are completely bare.
- God's Church is sent to announce the good news of God's Kingdom, which will spread His way of peace around the whole world. Having our shoes on, we are ready to move, to spread these glad tidings to others.
- How do these spiritual shoes help us stand firm?
- **John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**
- The sandals of the Roman soldier "often were fitted with nails, or armed with spikes, to make the hold firm in the ground" (Albert Barnes' Notes on the Bible). In short, shoes allow us to step freely and without fear while we turn our full attention to the battle at hand.



The Gospel of Peace

- Why is it called a gospel of peace?
- Isaiah 2:2-4 - Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.
- Isaiah 9:6-7 - For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

The shield of faith

- What function does the shield have? (Eph 6:16)
- Ps. 56:3-4, Heb 11:24-34, 1 Cor 10:13, 1 Jo 5:4-5
- Until now, Paul's description of the armor of God has been limited to items we wear. We put on the belt, the breastplate and the shoes, and they essentially hold themselves up.
- The shield is different. Paul tells us that the shield is something we must take up, something we are required to raise. Just strapping it to our arm won't do any good at all if we don't make the effort to hold it aloft and use it.

- The Roman shield—the scutum—was not the standard "medieval-esque" shield most picture in their minds upon hearing the word. It was instead a very large, slightly curved rectangular shield featuring at its center a large metal knob (called a boss).
- What is faith?
- Hebrews 11:1 **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**
- If faith is "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen," then this has far-reaching implications. Substance is tangible, and evidence is solid proof. Faith is, by definition, not some hazy emotion without any grounding in reality. It is the irrefutable truth. It is real.
- Romans 8:24-25 **For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.**



Shield of Faith

- Though it is based on solid evidence, that doesn't mean faith comes naturally or easily. Paul here makes the obvious but necessary point: You don't hope for what you already have. Faith involves a huge element of trust.
- When we examine the evidence we see that God has proved Himself to be unchanging and consistent, and we know that we can firmly believe that He will fulfill His promises to us.
- Where does living, saving faith come from?
- Ephesians 2:8 **For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God...**
- 1 Corinthians 12:9...**to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit...**

Shield of Faith

- Why is a shield associated with faith?
- Daniel 3:17-18 - **If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.**
- A shield guards. While a physical shield protects us physically, faith can protect our spiritual lives even in the middle of physical trials. When Satan (through Nebuchadnezzar) attacked the values and beliefs of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego, they were able to stand resolute and unwavering because of their faith. In their response, they essentially said, "God is capable of delivering us from this fate."
- A shield is the first line of defense. While the rest of our armor helps protect us from Satan's onslaught, it is not what you ideally want to be using to absorb every hit. You do not, for instance, go out into battle intentionally blocking everything with your head. When our faith in God's omnipotence and care is strong, it is impossible for Satan to break through our shield and land an attack.

Helmet of Salvation

- What is the helmet of salvation?
- We all know the importance of helmets as has been shown in recent decades with bike riding, motorcycling and many sports.
- It is often the difference between life and death.
- In this letter, Paul abbreviates “helmet of the hope of salvation” (1 Thess 5:8) to “helmet of salvation.” The assurance of God’s salvation protects the believer just as a helmet protects a soldier in battle.



Helmet of Salvation

- What is salvation?
- Salvation basically means to be saved or delivered from something. In the New Testament it is generally used to refer to deliverance from the eternal death penalty of sin and deliverance into God's Kingdom.
- What is the penalty of our sins, and how can we be saved from that penalty?
- Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Romans 5:8-10 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Helmet of Salvation

- What does salvation have to do with a helmet?
- We receive hope and comfort by focusing on the incredible sacrifice Christ gave to save us and the Kingdom that is the goal of our salvation. This hope works like a helmet to protect our minds from the discouragement and despair in this world.
- **John 17:15-16 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.**

The sword of the spirit

- How many offensive weapons do we have? (Eph 6:17)
- Throughout the world, there are certain individuals—real and fictional—whose identity remains almost inseparable from their weapon of choice.
- From England, there is King Arthur and his sword, Excalibur. From the Middle East, Ali and his scimitar, Zulfiqar. From Spain, El Cid and his long sword, Tizona.
- The sword is the only item listed by Paul that serves in an offensive capacity. Even if we have all the rest of the armor equipped perfectly, without our sword, we amount to little more than heavily armored moving targets.

- What is the Word of God?
- Psalm 119:105 - **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**
- God's Word—the Holy Bible—illuminates. It reveals to us the good and the bad, the wise and the unwise.
- Why a sword?
- Hebrews 4:12 - **For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**



The Sword of the Spirit

- Jesus used the Bible to counter Satan's attacks (Matthew 4:2-11).
- We must also learn to live "by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).
- The purpose of the sword of the Spirit—the Bible—is to make us strong and able to withstand the evil onslaughts of Satan, our enemy (Psalm 119:99–105). The Holy Spirit uses the power of the Word to save souls and then to give them spiritual strength to be mature soldiers for the Lord in fighting this corrupt and evil world we live in.

Pray at all times

- Read Eph 6:18
- What effect does prayer have? What does the world think about prayer? 
- Have you ever thought of prayer as part of spiritual warfare?
- What does God tell us about prayer in the following verses?
 - Jn 14:13-14, 15:7, 15:6, 16:23, 16:26, Mt. 21:22, Jm 5:15, 1 Jn 5:14
- Prayer is a totally underutilized and underappreciated part of our lives – God has told us over and over to come to Him in faith.