

How God's Armor Works - Ephesians 6:14b-17 - September 16th, 2018

- I've titled today's teaching, "How God's Armor Works."
 - In the text before us, the Apostle Paul provides us with what I would argue is the best analogy concerning our spiritual warfare.
 - Namely, that of the armor that God has given to us in order to equip us and enable us to stand against the attacks of the devil.
- It's important to understand that each aspect of the armor symbolically, applies to every aspect of our Christian lives practically.
- By that I mean the full armor of God covers every area very specifically, as it relates to the attacks from the enemy spiritually.
- While I don't wish to get too technical, we do need to look at each part of the armor in order to make the practical application.
- We'll start with a description of each part of the armor along with its practical application, then, go more in-depth into each one.

DESCRIPTION	APPLICATION
The belt of truth around your waist	Truth holds everything together
The breastplate of righteousness in place	Righteousness protects the heart
The sandals of the preparation of the gospel of peace	The Gospel provides a firm foundation and footing
The shield was held up above all as a protection	The shield is impenetrable and extinguishes flaming arrows
The helmet protected the head	The blessed hope of salvation protects the mind
The sword is the only offensive weapon	The Word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword

1. The Belt of Truth

- The belt of truth was girded up and firmly buckled around the waist as the first part of the armor, as it held everything in place.
- To me, this is apropos, such that absent the truth, everything falls apart instead of held together especially in spiritual warfare.
- The idea of the belt of truth is that we're walking in the truth in the sense that we do not believe the lies from the father of lies.

2. The Breastplate of Righteousness

- The breastplate of righteousness has to be in place in order to protect our vital organs, chief of which is the heart of a believer.
- While it's certainly true Christ's imputed righteousness protects our heart, there is an aspect of living a righteous life in Christ.
- Please know that I'm not speaking of self-righteousness, rather the righteous and holy Christian living that comes with purity.

Psalms 66:18 - If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

3. The Sandals of the Gospel

- The sandals are interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is that they were studded with sharp nails on them.
- This because it would ensure that the soldier was protected, steadied and readied with a firm footing to stand on rough terrain.
- This clearly speaks to how the Gospel provides us with that steady and ready footing to stand on when in the heat of the battle.

Of this one commentator noted, "The military successes both of Alexander the Great and of Julius Caesar were due in large measure to their armies' being well shod and thus able to undertake long marches at incredible speed over rough terrain."

4. The Shield of Faith

- Notice that Paul says to, "take up" or as other translations render it, "above all taking the shield of faith" to quench fiery darts.
- This doesn't mean the shield was more important rather it meant that taking up the shield formed an impenetrable protection.
- When in battle, the enemy would shoot fiery arrows above them, which is why they took up their shields "above all" of them.

- That's not to say that the shield wasn't important because it was very important when it came to staying in formation together.
- If you were to ask me what I thought was one of the most successful strategies of the enemy, getting us all alone would be it.
- It's for this reason that many a Christian has found themselves vulnerable to satanic attack, when they forsake the assembly.

5. The Helmet of Salvation

- While I'm keenly aware that I run the risk of overstating the importance of the helmet of salvation, I do want to spend time on it.
- The reason being is that it protects the mind, which is the one area that Satan knows that he can get to us and even destroy us.
- Sadly, little attention is given to the mind of a Christian mentally, and it's lent itself to a wholesale ignorance within Christendom.

Warren Wiersbe said it best in his book, "The Strategy of Satan." ...[Satan attacks] your mind [because it] is the part of the image of God where God communicates with you - and reveals His will to you. It is unfortunate that some Christians have minimized the significance of the mind, because the Bible emphasizes its importance. ...If Satan can get you to believe a lie, then he can begin to work in your life to lead you into sin. This is why he attacks the mind, and this is why we must protect our minds from the attacks of the wicked one. ...Your thinking affects your feeling and your willing, (Proverbs 23:7)."

1 Thessalonians 5:8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

6. The Sword of the Word

- The sword that Paul is talking about was a small dagger that the Roman soldiers would use for hand-to-hand combat in battle.
- While I realize that this is a firm grasp of the obvious, the Word of God is how we can offensively defeat the devil as Jesus did.
- When Satan attacked and tempted Jesus His offensive was to quote from Deuteronomy and in so doing the devil fled from Him.