

## The Way

### Fruit of the Church: Ephesians

#### Lesson 41: Christians Are to Put On the Complete Armor of God (Part 2)

*\*We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons\**

#### Scripture

Ephesians 6:14-20

#### Review (Where We've Been)

##### ***Last week we learned that life is hard. Why?***

- Controllable circumstances (bad decisions - it's our own fault)
- Uncontrollable circumstances (Jesus told His followers that life would be hard)

**John 16:33 (ESV)** In the world you will have tribulation....

*What kind of tribulation or hardship can we expect?* Temptation, Trials or Testings, Persecution, Unexpected and unsettling circumstances, Spiritual attacks

##### ***How to handle tribulation...***

- Be strong in the Lord

**Ephesians 6:10 (ESV)** ...be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

- Put on the armor of God to stand against the devil

**Ephesians 6:11 (ESV)** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

*What tactics (or schemes) does the devil use?* He lies, He accuses, He destroys

- Know who you are battling

**Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

**"Satan's forces of darkness are highly structured for the most destructive purposes." – John MacArthur**

#### BIG Idea

We began a discussion last week about the armor of God.

**Ephesians 6:11 (ESV)** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

**"God gives the believer a full set of equipment, and He sends us out into battle with everything we need at our disposal."- David Guzik**

## Information (What You Need to Know)

Today we will begin looking at this equipment (or armor) God has given us to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Although Paul discusses **WHAT** pieces of armor we are to put on, Paul gives us further insight into **WHO** we are putting on (the character of someone).

**Romans 13:12 (ESV)** The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. **13** Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. **14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**Ephesians 6:13 (ESV)** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. **14** Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. **16** In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; **17** and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...

### Piece #1: Belt of Truth

*The belt of truth symbolizes a soldier being committed to **truth** or **truthfulness**, which ultimately brings freedom.*

- Soldiers wore loose-fitting clothes, which was dangerous since fighting was mostly hand to hand
  - The soldier needed to use a belt to draw in the extra clothing
- The belt provides freedom to move about without any restrictions, just as truthfulness enables a Christian to experience freedom with self, God, and others. *Everything that hinders is tucked away.*

### Piece #2: Breastplate of Righteousness

*The breastplate of righteousness is a piece of armor that protects the heart against the attacks of the devil.*

- When we are holy and obedient to God, it protects us from the attacks of Satan
- Unrighteousness leaves us open to the attacks of Satan and pulls us from God

### **Piece #3: Feet Covered with the Gospel of Peace**

- Feet symbolize stability, and the gospel gives confidence with and peace with God
- Peace with God enables us to withstand opposition from the enemy

**1 John 2:1 (NLT)** ...we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. **2** He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

- Victory is in Jesus' death to cover sin and His resurrection to assure eternal life

### **Piece #4: Shield of Faith**

*The shield of faith allows a person to extinguish the flaming darts of the wicked one*

- Trust in God and His promises will cause us to not become discouraged
- Satan tries to bring temptations and trials into our life, which could cause us to doubt God's promises

### **Piece #5: Helmet of Salvation**

- The helmet of salvation refers to protecting our mind against Satan's attacks
- At times, we'll have doubts about our forgiveness, but it's based in *fact* not *feeling*
- Satan tries to discourage us and wants to make us feel guilty

### **Piece #6: Sword of the Spirit**

- The last piece of armor is the word of God
- The truth of scripture enables us to defend against Satan's attacks, so it is necessary for us to fill our mind with the word of God

**Psalm 119:9 (NLT)** How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. **11** I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

### **Application**

In addition to these pieces of armor, Paul gives final strategy – pray and stay alert.

**Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)** ...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints...

Because of all that Jesus has done to defeat Satan, we can hide in Jesus as our armor, and stand against Satan – refusing to give in to, or to be afraid of anything he can do.

We are not to trust in what we can do to overcome Satan, but in all the Lord has already done to defeat Satan and all his demons.