

“The Christian’s Defensive Weapons” Ephesians 6:14-17

Theme of Ephesians – Our spiritual riches in Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:18-6:9 – Walking In Harmony!

Ephesians 6:10-24 – Walking In Victory (Warfare).

If we walk in the Spirit, we better plan on warring in the spiritual realm too.

Ephesians 6:13

Paul Describes The Full Armor Of God: Consists of 6 pieces of armor and the 7th is a non-armor item which is Prayer:

1. Verse 14 – The Belt of Truth – Ephesians 6:14

“Stand firm” – Means “to hold a critical position while under attack.”

Picture – The Belt of Truth – “HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS” – It was a leather belt or leather girdle that was worn over the tunic which was like our underwear. The belt would be the first piece of armor put on that would pull in the bulkiness of the tunic. It was also used to fasten the breastplate to. It was used to attach to the scabbard for the sword.

Application – Truth Is Integrity – It is not whether we have the truth, but does truth have us? (Body of the Christian truth) Are we living a life of truth?

Ephesians 4:15

Ephesians 4:25

Ephesians 5:6

Ephesians 5:9

John 17:17 – “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

2. Verse 14 – The Breastplate of Righteousness – Ephesians 6:14

Picture – Breastplate of Righteousness – “HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE” – It was a tough, sleeveless piece of armor (vest) that covered the area from the neck to the waist. It was made of heavy linen or leather. Sewn onto it were overlapping slices of animal hooves or horns or metal. Sometimes it was chain. Some were made of sheets of metal that had been beaten to mold around the body. It was attached to the belt. (Truth and Righteousness go together.)

“righteousness” – 92X in the NT

“righteousness” – “the state of him who is as he ought to be; righteousness, the condition acceptable to God.”

Application – Imputed Righteousness – It is also called Justification; Positional Righteousness.

Justification – “Is the act of God where by He declares the believing sinner righteous in Christ, on the basis of the finished work of Christ on the cross.”

Imparted Righteousness – Sanctification, or Practical Righteous.

Let our life be practically what God has already made positionally.

3. Verse 15 – Shoes of Peace – Ephesians 6:15

Picture – Shoes of Peace – “shod YOUR FEET” – The Roman foot soldier wore a half boot that was made out of leather. It was tied at the ankle and the shins. It had the toes exposed like a sandal. On the bottom of the soles were “hobnails” or spikes that were made of pieces of metal embedded on the soles of the boots. (They would be likened to our football cleats.)

“WITH THE PREPARATION” – “To stand firmly, to lay a foundation, standing your ground.” “Stand” – Verses 11, 13, 14.

Application – We need to stand as a child of God; peace in the midst of the battle. We need to have peace that comes through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

We are to be ready to offer this peace to others. We should want others to experience the same peace that we have; To be prepared to share this new life that God has given to us.

“OF THE GOSPEL” – “good tidings”; could be translated “Good news, stop the press!”; as the glad tidings of salvation through Christ.

“OF PEACE;” – “rest, quietness, exemption from the rage and havoc of war.”

4. Verse 16 – Shield of Faith – Ephesians 6:16

“in addition to all,” – “addition” – “above all else, or first thing, first in importance.” Faith is essential to every part of the armor. “Shield of faith” – faith in Jesus Christ daily.

Picture – Shield of Faith – “in addition to all, taking up the shield” – It was large, about 2 to 2 1/2 feet wide. It was 4 feet tall and was intended to protect the entire body. (Their soldiers were much smaller than our people today.) It was made of one solid piece of wood or 2 pieces that were glued together. It was covered with cloth, and then either leather or metal. The top and sides were edged in metal so that the shield would interlock with the shields of the other soldiers.

Shield had 3 purposes:

1. To protect the entire body of the soldier.

2. To interlock to form a wall and barrier.

3. To extinguish the flaming arrows.

“flaming missiles,” – or “fiery darts,” “flaming arrows.”

Application – Shield Of Faith Is “Practical Faith!” It is the faith that daily trusts in Jesus Christ.

Faith In The Person Of Jesus Christ.

Faith In His Promises.

Faith In His Power.

Faith In His Providence. Romans 8:28 – We know that God causes”

“of the evil one.” – Literally “the wicked one, the vile one, the wretched one.”

5. Verse 17 – Helmet of Salvation – Ephesians 6:17

Picture – Helmet of Salvation – “And take THE HELMET” – It was made of plates of bronze or iron that were molded to fit the head. It had felt or sponges on the inside for comfort and shock. It had a hinged visor that would protect the eyes. It had parts that protected the cheeks of the soldier. Then there was a lip of metal that brought protection for the neck of the soldier. There was a leather strap that kept the helmet on the soldier’s head.

The Helmet Brought Protection.

The Helmet Brought Assurance.

The Helmet Brought Identity.

“And take” – “receive, accept, to take up.” You don't work for salvation. God freely offers it to all. (Person that accepts not the invitation has no one to blame but themselves.)

Application – Helmet Gives Hope, Assurance and Security.

1 Thessalonians 5:8

“Hope” – “is a sure expectation of a future event”

2 Peter 3:18

Protection From A Divided Mind – James 1:8

Protection From A Deceived Mind – 2 Corinthians 11:3

Do you know if you belong to God and are saved? Romans 8:16

6. Verse 17 – Sword of the Spirit – Ephesians 6:17

Picture – Sword of the Spirit – “Sword” – The Roman sword was about 18 inches to 2 feet in length. It was very sharp with a fine point and was two edged; both sides could be used to cut.

It was carried by the Roman foot soldier into battle. When not in use it was placed in the sheath which was made of leather and attached to the belt. (The word of God is attached to truth.)

1. Defensive for protection in the battle.
2. Offensive for advancing in the battle.

"the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." – He defines what it means.

"Logos" – 318X, which speaks of the general revelation of God. This speaks of the whole Word of God, the Bible. John 1:1

"Rhema" – 63X; speaks of a specific personal revelation from God to an individual; Spoken word of God by the Holy Spirit to an individual. Eph. 5:26

Application – Speaks of using the Bible specifically for every situation.

1 Timothy 3:16

The Sword of Defense. We need to read the Word.

Need to Meditate on the Word. Psalm 119:15

Memorize the Word – Psalm 119:11

Study the Word – 2 Timothy 2:15

The Sword of Offense. Evangelism – Hebrews 4:12; Acts 2:37;
Defeating false teaching – Matthew 7:15-20.