

THE CHRISTIAN'S ARMOR EPHESIANS 6:10-19

- ✓ Having Your Loins Girt About With Truth
 - “The ‘girdle, or sash,’ was always with the ancients an important part of their dress, in war as well as in peace. They wore loose, flowing robes; and it became necessary to gird them up when they traveled, or ran, or labored. The girdle was often highly ornamented, and was the place where they carried their money, their sword, their pipe, their writing instruments, etc” (Barnes).
 - Truth is the foundation the all Christian exercises.
 - Jesus was “full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).
 - Grace and truth came by Jesus (John 1:17).
 - Jesus said: “I am the way, the **truth**, and the life” (John 14:1).
 - “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).
- ✓ Having On The Breastplate Of Righteousness
 - Barnes explains this as “the armor that covered the body from the neck to the thighs, and consisted of two parts, one covering the front and the other the back. It was made of rings, or in the form of scales, or of plates, so fastened together that they, would be flexible, and yet guard the body from a sword, spear, or arrow. It is referred to in the Scriptures as a ‘coat of mail’ [1Sam 17:5](#); an ‘habergeon’ [Neh 4:16](#), or as a ‘breast-plate.’”
 - As the breastplate defended the soldier, righteous integrity defends the Christian. Adam Clarke adds that righteousness “is a word of very extensive import: it signifies the principle of righteousness; it signifies the practice of righteousness, or living a holy life; it signifies God’s method of justifying sinners; and it signifies justification itself.”
 - The Devil is battling for the hearts of men. He does this by stamping out righteous living.
- ✓ And Your Feet Shod With The Preparation Of The Gospel Of Peace
 - “The protection of the feet and ankles consisted of two parts: (1) The sandals, or shoes, which were probably made so as to cover the foot, and which often were fitted with nails, or armed with spikes, to make the hold firm in the ground: or (2) with ‘greaves’ that were fitted to the legs, and designed to defend them from any danger. These ‘greaves,’ boots [1Sam 17:6](#), were made of brass, and were in almost universal use among the Greeks and Romans” (Barnes).
 - Paul describes the Corinthians Christians as standing in the Gospel. “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand” (1 Corinthians 15:1). We only have sure footing in the Gospel (Matthew 7:13, 14).

- “The sense is, that the Christian soldier is to be prepared with the gospel of peace to meet attacks similar to those against which the ancient soldier designed to guard himself by the sandals or greaves which he wore” (Barnes).
 - “So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:15, 16). This word “ready” is translated “willing” in Matthew 26:41.
 - The Gospel of Peace makes one completely ready. “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).
 - “Peace” occurs 111 times in 104 verses of the New Testament. Jesus was said to be the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).
- ✓ Taking The Shield Of Faith
 - “The shield was usually made of light wood or a rim of brass, and covered with several folds or thicknesses of stout hide, which was preserved by frequent anointing. It was held by the left arm, and was secured by straps, through which the arm passed, as may be seen in the annexed figures. The outer surface of the shield was made more or less rounding. Item the center to the edge, and was polished smooth, or anointed with oil, so that arrows or darts would glance off, or rebound” (Barnes).
 - The Faith of the Gospel helps repel the Devil’s devices.
 - When worry strikes, read Matthew 6:19-34.
 - When feeling lonely, read Psalm 23.
 - When you want to be more fruitful, read John 15:1-9.
 - When seeking Christian assurance, read Romans 8:33-39.
 - When the world seems bigger than God, read Psalm 90.
 - When God seems far away, read Psalm 139.
- ✓ Take The Helmet Of Salvation
 - “The helmet was a cap made of thick leather, or brass, fitted to the head, and was usually crowned with a plume, or crest, as an ornament. Its use was to guard the head from a blow by a sword, or war-club, or battle-axe” (Barnes).
 - Our helmet is the hope of salvation. “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation” (1 Thessalonians 5:8).
- ✓ The Sword Of The Spirit, Which Is The Word Of God
 - “The sword was an essential part of the armor of an ancient soldier. His other weapons were the bow, the spear, or the battle-axe. But, without a sword, no soldier would have regarded himself as well armed” (Barnes).
 - “Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a **sword**” (Matthew 10:34). “For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:15).

Consider how Satan is trying to stamp out righteous living.

Ole Satan Says

When you awake on Sunday morn, does Satan often say,
"Just stay in bed and rest awhile; you're not so well today;
You labored hard six days this week, which always is your rule,
Now's your chance to stay in bed -- don't go to Bible School"?

"My head does ache," you say. "I think I have a chill;
It would be nice to lie in bed -- I just believe I will.
For, after all, Sunday was made that working men might rest;
Perhaps I'll go to preaching -- I like that service best."

"Why go to preaching?" Satan says. " It only lasts an hour;
Besides, the weather's bad; it may come up a shower."
Then cunningly he tells himself, "It's needless more to say.
That weakling is an easy prey -- I'll have him back some day!"
via Gospel Digest, October, 1958

“Hope of Salvation”

Hope has been defined as desire plus expectation. This is not the same as, “I hope I’m going to heaven.” This hope is confident and assured. This is why this hope is so protective.