

Ephesians 6.13-17

“Buckle Up for Victory”

## 1. Watching the Armor: Teaching about God

### a. Provided by God

As Paul wrote Letter – Everything in his Experience – Contradicted his Message  
 THEME of 6 Chapters > GLORY and WONDER of CHURCH of Jesus Christ  
 4 yrs since Paul ATTENDED Church – Limited Fellowship IMPRISONMENT  
 PREACHED Power of RESURRECTION > POUNDED by Power of ROME  
 Believed Word of God UNFETTERED > Worker for God wearing CHAINS

Even in ROMAN Prison > Paul could SEE RULING Hand of RISEN Christ  
 CHOSEN in LOVE in Eternity PAST > CALLED to LIVE in Eternity FUTURE  
 EVEN his CAPTORS were SIGN-POSTS of GOSPEL TRUTHS  
 SEES TRUTH of GOSPEL in GUARDS who keep him from Preaching Gospel

CONFIDENT Knowledge > This is MY Father’s World, O let me Ne’er forget,  
 that though the Wrong seems oft’ so Strong, God is the Ruler Yet!

“I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus”

Ephesians 3.1

“as a prisoner for the Lord”

Ephesians 4.1

### b. Pointing to God

“His own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. He put on *righteousness as his breastplate*, and the *helmet of salvation on his head*; he put on the *garments of vengeance* and wrapped himself in *zeal as in a cloak*.”  
 Isaiah 59.16,17

“He will strike the earth with the *rod of his mouth*; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. *Righteousness will be his belt* and *faithfulness the sash* around his waist.”  
 Isaiah 11.4,5

“Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations.”  
Revelation 19.15

EACH PIECE of the Armor POINTS to Jesus...

1) Truth - the truth is in Jesus Ephesians 4.21

2) Righteousness Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God,  
righteousness and sanctification and redemption 1 Corinthians 1.30

3) Peace - For he himself is our peace Ephesians 2.14

4) Faith - faith in his name Acts 3.16

5) Salvation - salvation that is in Christ Jesus 2 Timothy 2.10)

6) Word of God - the name by which he is called is The Word of God.  
Revelation 19.13

## 2. Wearing Armor: Truths of the Gospel

a. Belt: Held Together by Truth

v. 14 “the belt of truth buckled around your waist”

SAGGING Pants recent Modern FASHION > Hard to FIGHT & Pull Up PANTS

1) Knowing the Truth of Scripture

v. 17 “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

“the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation” Ephesians 1.13

Letter to Ephesians Great TREASURE of God’s WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE

2) Showing the Truth of Scripture

v. 14 “Stand firm then, with the belt of truth”

“speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ”  
Ephesians 4.15

KNOWLEDGE: Comprehend FACTS and FIGURES > Can Earn your DEGREE  
WISDOM > Make GOOD Use of your Knowledge > Truth will TRANSFORM

## b. Breastplate: Protected by Righteousness

v. 14 “with the breastplate of righteousness in place”

“I put on righteousness as my clothing; justice was my robe and my turban.”  
Job 29.14

“that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith”  
Philippians 3.8,9

Jesus IS our Righteousness > MAKES Unrighteous RIGHTEOUS

HE must COVER Us > He must give us RIGHT STANDING before HOLY God

### 1) Imputed Righteousness: What Christ did For Us

“now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”  
Romans 3.21,22

“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.”  
Romans 4.3-5

### 2) Imparted Righteousness: What Christ does In Us

“put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness” Ephesians 4.24

“offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness” Romans 6.13

## c. Footgear: Marching out to Preach God's Peace

v. 15 “with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace”

GOSPEL is about CHANGE > Real Gospel SHATTERS the STATUS QUO

### 1) Progress

RISEN Jesus gives Church One-Word, Two-Letter, Assignment > GO!

End of Matthew – Command is GO! ---- Mark, Luke, John + beginning ACTS!

“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season” 2 Timothy 4.2

### 2) Peace

“He himself is our peace...He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.” Ephesians 2.14-17

REASON Gospel must SHAKE-UP our FALLEN World > ALL WRONG

Our World is OUT OF SORTS > TWISTED, Distorted, Corrupt, Alienated

True PEACE only be Established in Christ – Peace with God and MAN

PIECES of Life Need to be REARRANGED with Christ as the CENTER

“since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” Romans 5.1

for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. Isaiah 11.9

Map – PULL BACK > Paul in ROMAN Prison writes to City in “ASIA”

Members in Ephesian church was LESS than the People in THIS ROOM!

EVERY Nation in World has Christians! – some HANDFUL, some MILLIONS

Number of Christians GROWS by MILLIONS every Year!

2000 yrs after Jesus VICIOUSLY Murdered Church never been more VIBRANT

#### d. Shield: Faith which deflects Evil

Roman Soldier's Shield – four feet by two feet, wood covered with leather that was soaked in water to extinguish flaming arrows.

v. 16 “take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one”

#### 1) Meeting Point – the first point of contact with the enemy

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see....And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”  
Hebrews 11.1,6

"Justification is the main hinge on which salvation turns." John Calvin

#### 2) Meaning

##### a.) Faith is Not Denial of the Intellect

Understanding Paul's Letters requires thinking:

“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you”  
Ephesians 1.18

“In reading this, then, you will be able to understand”  
Ephesians 3.4

“become mature...no longer... blown here and there by every wind of teaching”  
Ephesians 4.13,14

“be made new in the attitude of your minds”  
Ephesians 4.23

“find out what pleases the Lord”  
Ephesians 5.10

“understand what the Lord's will is”  
Ephesians 5.17

“This is a profound mystery”  
Ephesians 5.32

## b) Faith is Not Claiming or Visualizing Our Will

FALSE Premise of NAME IT CLAIM IT Teaching – Just WANT IT Enough  
 YOU Make it Happen if you Think / Pray / Trust / Claim with Enough FAITH  
 Guy in FRONT of Church – Collects all Money – VIBRANT Real Faith  
 Big HOUSES, CARS, Preachers with Enough FAITH Own AIRPLANES!

Too Bad Paul did NOT Have ENOUGH FAITH to get Released from Prison  
 GOT his Head Chopped Off – ALL Apostles Martyred – Jesus CRUCIFIED!  
 ULTIMATE Goal is HAPPY, PAIN-FREE Life do NOT Follow JESUS  
 PROMISE is PERSECUTION / Anticipate Attacks / Called to Carry CROSS!

Don't miss Wonderful Truth > Cross is PATHWAY to the CROWN  
 FOLLOWING Jesus thru Adversity leads to ACCLAIM from Heavenly Father

“he chose us in him before the creation of the world” Ephesians 1.4

“in accordance with his pleasure and will” Ephesians 1.5

“he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure”  
 Ephesians 1.9

“the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his  
 will” Ephesians 1.11

“which God prepared in advance for us to do” Ephesians 2.10

## c) Faith is “Reasoning Trust – thoughtful confidence in the trustworthiness of God” (John Stott)

“to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know  
 this love that surpasses knowledge” Ephesians 3.18,19

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.” Philipians 3.10,11

#### d) Faith’s Object is Jesus Christ

“every spiritual blessing in Christ” Ephesians 1.3

“his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves”  
Ephesians 1.6

“to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ”  
Ephesians 1.10

“your faith in the Lord Jesus” Ephesians 1.15

“the promise in Christ Jesus” Ephesians 3.6

“unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God” Ephesians 4.13

#### e) Faith’s Experience is Corporate

Shield edges were grooved to interlock with the soldiers on each side; Roman Army moved as Phalanx

“always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me” Ephesians 6.18,19

“until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature”  
Ephesians 4.13

“fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household”  
Ephesians 2.19

#### e. Helmet: Thinking of Salvation v. 17 “Take the helmet of salvation”

“O Sovereign LORD, my strong deliverer, who shields my head in the day of battle”  
Psalm 140.7

“the hope of salvation as a helmet” 1 Thessalonians 5.8

## 1) Danger of Wrong Thinking

“All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts.” Ephesians 2.3

“Gentiles... the futility of their thinking...darkened in their understanding...the ignorance that is in them” Ephesians 4.17,18

## 2) Importance of Right Thinking

“do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is” Ephesians 5.17

“Serve wholeheartedly...*because you know* that the Lord will reward everyone... *since you know* that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven” Ephesians 6.7-9

In Ephesus: “Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God....he had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.”

Acts 19.8-10

## 3. Winning Armor: Triumph in God

### a. Apply

Uniforms and equipment do not win battles,  
uniformed soldiers who rightly use their equipment do.

“To the saints in Ephesus... Put on the full armor of God” Ephesians 1.1, 6.11

put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life...and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness  
Ephesians 4.22,24



b. Advance v. 10 “be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power”

v. 13,14 “you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then”

ED SILVOSO – 2 Kinds of Christians – Enlisted Soldiers and P.O.W.'s

POW's - belong to God, were in army, captured by Satan

- waiting to be set free, powerless to do anything for God
- relatively safe, gets regular meals, reasonable comfort

Enlisted Soldiers- very dangerous, getting shot at, under heavy attack

- most uncomfortable, few meals and short sleep, on the run
- pose a threat to POW's, they might get killed in liberation
- willing to pay the price of victory - give up very life!

#### DANGER OF THE P.O.W. MENTALITY

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. Matthew 24.12,13

#### c. Assurance

v. 11 “so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes”

v. 13 “...after you have done everything, to stand”

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;

Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same,  
and he must win the battle. Martin Luther, 1529

v. 16 “you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one”

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.”

Psalm 91.1-7

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Ephesians 6 <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup>and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup>and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

2 Timothy 2.3,4 “Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs--he wants to please his commanding officer.”

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