

THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD.

- A. The battleground on which this war is being fought is the minds of humanity. Satan has built up strongholds of prejudice and unbelief in the minds of the human race to keep them from receiving the truth of the gospel. Our God-given task is to break down these mental strongholds, thus releasing men and women from Satan's deception, and then bring them into submission and obedience to Christ.
- B. We absolutely must understand the battleground is in the realm of the mind. Satan is waging an all out war to captivate the minds of the human race (2Cor. 10:3-5).
*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, **4** for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. **5** We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,*
Satan deliberately and systematically builds strongholds in people's minds. These strongholds and fortresses resist the truth of the gospel and the Word of God and prevent people from being able to receive the message of the gospel.
- C. Two types of strongholds in people's minds, influenced by the devil are prejudices and preconception. Some examples of prejudices that grip people's minds and such things as religious cults, political ideologies, and racial prejudices.
- D. Our ability to achieve this God-given task depends mainly upon two factors:
1. That we see clearly from Scripture that on the cross Jesus totally defeated Satan on our behalf and that is now our responsibility to demonstrate and administer the victory which Jesus has already won (Col. 2:13-15; Heb. 2:14-15).
*(Col 2:13-15) When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, **14** having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **15** When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.*
*(Heb 2:14-15) Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.*
 2. That we make proper use of the necessary spiritual weapons with which God has provided us. These spiritual weapons fall into two main categories: weapons of defense and weapons of attack.
- E. See Eph. 6:10-17.
- F. It is significant that twice in this passage (v11 and v13) Paul says, "Put **on the full armor of God.**" Surely, we been clearly warned by Scripture that we must protect ourselves with the full armor of God.
- G. Six pieces of equipment that a legionary would normally wear:
The girdle, a breastplate, shoes, a shield, a helmet, and a sword.

THE GIRDLE OF TRUTH.

- A. Paul says the girdle for us is truth. I believe that does not mean abstract, theological truth but truth in daily living. It means honesty, sincerity, openness, and frankness.
- B. As religious people, we are often encumbered with much sham and hypocrisy. Many things we say and do are not really meant, but we say them only because they sound good. We are full of religious clichés and insincerities. Almost every religious group has its own particular clichés.
1. "When God closes a door, he opens a window."
 2. "Your never more safe (physically) than when you are in God's will."
 3. "Let go and let God."

4. "God will not give you more than you can handle."
 5. "God helps those who help themselves."
- C. Religious talk like that is just like a loose, hanging garment. It prevents us from being active, energetic, effective Christians. We are required, first of all, to put on the girdle of truth. We must put away sham, hypocrisy, religious clichés, and saying doing things we do not mean.
- D. Some scriptures on truth:
1. Luke 1:3,4; 20:21
 (Lk 1:3-4) it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write *it* out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; 4 so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.
 (Lk 20:21) They questioned Him, saying, "Teacher, we know that You speak and teach correctly, and You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth.
 2. John 4:23-24; 8:32; 8:44; 14:6; 17:17.
 (Jn. 4:23-24) But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
 (Jn. 8:32) and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
 (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.
 (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.
 (Jn. 17:17) Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
 3. Romans 1:25.
 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.
 4. 2Corinthians 4:2; 13:8.
 (2Cor 4:2) but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
 (2Cor 13:8) For we can do nothing against the truth, but *only* for the truth.
 5. Galatians 4:16.
 So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?
 6. 2Thessalonians 2:10.
 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.
 7. 1Timothy 2:3,4; 3:15.
 (1Tim 2:3-4) This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
 (1Tim 3:15) but in case I am delayed, *I write* so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.
 8. 2Timothy 3:7; 4:4.
 (2Tim 3:7) always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
 (2Tim 4:4) and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.
 9. 1John 1:6-8.
 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.
 10. 2John 1:4
 I was very glad to find *some* of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment *to do* from the Father.

THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- A. The breastplate of the Roman legionary protects, above all else, one absolutely vital organ of the human body: the heart. What you have in your heart must ultimately determine the course of your life, for good or for evil. It is essential that we protect our heart from all kinds of evil (Prov. 4:23; 1Th. 5:8).
- (Prov. 4:23) Watch over your heart with all diligence,
For from it *flow* the springs of life.
- (1Th 5:8) But since we are of *the* day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.
- B. That is the breastplate we need, one that never fails. A breastplate in which there are no weak points that Satan can penetrate.
- C. Some scriptures on righteousness:
1. Mt. 5:6; 6:1; 6:33; 25:46.
(Mt. 5:6) “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
(Mt. 6:1) “Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.
(Mt. 6:33) But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
(Mt. 25:46) These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”
 2. Jn. 7:24.
Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”
 3. Ac. 24:25.
But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, “Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you.”
 4. Rom. 1:16-17; 3:10; 6:13; 6:16; 9:30; 10:4.
(Rom 1:16-17) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”
(Rom 3:10) as it is written, “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;
(Rom 6:13) and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.
(Rom 6:16) Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone *as* slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?
(Rom 9:30) What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith;
(Rom 10:4) For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
 5. Phil. 3:9.
and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith,
 6. 1Tim. 6:11.
But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness.
 7. 2Tim. 3:16.
All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
 8. Ti. 2:12.
instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

NEXT LESSON.

Defensive Weapons: Shoes and Shield