

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 6:13-17**.
- B. Paul says in 6:10 that our struggle is not against flesh and blood. It is actually against something more powerful than that--the spiritual forces of wickedness.
- C. Therefore, the armor of the child of God is spiritual in nature. Many have explained the text in words describing the physical part of the analogy, and leave off the spiritual essentials.
- D. We are to arm ourselves with; truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the word of God.

I. **FIRST, TRUTH.**

- A. Scripture text: **Eph. 6:14a; John 8:32.**
(**Eph 6:14**) Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH**,...
(**Jn 8:32**) "...and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
- B. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (Jn. 14:6).
Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."
- C. Satan is the author of lies (Jn. 8:44).
"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies."
- D. The only real enemy the truth has is **ignorance** on the part of those who are supposed to hold it (Hos. 4:6).
My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.
- E. Knowledge is so important in every facet of life, especially in the church. We secularly educate five days a week (6 hours/day), and in the church only twice a week (a total of about 4 hours).

II. **SECOND, RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

- A. Scripture text: **Eph. 6:14b; Rom. 12:1-2.**
(**Eph 6:14**) ...and **HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**,...
(**Rom 12:1-2**) I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- B. We must live the message we preach.
- C. The OT prophets were effective in the giving of their message because their lives were consistent with that message. They were very moral, upright, and proper in what they did.
- D. No one has ever matured in living the Xian life, by seeing how close they can get to sin without committing it.

III. **THIRD, THE GOSPEL OF PEACE.**

- A. Scripture text: **Eph. 6:15; 2:17-18.**
(**Eph 6:15**) ...and having shod **YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**;...
(**Eph 2:17-18**) **AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR**; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.
- B. In the text above, do you think that Peter and Paul had bad news to give the Jews and the Gentiles?
- C. We have a positive message that is not to make enemies, but friends.
- D. We have a message that can appeal to all people (1Cor. 1:26-31).

IV. **FOURTH, FAITH.**

- A. Scripture text: **Eph. 6:16; Gal. 2:16.**

(Eph 6:16) ...in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one.

(Gal 2:16) ...nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.

- B. We cannot fight with a subjective faith or opinions but only with the teachings of X.

- C. Opinions and Biblical theology are good but they never saved anyone. The faith (the teachings) have been given to the saints (Rom. 10:17; Jude 3).

(Rom 10:17) So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

(Jude v3) Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

VI. **FIFTH, SALVATION.**

- A. Scripture text: **Eph. 6:17a; 1Tim. 4:10.**

(Eph 6:17) And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION,...

(1Tim 4:10) For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.

- B. Our message is **not** that “so-and-so is going to hell, and this church and that church are going to hell, and we are the only ones who are going to heaven.”

- C. Ex.: three nails in a board all the same height. To get one higher than the others you can knock two down or pull one up (we should pull the one up).

- D. The message is that salvation is offered to all men, and can be given to those who believe (and obey) the message.

VI. **SIXTH, THE WORD OF GOD.**

- A. Scripture text: **Eph. 6:17b; Heb. 4:12.**

(Eph 6:17) ...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

(Heb 4:12) For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- B. We fight with the sword of the Holy Spirit--the word of God.

- C. Our fight has divine approval and power when we use the word of God to fight sin.

- D. The word is a weapon, and a spiritual cleansing agent (Eph. 5:26).

...that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We are assured the victory over Satan and sin, if we will but arm ourselves correctly (2Cor. 2:14).

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.

- B. We therefore invite greater Bible study, a righteous life, and a positive message.

- C. You can win the fight with God's spiritual weapons.

- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.