



Poema

“Prepared for Life Part 1”

Ephesians 6:10-17a

The authenticity of a Christian is tested in the final instruction from Paul to the church at Ephesus. Spiritual warfare is a reality. If followers of Jesus are impervious to this truth, the consequences are an unprepared and ineffective Christianity.

In order to be successful in communicating the gospel of Jesus and effectively being His church, it is crucial that we be prepared for daily encounters with the real enemy of Christianity.

- ***The reality of spiritual warfare requires identifying our real enemy. (Ephesians 6:10-13)***

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 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.”

In three sentences, Paul introduces the topic of spiritual warfare. He requires a believer to be fully aware of its reality and fully prepared for its engagement. Many Christians are inept, unaware, and woefully unprepared for this reality.

God’s people often skip through the corridor of life like little children completely unaware of the real war that is going on around them. When they step on a spiritual land mine, they immediately want to blame God and assume He doesn’t care for them at all.

God has made it clear that Satan and the demonic forces are looking to inflict emotional, spiritual, and even physical harm on God’s people. Spiritual warfare is a reality. We are not to fear it, or flee from it. We are to be prepared for it and to firmly stand against it.

- ***The weapons of our warfare are not physical; they are spiritual, because the warfare is spiritual. (Ephesians 6:14-17a)***

“Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation...”

“...the belt of truth...” Truth refers to the content of that which is true...the content of God’s truth found in the Word of God is absolutely essential for the believer in his battle against the schemes of Satan. Truth is that which holds everything together; it is a belt that is fitted properly. This truth does not come by osmosis. It must be firmly tied around us. It thus carries the idea of attitude (mind) and commitment (actions).

“...the breastplate of righteousness...” In ancient Jewish thinking, the heart represented the mind and will, whereas the bowels (gut) represented the seat of emotions and feelings.

The mind and the emotions are the two areas where Satan most fiercely attacks believers. He creates a world system: a sinful environment by which he tempts us to think wrong thoughts, to believe his lies, and to feel wrong emotions. The protection against those attacks is the **breastplate of righteousness**. We are to put on the righteousness of Christ that covers our mind and emotions. This is accomplished through the discipline of study and application of the Word.

“...as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.” The Roman soldier, from which Paul illustrates our Christian armor, wore boots that were made tough and durable for protection. Our boots are **“...the gospel of peace...”** In this passage the **gospel of peace** refers to the good news that believers are at peace with God.

“...taking up the shield of faith...” It is the substance of Christianity that protects us against believing all Satan’s lies. We are shielded from those lies when we believe God exists and that He rewards those who seek Him; put total trust in His Son as the crucified, buried, risen, and ascended Savior; obey Scripture as His infallible and authoritative Word; and look forward to the Lord rapturing His church and then coming back to the earth with His church to establish His kingdom and restore His people Israel.

“...the helmet of salvation...” Satan’s blows are aimed directly at the believer’s security and assurance in Christ. The two dangerous edges of Satan’s spiritual broadsword are discouragement and doubt.

Satan attempts to discourage us by pointing to our failures, our sins, our unresolved problems, our poor health, or to whatever else seems negative in our lives. This is done in order to make us lose confidence in the love and care of our heavenly Father.

We must protect our thinking by keeping our focus on the truth and security of our salvation. It has come to us by God, and He keeps us based on His righteousness. He has declared us righteous because of the work of Christ alone. We are in Christ. Christ is in God, and nothing can snatch us out of His hand.

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