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## The Armor of God

### *An Exposition of Ephesians 6:10-17*

The apostle Paul had a lifelong contact with the Roman army. He was a Roman citizen and very patriotic; and his admiration of the fighting forces of Rome was great.

The Roman army was at its peak of efficiency during the early Christian era. It served as police and frontier guard over all of Europe, the borders with Asia, and North Africa. Paul had many dealings with Roman legionnaires.

- A Roman soldier delivered Paul from the mob in Ephesus.
- Roman soldiers saved his life when the mob in Jerusalem wanted to kill him in the temple area.
- The Roman soldiers were able to deliver Paul out of Jerusalem from the hands of the religious leaders who wanted him dead, and they brought him safely to Caesarea.
- It was Roman soldiers who escorted Paul on the trip from Caesarea to Rome, the voyage on which Paul suffered shipwreck.
- Roman soldiers delivered Paul to the Roman garrison of the Praetorian Guard for his imprisonment.

The Praetorian Guard represents everything that is famous in Roman history. Their ranks were made up of the best and most experienced combat tested centurions, comparable to the finest from West Point, Sandhurst, St. Cyr. They were comparable to the best combat units of modern times, such as Special Forces, 1st Marines, Patton's 3rd Army, the Coldstream Guard, Big Red One, etc. In Roman history, the man who wanted to be Emperor had first to win the favor of the Praetorian Guard.

Every man in the ranks was a respected veteran, one of the most highly trained warriors in history. The commander of the Guard was a chiliarch who maintained the strictest discipline and combat training, even though all ranks were seasoned combat veterans.

The emperor of Rome at the time of Paul's first imprisonment was Nero (Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus), a member of one of the most distinguished families of military men and politicians; a family of genius, but Nero himself was insane. As long as Nero listened to the counsel of Seneca, he was more or less an enlightened monarch; and he managed to judge Paul fairly during the first imprisonment.

Paul wrote the epistle to the Ephesians during the period of his house arrest in Rome while he was guarded by a centurion of the Praetorian Guard. Paul witnessed to many guards during his two years under house arrest; and as these men were posted to other countries, they carried the gospel with them. Paul recognized the mission field of the military and understood very well God's plan in having him in Rome under these conditions.

This passage of Ephesians has as its background a large number of Roman military metaphors, as you might suppose. Military terminology is seen in a great deal of Paul writings; for example:

- In Galatians 6:17, Paul talks about bearing in his body the "mark" of the Lord Jesus. In history, this mark was a brand placed on the back of the left hand of a Roman soldier who had finished basic training. It was a high honor and the sign of a "man's man."
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- Note the military terms in 2 Timothy 2:3,4. Paul wrote 2 Timothy during his second imprisonment.
  - Roman military drill is the background of the terminology in Galatians 5:25; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; Col. 2:5.
  - 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 describes the doctrine of the resurrection of believers in terms of a military parade. There are two "battalions" of believers "passing in review", first those who were dead, then those who are "alive and remain".
  - In 1 Corinthians 14:8, Paul described the military commands given by a trumpet. The idea here is that those who speak in tongues cause confusion in the ranks.
  - In Galatians 1:6, Paul speaks of legalists as having gone AWOL from the Gospel.
  - In Philippians 4:6,7, Paul refers to the mounting of the guard.

Ephesians 6:10-12 provides, in military terms, an "estimate of the situation". Such an estimate is based on facts gathered and analyzed by reconnaissance and intelligence personnel. Questions to be answered are:

- Who is the enemy?
- Where is the enemy?
- What are his strength and disposition and his supporting units?
- What is his logistical support and where are his supply lines?
- What are his weaknesses?
- What is the terrain like where the battle will be fought?

### ***Ephesians 6:10***

"As to the remaining teaching, receive great inner strength from the Lord and in the inner power of His endowed power."

**finally** ...literally, "as to the remaining", but in this context, "now to get down to the final planning for attack". Paul wants the Christian to go on the offensive against unseen forces, the forces of Satan.

**be strong**...from the present passive imperative of *endunamoo*, a reference to inner strength or moral courage.

Success in battle is always based on moral courage. The present tense used here indicates that moral courage must be used continuously. The passive voice shows that this courage is received by the believer from the Lord as a product of Grace. The imperative is the mood of command; "You are ordered to receive great moral courage!"

This courage comes through Christian growth in maturity, the faith/grace process for Biblical perception and application.

### **Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-6**

Our weapons are the weapons of the soul; this is how the believer receives strength. The basic emphasis in Christianity is not "doing something" but "thinking something". Divine production follows divine thinking. The soul is "armed" when the believer is edified.

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Bible truth applied to the life will include orientation to Grace, a relaxed mental attitude, a capacity for personal and impersonal love, great inner peace and happiness, and a divine frame of reference. These are all ingredients of moral courage.

**in the Lord...** the Lord is the source of our strength and training.

**in the power...** the instrumental case of *kratos*, meaning "inner power" or self-discipline.

**of his might...** *ischus*, "endowed power". The source for everything is the Lord Himself. See Acts 1:8. This takes us back to Ephesians 5:18 and reminds us of the necessity of the Holy Spirit's control.

### ***Ephesians 6:11***

"Put on all of your spiritual military equipment so that you may have the ability to stand in the ranks, face to face with the strategies of Satan."

**Put on...** refers to the soldier picking up his equipment and weapons. This a verb in the middle voice, indicating that the believer receives benefit from putting on the armor.

**the whole armor...** *panoplia*, "all armor and weapons"; so, "all military equipment". [The English cognate is "panoply".]

There were three types of soldiers in the Roman army that wore armor and carried these types of weapons.

The **hastati** (from *hasta*, "javelin") were less experienced soldiers under training. They were usually not well trained with the more sophisticated weapons such as the spear, machaira sword, or bow. These troops were usually not used in the main battle, but only in the opening skirmish when javelins were thrown at the advancing enemy. The new believer is the *hastati* in the Christian life. He is not trained with much in the way of weapons because he is still ignorant of a lot of God's Word.

The **principes** were somewhat more advanced. This was a young, vigorous, strong soldier, equivalent in this analogy to the vigorous advancing Christian who is beginning to operate on a divine frame of reference.

The third line of battle was composed of the **triararii**, the veterans, soldiers who could move into any area of combat and were well-trained with all weapons.

**that ye may be able...** *dunamai*, the ordinary Greek word for "ability". This is the ability which is the result of edification; and it is the main source of strength in the angelic conflict.

**to stand...** *histomi*; this is the readiness of the combat soldier, the Christian "centurion", armed, tough, unyielding, with pride and motivation.

"Standing" is the first thing taught in unarmed combat or martial arts. One of the first things taught in Judo, for instance, is how to "break the stance" of the opponent. The Gauls, against whom the Romans fought many campaigns, under Julius Caesar and others, were human "tanks" in the sense that their ability to take a very strong combat stance made them difficult to defeat in individual combat.

Every believer is a member of the combat team and is required to take his own part, to stand on his own. We are armed with spiritual gifts and equipment, provided by Grace, to fight against the forces of Satan.

**against the wiles of the devil...** *methodeia*, "face to face with the strategies" of Satan.

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**Ephesians 6:12**

"Because our combat is not face to face with human beings but, by contrast, is in confrontation with demon rulers, military commanders of Satan, world-rulers of the darkness, and spirits of evil in the heavenlies."

**for we wrestle** ... refers to any sort of personal combat. In the military sense, it refers to military contact with the enemy.

**not against flesh and blood** ...that is, "not face to face with human beings".

**but** ... "in contrast to the foregoing"

**against**..."face to face with" the following roster of the Satanic organization.

**principalities**... archon, a word in Greek for one of the highest rulers.

This word first shows up in the Attic Greek (Athens) in the days of the Athenian democracy. The archon was the president or preeminent decision maker in Athens. The number two man was called bassileus archon, or "king-ruler". The third man was called polymark, a military ruler. The following six leaders in Athens were the thesmoteitai or "legislators". Even though there was democracy, there was no anarchy in Athens because these leaders kept things under control.

The Satanic organization has a number of supreme rulers; how many is not known.

**powers** ... from eksousias, "commissioned officers"; therefore, a secondary group of demon rulers.

**rulers of the darkness of this world** .. the phrase "ruler of this world" is all one word in Greek: kosmokrator ["world" + "ruler"]. The word skotos follows; therefore the phrase should read "world rulers of darkness".

These demonic rulers are Satan's supporting organization; analogous to logistics, intelligence, special weapons units, etc.

Satan has a special force of high ranking demons to make attacks against prominent officials and heads of nations.

In Daniel 10:13f, the term "prince of Persia" refers to a fallen angel, a demon, who was busy attacking the ruler of Persia. Gabriel was delayed in bringing a message to Daniel because he was in conflict with this kosmokrator demon. The archangel Michael came to help and released Gabriel to come to Daniel.

In Daniel 10:20, the "prince of Grecia" is mentioned, referring to the demon in charge of mounting attacks against the ruler of Greece who was Alexander the Great at that time.

The principle is that Satan will vigorously attack any nation which protects the divine institutions, allows personal freedom to its citizens, and protects the nation against immorality. In nations like that there is evangelism and missionary activity, so demon activity will be stepped up with respect to those countries.

In addition, all Christian believers are placed under direct attack in the world system, with particularly heavy attacks against those who are advancing in the Christian way of life.

spiritual wickedness in high places ... literally, "spirits of evil in the heavenlies". This refers to the rank and file of demons which perform numerous functions.

**Ephesians 6:13**

"Because of this, continually take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to take your position in combat, and when all is finished that you may remain standing."

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The question arises as to why God allows the spiritual warfare (the angelic conflict) to continue. One reason is that in every generation, God permits Satan to use his genius to attack the Plan of God and the principle of Grace in the plan. Pressures are brought to bear on believers so that the divine provisions of Grace may be made manifest.

**wherefore...**"because of". Refers to the previous statements regarding spiritual warfare against demons. Hence, "Because of Satan's organization and activities, take the whole armor of God..."

**take...** imperative of analambano, "to take; to seize" with a prefix which adds the idea of repetition to the verb. We must "seize or take again and again" the armor of God. As an example, one piece of the armor is "truth" (verse 14). This piece of armor must be "put on" every day.

In any group of Christians there are two types, those who are "ready" and those who are "not ready". A uniform of armor must be taken up and put on whenever combat is anticipated. For the Christian, combat is continuous. The emphasis of this verb is "Don't get caught without your armor on!"

**the whole armor of God...**panoplia. The hastati, the princeps, and the triarii all wore the same basic armor. In the following verses, the individual parts of the armor are described.

**that ye may be able to stand...**

The following passages of scripture provide excellent illustration of the concept of the Christian's "stand".

**1 Corinthians 15:57,58**

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

**Psalm 16:8**

I have set the Lord always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.

**Psalm 21:7**

For the king trusts in the Lord, And through the mercy of the Most High he shall not be moved.

**Psalm 55:22**

Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.

**Psalm 125:1**

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

**Galatians 5:1**

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage

**Philippians 1:27**

Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

**1 Peter 5:5-11**

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the

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humble.”

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**Psalm 46:5**

God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.

**Psalm 66:9**

Who keeps our soul among the living, And does not allow our feet to be moved.

**Psalm 112:6**

Surely he will never be shaken; The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.

**Psalm 121:3**

He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.

**Proverbs 10:30**

The righteous will never be removed, But the wicked will not inhabit the earth.

**1 Corinthians 10:12**

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

**Job 11:14,15**

14 If iniquity were in your hand, and you put it far away, And would not let wickedness dwell in your tents;

15 Then surely you could lift up your face without spot;

**Acts 11:23**

When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.

**Philippians 4:1**

Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

**1 Thessalonians 5:21**

Test all things; hold fast what is good.

**2 Thessalonians 2:15**

Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

**Hebrews 3:6**

but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

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**Hebrews 4:14**

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

**Hebrews 10:23**

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

**against the wiles of the devil...  
and having done all, to stand.**

***a side trip to discuss Ephesians 4:14***

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, and cunning craftiness, by which they lie in wait to deceive:

Satan is the crafty one, lying in wait to deceive. He has a whole program of false doctrine that he uses to fool the immature person, the novice, the gullible one.

Chester McCalley has said: "If a Christian does not know what God has done in the past and does not have faith in what God will do in the future, he will be overwhelmed by today's crisis."

Satan doesn't give up when a person accepts Christ as Savior. In fact, he intensifies his activity. He has a strategy regarding believers which is very subtle and far-reaching.

Satan accuses believers before God. The sins of the Christian are observed by the fallen angels and reported. In effect, a dossier is being kept on each believer. Satan does this to try to hinder the work of God on earth. However, 1 John 2:1ff points out that Jesus Christ is our Advocate with the Father; and the Lord reminds the Father of what happened at the Cross and makes note of the believer's faith and position in Christ.

**Revelation 12:9,10**

9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down."

**Zechariah 3:1,2**

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.

2 And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"

**Job 1:6-11**

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.

7 And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

8 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

9 So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

10 Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

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11 But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”

**2 Corinthians 2:11**

lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Satan tries to keep the believer from the Word of God. He discourages unity among believers and he encourages Christians to ignore the Word and accept false teaching so that they will revert to their former manner of life.

**1 Timothy 4:1**

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

**1 Corinthians 10:19-21**

19 What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything?

20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. 2

1 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and of the table of demons.

**2 Corinthians 11:3, 13-15**

3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Satan distracts by trying to keep believers from public assembly worship.

**Hebrews 10:25**

not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

He tempts the believer with an improper emphasis on details of life such as money, success, social life, pleasure, loved ones, health, sex, materialistic things, or status symbols. The mature believer knows that his happiness is not derived from these things, so he is not a slave to them. The novice Christian, however, may try to gain happiness from such things, and this will distract him from the Word of God.

False teaching is also a part of Satan's strategy. The following are some of the characteristics of false teachers:

**They have a false facade.**

**Matthew 7:15**

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

**Romans 16:18**

For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

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**They court believers.****Galatians 4:17,18**

17 They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them.

18 But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you.

**2 Timothy 3:5-7**

5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts,

7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**They appeal to human pride.****2 Corinthians 10:12**

For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

**They promote idolatry because it is a quick way to demon influence.****Habakkuk 2:18**

“What profit is the image, that its maker should carve it, The molded image, a teacher of lies, That the maker of its mold should trust in it, To make mute idols?”

**They promote legalism.****1 Timothy 1:7,8**

7 desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

8 But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully,

**The false teachers will continue to operate throughout Satan's rule on earth.****1 John 4:1**

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Satan seeks to frustrate the will of God for the believer. There are three categories of the will of God which Satan tries to interdict.

1. The operational will of God (what God wants us to do).

**James 4:7,8**

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

**Galatians 5:7**

You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?

2. The mental, or intellectual, will of God (what God wants us to think).

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**1 Timothy 4:1**

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

3. The geographical will of God (where God wants us to be).

**1 Thessalonians 2:18**

Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.

Satan encourages believers to worry. Worry neutralizes the soul of the believer. He tries to frighten Christians with regard to physical death

**1 Peter 5:7-9**

7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

**Hebrews 2:14,15**

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Satan attempts to change the focus of the believer. Instead of Occupation with Christ, Satan wants the Christian to be occupied with

**Occupation with Self****Colossians 3:1**

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

**1 Corinthians 1:10,11**

10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you.

**Genesis 3:4,5**

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**Matthew 26:31–35**

Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

32 But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

33 Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble."

34 Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny

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Me three times.”

35 Peter said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!”

### Occupation with Things

#### Hebrews 13:5,6

5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

6 So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

#### 1 Corinthians 1:10,11

10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that there are contentions among you.

### Occupation with People

#### Jeremiah 17:5

Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the Lord.

#### 1 Kings 19:10

So he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”

#### Jeremiah 17:4

And you, even yourself, Shall let go of your heritage which I gave you; And I will cause you to serve your enemies In the land which you do not know; For you have kindled a fire in My anger which shall burn forever.”

One of the functions of the Faith-Rest principle is to protect the Christian in the area of having a proper focus on life.

Satan also promotes heavily in the area of mental attitude sins such as fear, worry, bitterness, desires for revenge, pride, guilt feelings, lack of love, failure to forgive, hatred, mental adultery, and so forth. A believer is neutralized by sin; and mental attitude sins are behind all sin. And they are the worst category because they are so devastating. As long as mental attitude sin is taking place, the Word of God is being ignored.

There are several religious counterfeits mentioned in the Bible.

### A counterfeit gospel.

#### 2 Corinthians 11:3,4

3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

### Counterfeit ministers (unsaved, humanists, misled, etc.)

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15**

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

**Counterfeit doctrine****2 Timothy 4:1**

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

**Counterfeit communion table****1 Corinthians 10:19-21**

19 What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything?

20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

**Counterfeit righteousness****Matthew 19:16-18**

16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

17 So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

18 He said to Him, "Which ones?"

**Counterfeit manner of life ("living the beautiful life")****Read Matthew 23****Counterfeit power****2 Thessalonians 2:8-10**

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

**Counterfeit gods****2 Thessalonians 2:3,4**

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

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The Bible talks about the Armor of God as enabling the believer to "stand against the wiles of the devil". This armor is protection for us while we live in kosmos diabolikos, and the weapons of our warfare are stronger than Satan as we take our stand in the Lord Jesus Christ.

### ***Ephesians 6:14***

"Stand, therefore, having about your waist the equipment belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of divine righteousness;"

With this verse begins the categorization of the Christian's armor, using by way of illustration the armor of the Roman soldier.

**stand therefore...** aorist active imperative of *histomi*, the ordinary verb for standing, but in this context "to stand in military rank".

Grammar Note: In verses 14 to 17 there is a string of verbs, all of which are aorist participles in the middle voice. These are the verbs such as "take" or "put on" associated with putting on the pieces of armor. The Greek aorist participles have the same standing in a context as the English past participle in that the action of the participles precedes the action of the main verb in the sentence. The idea is that before a soldier can take his place in the ranks, he must be outfitted and trained.

**having your loins girt about** ...aorist middle participle of *perizunumi*, "to put around".

The Roman soldier put around his waist a very wide belt which was the holder for a lot of equipment. There was a loop, for example, for the scabbard for the machaira sword. Other loops held ropes and a rations sack. When the legions conquered a city, the soldiers would empty out the ration sack to make room for gold, jewelry, and other loot they picked up.

There were loops on the belt for darts. The belt was tied in several places to stay in place, so that no matter how the soldier moved about, fell down, climbed hills, etc., the belt was always in place with weapons at the ready. There were designs stitched into the belt which designated various campaigns in which the veteran had fought. Instead of campaign medals or ribbons, the soldier would weave into the belt something he had taken during the battle.

**with truth...** *aleitheia*, refers to truth taught accurately. This is the belt of the Christian soldier.

**and having on..** "having put on" the breastplate of righteousness.

**the breastplate...** *thoraka*, [Engl. cognate "thorax"]. This was attached to the belt and provided protection for the upper torso, front and back.

In the ancient world, breastplates were of layers of cloth, sometimes with metal greaves attached. The Greeks introduced a bronze breastplate, with bronze plates covering vital areas or the torso, held together with leather or cloth connections. Some Samaritans noticed that horses' hooves, cattle horns, etc., were made of very hard material, so they began to use horn sewed to cloth to protect from blows.

The Romans had the ideas for armor design which provided light weight combined with ease of movement and protection from blows. The best type was called the *thorax stadias*, or "breastplate which stands by itself". This breastplate was attached to the belt by leather thongs passed through rings on the bottom to keep it solidly attached. It was anchored to the belt, and it was above the belt. Note: the belt had to be put on first, then the breastplate.

**of righteousness...** The righteousness of God is basic protection for the believer. The belt of truth combined with the breastplate of righteousness is the basis for the edification of the Christian.

### **Ephesians 4:12,16,29**

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

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16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

### ***Ephesians 6:15***

"Having shod your feet by means of full preparedness in the good news of God's peace."

**And your feet shod ...**"to bind with sandals". The sandal was the GI boondocker for the Roman army. This is a reference to the foot soldier slogging it out. The infantryman fights with the least glamor and the highest casualties.

While the Greek soldier wore greaves to protect his ankles, the Roman soldier wore a heavy soled sandal which had metal studs on the bottom for good footing on uneven or slippery ground. This shoe was known in Latin as the caligula, so the foot soldier was called caligatus. Officers wore different footgear.

**with the preparation of** - etoimasia, refers to full preparedness, being able to march great distances in order, with others, and over a long period of time, to use weapons effectively.

**the gospel of peace...**we are to be ready at any time to minister the gospel. Note that all believers are included in this command. Every Christian is in full time Christian service, always on the front line.

Even a Christian who doesn't want to fight is in the conflict. A soldier may be untrained or in poor condition and drop beside the road before the enemy is reached. Or he may be killed in the first skirmish.

The primary thrust of evangelism is through the individual. There is a place for those with the spiritual gift of evangelism; but these men can reach only a specialized segment of the population. Individual believers circulate throughout the community in various functions. They have jobs; they belong to clubs; they have certain friends. The principle or witnessing for Christ is that you do it in your own environment.

Preparation implies the ability to fight. Preparation means flexibility and the ability to use God's Word in witnessing. Knowledge of the basic doctrines of salvation is necessary for witnessing (not salesmanship techniques). You need to know about Reconciliation, Propitiation, Redemption, Imputation, Regeneration, and The Barrier, as a starter. You don't have your shoes on your feet without this preparation.

### **Notes on personal witnessing**

Witnessing for Christ is the responsibility of every believer.

#### **Acts 1:8**

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

#### **1 Peter 3:15**

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

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**Mark 5:18,19**

18 And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him.

19 However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."

The effectiveness and clarity of the believer's witnessing depends, in large measure, on his understanding of the Last Judgment. Sins will not be the issue! The only reason that a person will stand at the Last Judgment is that he rejected Christ during his lifetime.

**John 3:18**

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**John 3:36**

He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

All sins have been judged at the Cross, and there is no double jeopardy.

The basis for the indictment of unbelievers is human good, not sins. The witnessing Christian must make the issue clear.

Witnessing is impossible apart from the filling of the Holy Spirit.

**John 16:8-11**

8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:  
9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me;  
10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;  
11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

And the Holy Spirit must minister to the unbeliever to apply the doctrine of salvation.

The context for witnessing is that part of the Word of God called the Gospel.

**1 Corinthians 1:18**

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**Ephesians 6:17**

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

**Hebrews 4:12**

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The dynamics of witnessing depends on the believer's mental attitude. One cannot be an effective witness if he is ashamed of the Gospel, if he does not have the capacity to be occupied with Christ, or if he is not oriented to Grace.

In **Romans 1:14-16**, the apostle Paul says "I am debtor", "I am ready", and "I am not ashamed". A fisherman has a desire to fish. One is not a "fisher of men" without a desire to win souls.

There are two sources for a Christian's witness:

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(1) the testimony of his life

**2 Corinthians 3:3**

clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.

(2) the testimony of his lips

**2 Corinthians 5:14-21**

14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;  
15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

There is a reward for witnessing.

**1 Corinthians 3:11-16**

11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,  
13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

**2 Corinthians 5:10**

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Rewards in heaven are an extension of edification; the only things that are rewarded in heaven is what is done on the basis of Grace. Thus, every reward in heaven is an eternal memorial to the grace of God. Grace means that rewards do not reflect any personal glory or merit. It is the Lord who enables us to labor for Him and who provides the divine production in the life (gold, silver, and precious stones).

***Ephesians 6:16***

"In addition to all this, having taken up the shield of the believer's faith, wherewith ye shall be able to extinguish or cut off the fire arrows of the wicked one."

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**in addition to all this** ...or, "in addition to all". This phrase does not mean that the following item of equipment is greater, but that it is simply to be added to the above.

**having taken up** ... aorist active participle of *analambano*, "to pick up something, as from the ground, repeatedly". The main verb is "stand" in v. 14, so this action precedes the action of the main verb.

**the shield of faith** ...*thureos*.

The Romans had a long, rectangular, knees-to-chin shield which protected from arrows and spears and could be knelt behind during an arrow barrage. It was quite a bit heavier and clumsier than the smaller Greek circular shield; but there was a series of exercises, a manual of arms, designed to give the soldier flexibility and strength in the use of the shield. Groups of soldier who were besieging a town could form close together and hold their shields over their heads to make a huge *testudo*, or "turtle", to protect the group from missiles.

The Romans were known by some of their enemies as the soldiers who carried a "door" (*thureos*) into battle. The Franks of Cisalpine and Transalpine Gaul ridiculed these smaller men because of the great cumbersome shields they carried. But the barbarians were surprised in battle when the little Romans, with their great discipline, their consummate fighting skills, and their mental attitude of victory, wiped up the ground with the disorganized, vacillating Gauls.

In this verse, the Roman shield stands for the faith of the believer in the promises of God. The value of faith lies not in the person exercising it, but in the object. Faith is something that all people possess and use every day. It is a non-meritorious system of thinking and decision making. Most of what we learn, we learn by faith.

**wherewith** ... "by means of which"

**ye shall be able** ...future active indicative of *dunamai*, a verb of ability or power. Implied in the future tense is that there will be a training period in the use of the shield before battle comes. In the Christian life, the training period is the time during which promises and doctrines are learned and practiced.

**to quench** ... aorist active infinitive of *sbeinumi*, "to extinguish, to break off, to chop off".

**the fiery darts** ... "missiles which have been set on fire", a reference to fire arrows.

Persians used fire arrows against the Greeks in the days of Xerxes. Herodotus makes reference to these in his description of the attack against the citadel at Athens, referring to arrows dipped in tar and set afire before shooting them.

Thucydides, in his book on the Peloponnesian wars describes the Spartans in the siege of Plataea, "The Plateans constructed a wooden frame which they set upon the top of their own wall opposite the mound (built by Spartans). [They were trying to outbuild each other to get the high angle of fire for their arrows.] They also constructed curtains of skins and hides to protect the front of the wooden platform. These were designed to protect the woodwork and the workers against the blazing arrows of the Spartans."

The Roman historian Livy, in his "History", described the siege of Saguntum in which the Saguntians had designed giant darts to be fired by a catapult. "There was used by the Saguntines a missile called *follericca*, with the shaft of a fir tree, and round in all its parts, except at the point from which the iron projected. This part, which was square, they bound with tow and smeared with pitch.

"But what caused the greatest fear with this weapon, even though it should stick in the shield and did not penetrate into the body, was that when it was discharged with the middle part on fire, it

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bore along a much greater flame produced by the mere motion, and obliged the soldier to drop his shield and expose himself."

**of the wicked** ... literally, "of the wicked one", the source of the fiery darts.

### ***Ephesians 6:17***

"And receive the helmet of salvation, and the sword provided by the Holy Spirit, which is the Word of God."

**and take** ... "receive, (imperative), as an item of equipment"

**the helmet of salvation** ... the perikephalaia, literally "something placed around the head", so, in the military, "helmet".

It is the soul which is said to be saved; and the soul is in the head (with its mentality, volition, self-consciousness, emotion, sin nature). So it appropriate that the helmet is used to represent salvation.

The Romans had the best helmet of the ancient world. Many other nations used helmets of cloth wrappings, animal hides or bones, or hooves, etc. The Roman helmet had chinstrap, visor, and came down to cover the back and sides of the neck. Officers' helmets had a ridge on top on which was mounted plumage or some sort of brush, depending on the rank.

The parts of the Roman helmet were: a lining of leather, softened for comfort and good fit; the helmet itself which was a bronze casque for the soldier, or iron alloy for officers; a metal crest for the plume; and a chinstrap. The highest ranking officers had gold and silver alloy helmets for parade dress.

The helmet represents many principles of doctrine associated with salvation.

**and the sword of the Spirit** ... the machaira mentioned before. The word machaira was chosen here, and in Hebrews 4:12, by the Holy Spirit during inspiration.

There were many types of swords used in the ancient world:

The romphaia was a broadsword used mostly by the Gauls of Julius Caesar's time. It was used with both hands, was six to eight feet long, sometimes with one edge, sometimes two, and used to hack off limbs and heads. The "barbarian" soldiers made great slicing sweeps with the broadsword, leaving himself open for thrusts of the machaira.

The Persians used the zephus, a thrusting weapon with a point, rounded like a pencil, but with no cutting edge.

In the akinakes sword, the emphasis was on the handle and the ornate decoration. It was actually a dress sword and was not considered a serious combat weapon. The dolon was a sword hidden in a cane or riding crop and used mostly by assassins.

The machaira is described by Vegetius in his Military Instructions to the Romans. "They likewise taught not to cut, but to thrust, with the sword. For the Romans not only made jest of those who fought with the edge of a weapon, but always found them an easy conquest. A stroke with the edge, though made with ever so much force, seldom kills, as the vital parts of the body are defended both by bones and armor. On the contrary, a stab, although it penetrates only a few inches, is usually fatal. Besides, in the attitude of striking [with the broadsword], it is impossible to avoid exposing the right arm and side. On the other hand, the body is covered when a thrust is given, and the enemy receives the point before he sees the sword."

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The user of the machaira is always covered, always protected, always on balance, and always ready for defense or attack.

**of the Spirit, the Word of God...**"the sword from the source of the Holy Spirit, namely, the Word of God.

Maturity and the ability to do God's work comes through years of study of God's Word and practice in using doctrinal principles. Following is a review of the doctrinal ideas found in:

## **2 Timothy 2:15**

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

**Be diligent** ... from the Greek word spoudzo meaning "to be industrious, eager, to be diligent, to exert oneself". It has a stronger meaning than "study". It is actually a way of life which includes the proper mental attitude and motivation to learn Bible doctrine daily. This word could be translated "make every effort". And it is a command.

**to present yourself or,** "to make every effort to represent yourself...". It means to make every effort to concentrate, to be objective to doctrine. to give priority to the Word of God. The reason that you are entering the Lord's work is to live the life of Christ.

**approved** ... "to pass an exam". The emphasis is on success, not failure. To be a successful Christian worker, you must study (Test #1), and you must use what you study (Test #2).

Can you teach to the glory of God? The test is on the accuracy of what you teach. Can you work to the Glory of God? The test comes when you apply, whether you use Grace or legalism, whether you depend upon man or God. Can you fix a car, iron a shirt, type a letter to the glory of God? The test is on whether you know how to do this.

**workman** ... ergateis, an agricultural worker, a laborer, a routine worker. This word indicates one who is involved in the mundane, routine, ordinary, distasteful, or dull things in life. In the ancient world it meant feeding the cattle, working in the fields, cleaning out the barn, etc.

Any task can be done as unto the Lord; the Christian life is fantastic. The emphasis here is on doing small, routine things as unto the Lord. Stay in fellowship and wait for God's promotion.

**needeth not to be ashamed** ... literally, with the previous word, "a not-ashamed workman". You don't have to be ashamed of your station in life if you have an honest vocation. Every believer is in full time service. A Christian worker must keep grace oriented and not despise the ordinary things, or those who live an "ordinary" life. And he must have these qualities before moving out.

**rightly dividing with the word of truth** ... "to cut straight, to line out a straight path." Use Bible doctrine to keep from straying into the cults, into the movements, to stay with accurate interpretation and application of the Word of God. This enables a life with no detours, no hangups, no blind alleys. Therefore, the 2 Timothy 2:15 says, "Making every effort to represent yourself approved to God, an irreproachable worker cutting a straight path with the Word of Truth."

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