

THE CHRISTIAN'S ARMOR Text: Ephesians 6:10-18

Introduction:

—*Bill Turner*

1. The Bible is very blunt about the fact that we have a spiritual enemy

But our response to this usually falls into two extremes...

- a. We either place too much emphasis on the enemy and his powers w/ an unhealthy interest
- b. Or we completely ignore the fact that we have an enemy and ignore the spiritual battle

2. Both Extremes Are Harmful... *The Bible Commands Us to....*

Put on the Whole Armor of God that you may withstand the schemes of the devil

I. THE SPIRITUAL ENEMY

A. OUR ENEMY (6:10-12)

1. Many do not believe in the existence of a spiritual realm, or Good or Evil.

- a) As a Result—there are gaping holes in understanding...
- b) A Professor at Columbia University wrote...“A gulf has opened up in our culture between the visibility of evil and the intellectual resources available for coping with it.” – Andrew Delbanco: ‘The Death of Satan’

2. Since Secular Society rejects the notion of Good or Evil—

everything has to be explain as Social or Psychological forces...

- a) But Even This Shallow Explanation cannot explain reality
“As the twentieth century has gone on, it has gotten harder and harder to say holocausts and ethnic cleansing and serial killing are just bad psychological and sociological adjustment... [the argument] that all evil has natural causes, scientific causes, psychological, social causes, is wearing thin.” – Delbanco
- b) Childhood Trauma is tragic, but it’s not enough to Explain the Depravity of Evil...

3. God’s Word Tells us there a Spiritual Battle and Spiritual Enemy,

- a) and the Bible Names Names! (**1 Peter 5:8**)
- b) And Explains the Schemes they Use
- c) And Instructs Us how to be Equipped for Spiritual Battle

B. THE SCHEMES OF OUR ENEMY (6:11)

1. SUBTLE: (**2 Cor. 11:3**)

- a) He Tempted Eve By Telling Her What She Wanted to Hear
- b) He Tempts Us Today by Telling Us What We Want to Hear...
- c) Your a good person... you don’t need to obey God... you don’t need to go to church,
You don’t need the blood of Jesus, God wouldn’t judge you
- d) Or he whispers: “You can get away with this, no one will know... Then when you Sin he Shouts: “You’ll never get away with this, everyone will know!”

2. DECEPTION: (**2 Corinthians 4:3–4**)

- a) He Blinds the Minds of People with Lies...
- b) The Truth sounds like hate to those who hate the truth...
- c) The Mind is the Battlefield for your soul

3. **DISGUISE: (2 Cor. 11:13–15)**

- a) **False Teachers:** Who come in sheets clothing but underneath are ravenous wolves
- b) **False Doctrines:** Doctrines of Demons (1 Timothy 4:1–2)
- c) **False Miracles** False Teachers performing false miracles (2 Thes. 2:9–12 NIV)

4. **FEAR: (Hebrews 2:14b–15)**

- a) **Satan is effective in the use of Fear**—Fear of Rejection, Pain & especially Death
 - (1) Peter promised he would never deny the Lord, even if it meant he had to die
 - (2) But Satan sifted Peter like wheat and he denied the Lord in fear 3x
- b) **After the Nuclear Radiation Fallout of Chernobyl** began to spread across northern Europe, Causing Radiation Sickness, Cancer, Birth Defects and Death
 - (1) Social Scientists began research people living in fear of radiation.
 - (2) They identified a “FEAR VECTOR” spreading as the invisible radiation cloud spread. — Affecting everyone and everything...
- c) **Today We are living under a massive Fear Vector, a COVID Fear Vector...**
—It affects families, marriages, adults, children, churches, communities

5. **PERSECUTION (Revelation 2:10)**

- a) Satan Attacks the Church with Persecution
- b) This was happening in the early church when Christians were put in prison
- c) Jesus Himself sent a message to the church to be faithful in times of trials

6. **DOUBT & DISCOURAGEMENT: (Ephesians 6:16)**

- a) Satan hopes the Fiery Darts of Doubt will lead to discouragement and Defeat
- b) Often we get discouraged because we are weak and we fall and fail God
- c) Satan wants us discouraged and defeated

7. **PRIDE (1 Chron 21:1)**

- a) On the Opposite extreme, he uses pride to keep us from returning to God
- b) King David had one victory after another until he had defeated all his enemies...
- c) That's when Satan incited David to number the people... perfect timing
- d) Pride is a blindspot used by the devil (1 Timothy 3:6) Pride goes before the fall

8. **GUILT & ACCUSATION: (Zech 3:1)**

- a) Satan is the Accuser of the Brethren who accuses them day and night...
- b) He continually accuse you of sin to keep you in a guilt / shame spiral

9. **TEMPTATION (Luke 4:13)**

- a) To Give You an Idea How Powerful this Enemy is—just look how Bold he was in attempting to Tempt Jesus to sin
- b) Temptation is Something Attractive But Deceptive... Alluring, but Toxic

C. **THE FORCES OF THE ENEMY > Arrayed Against Us (Eph 6:12-13)**

1. **Do You Remember when Elisha Was Surrounded by an Army?**

- a) (2 Kings 6:14-17) How Do You Fight An Army Alone? Open Your Eyes, Realize:
- b) *“Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”*

2. **This is a War for Your Soul (Revelation 12:17)**

II. THE SPIRITUAL ARMOR

A. TRUTH – Which Serves Like a Belt...

- 1. The soldier's "belt" was leather worn beneath the other armor**
 - a) Fastening this tough garment tight around the waist was (lit. "girding the loins"),
 - b) It protected vital inner organs and made rapid movement easier.
 - c) 1 Peter 1:13 "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind..."
- 2. Satan is a liar, he tries to blind the minds of people (2 Cor. 4:4)**
 - a) but the Christian who knows the truth will not be deceived.
 - b) Truth is the Light that Scatters the Darkness (John 30:20-21)
 - c) It is the Truth that Sets us Free

B. RIGHTEOUSNESS – Which Guards Like a Breastplate

- 1. Next Piece of Armor a Roman Soldier put on was his Metal Breastplate**
 - a) It was Both strong & light—an arrow shot from 20 paces left only a light scratch on it.
 - b) This piece of frontal armor was vital for protection of the chest, lungs, and heart.
 - c) This helps extinguish the fiery arrows of the Evil one
- 2. Satan is the accuser (Rev. 12:10), but the believer who walks in the light will give Satan no opportunity to attack.**
 - a) The Breastplate of Righteousness—is not our own self-righteousness like Pharisees
But the Righteousness supplied by God in Christ (Phil 3:9)
 - b) There is no condemnation for those who are IN CHRIST (Rom 8:1)
 - c) and as we walk in the light, the blood of Jesus cleanses us all sin (1 Jn 1:7)

C. GOSPEL OF PEACE – Which is Critical to our Ability to Stand

- 1. Footwear for Roman Soldiers was designed for 3 things...**
 - a) STABILITY: They're boot was made for the stability to hold the battle line
 - b) MOBILITY: They were famous for marching great distances in a short time.
 - c) READINESS: You fight with your boots on, and are always ready w/ your boots on
- 2. The Gospel of Peace is Critical to Our Ability...**
 - a) To Stand against the enemy...,
 - b) To Walk in the Strength of the Lord!
 - c) To be ready give an answer for the Hope & Peace that lies within us
- 3. Satan Wants to Destroy Your Peace But Jesus set the captives free! (Jn 16:33)**

D. FAITH – Which is Like a Shield

- 1. A Soldier would never want to forget his shield...**
 - a) This was an important piece of Armor for Protection against the arrows of enemy
 - b) But it was More than just a piece of personal protection... they formed a "portable wall" for the protection of the whole army, when soldiers stood side by side.
- 2. The Shield of Faith Protects us against Attacks of Doubt & Unbelief**
 - a) Faith is based on FACTS, not on FEELINGS... which is why faith comes from hearing the Word of God, not the words of men. (Romans 10:17)

- b) True Faith is Based on the Power of God, Not the Wisdom of Men (1 Cor 2:5)
- c) True Faith is Not Faith in Ourselves—But Faith in Christ (Galatians 2:16)

3. **This is the Faith that Overcomes Every Enemy (1 John 5:4)**

E. SALVATION – Which is Like a Helmet

1. **The Roman Soldier had a Helmet for Protection of the Head...**
 - a) This Protected the Head from Fatal Blows of the enemy from all directions
2. **The Battlefield of War is the mind...**
 - a) Satan Attacks Our Minds and Tries to Discourage us with Doubt
3. **The Helmet of Salvation Protects Our Minds and Gives Us Hope**
 - a) Protecting us against discouragement, against giving up,
 - b) giving us hope knowing that we are saved in Christ (1 Thess. 5:8-9)
 - c) Hope Because We Know God will win! (Romans 5:1–4)

F. WORD OF GOD – Which is our Sword of the Spirit

1. **A Soldier’s Sword is His Offensive Weapon...**
 - a) He Practices and Trains with His Sword to be Ready in the Heat of Battle
2. **The Word of God is Our Sword (Hebrews 4:12–13)**
 - a) Sword of the Spirit is the WORD OF GOD, Not the Thoughts or Opinions of Men!
 - b) Don’t Think You Will Win the Battle for Your Soul with the Opinions of Men
 - c) The Word of God is Truth—and Only the Truth Can Set You Free
3. **Just as with a Physical Sword, Using the Sword of the Spirit takes practice.**
 - a) Jesus used this sword effectively against attack in the wilderness

G. PRAYER – Which Keeps Us Watchful and Alert

1. **A Soldier is to stay Watchful and Alert...**
 - a) not intoxicated, over-medicated or distracted like the night Babylon Fell
2. **As Christian Soldiers We Stay Alert and sober-minded in Constant Contact with Our Commander through The Word and Prayer (1 Thes. 5:5–8)**
 - a) In the Garden of Gethsemane... Jesus said:

Watch and Pray Lest you Enter Into Temptation (Mt 26:41)
3. **Notice Paul Commands 4 ‘all’s in Prayer... (v.17-18 ESV)**
 - 1) **ALL kinds of prayers and supplications** are to be used: public prayers, private prayers, intercessory prayers, prayers of thanksgiving, Protection, every kind!
 - 2) **ALL times and seasons of prayer**: all times of the day, all conditions and circumstances, all occasions, all states of mind, etc. —Like Daniel Prayed
 - 3) **ALL perseverance**: through times of discouragement or defeat when it seems that all is lost, or When We Have Failed.... let nothing hinder the prayer life.
 - 4) **ALL the saints are to be remembered in prayer**. We all face Our Own Battles

CONCLUSION:

1. **God wants you to win this battle for your mind and soul**
2. **and has supplied you with the Armor of God (1 Thes. 5:8–9, 11)**
3. **Be strong in the Lord and the Power of His Might**