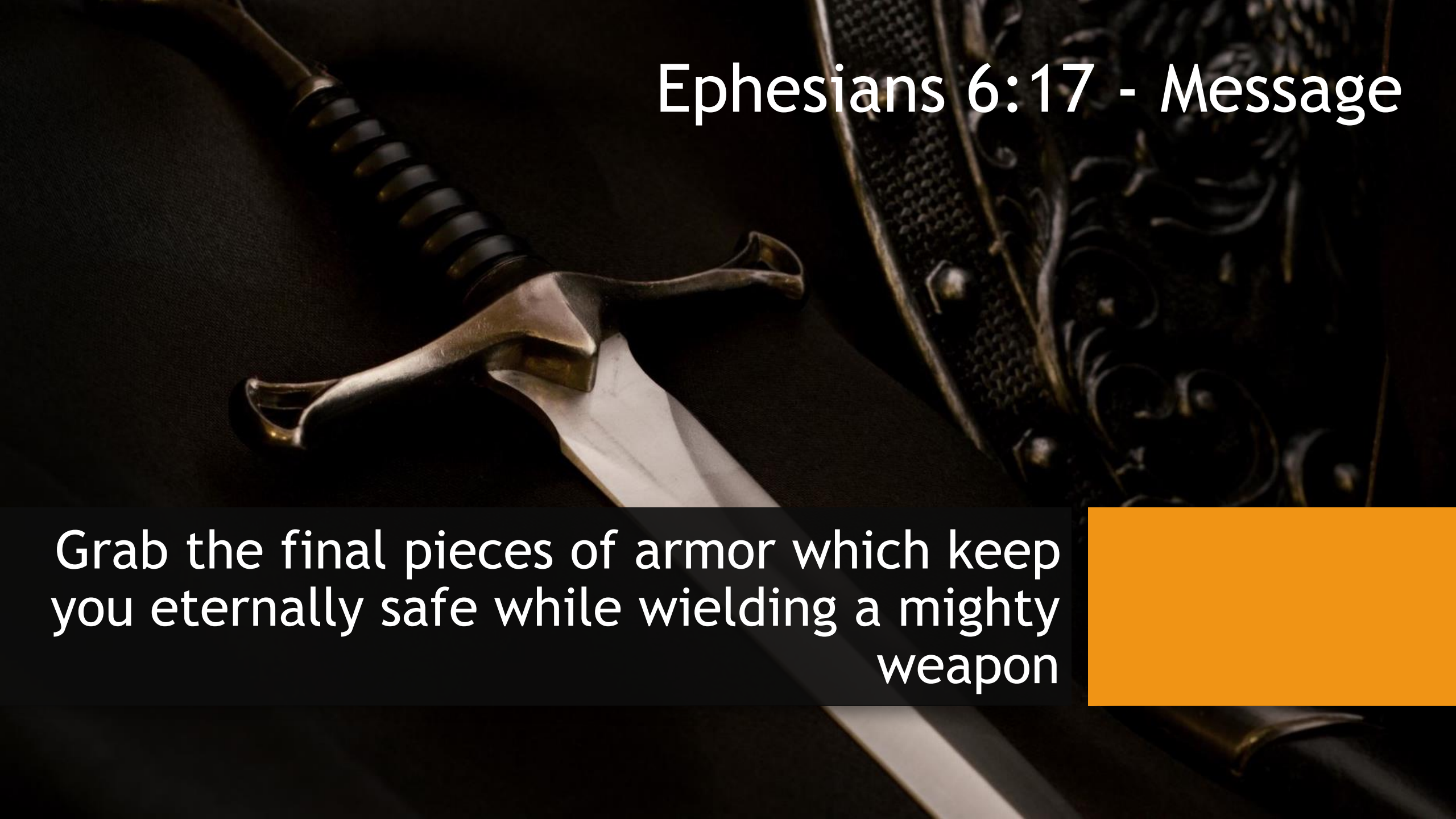


God's Armor: Salvation, God's
word



Ephesians 6:17 - Message

Grab the final pieces of armor which keep you eternally safe while wielding a mighty weapon

Ephesians 6:10-20 Outline

Stand firm in spiritual warfare

1. Be strong by putting on God's armor (6:10-13)
2. Stand firm wearing God's armor (6:14-16)
3. Grab the final pieces of armor, praying and staying alert (6:17-20)

Eph 6:14-17 - Structure

Stand having put on armor and taken up shield

And

Grab helmet and sword

God's Armor: Salvation, God's Word

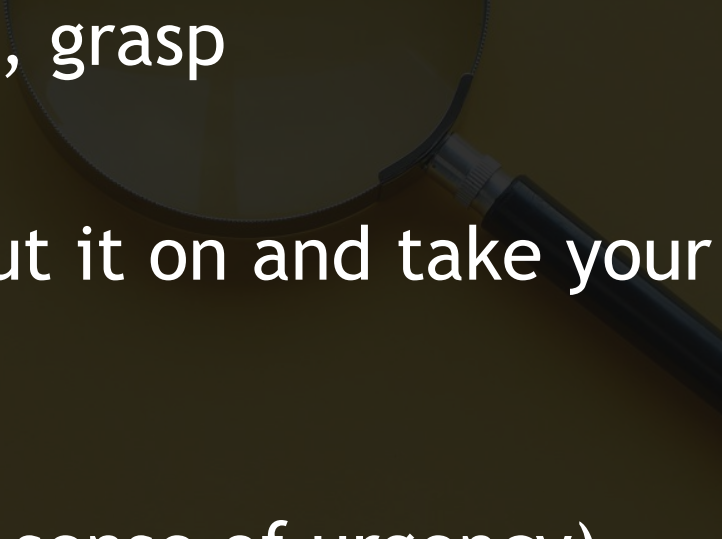
The battle rages, so grab the final pieces of armor and take your stand

Hold your ground, confident that you are eternally safe

Hold your ground, skillfully wielding God's word

Eph 6:17

“Take” - Eph 6:17

- To take, receive, take in hand, grasp
 - Thus, grab your helmet and put it on and take your sword in hand
 - Do it now! (aorist imperative, sense of urgency)
- 

Roman helmet

- "Roman Gladius and Scutum: Carving out an Empire." Jon Guttman - 8/10/2024, <https://www.historynet.com/roman-gladius-and-scutum-carving-out-an-empire/>



The double-edged *gladius* was more often employed as a stabbing weapon.

Enemy fighters often exhausted themselves hacking futilely at the sturdy *scutum*.

With its metal boss and reinforced edges, the *scutum* could be wielded offensively if necessary.

Helmet of salvation

“Satan’s blows are directed at the believer’s security and assurance in Christ” seeking to produce “discouragement and doubt”

(John MacArthur, *Ephesians*, p. 360)

Satan attacks “the understanding, the intellectual part of our whole position as Christians”

(Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *The Christian Soldier*, p. 309)

Helmet of salvation

This helmet of salvation is “a conscious possession of [salvation] in the midst of the onslaughts of the evil one...With his head protected, the soldier feels safe in the midst of battle. Likewise, believers’ possession of salvation gives them confidence of safeness during the assaults of the devil”

(Harold Hoehner, *Ephesians*, p. 850)

Roman sword

- Roman short sword (Gk. *machaira*, Latin *gladius*)
- 2 in. wide, less than 2 ft long
- Ideal as a “cut-and-thrust weapon for close work” (Hoehner, *Ephesians*, p. 852)

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Ephesians 6:17 - Word of God

- Paul used “*rhēma*” here instead of “*logos*”
- Synonyms
- “*Logos*” often is God’s word written
- “*Rhēma*” often is God’s word spoken
- Mt 4:4; Isa 11:1-5

• So, *rhēma* in Eph 6:17 refers to using “specific scriptural truths to counter specific satanic falsehoods” (MacArthur, *Ephesians*, p. 370)

God’s *rhēma*
is God’s *logos*
in use

Sword of the Spirit = The word of God

The Holy Spirit “uses it to cut through people’s defences, to prick their consciences and to stab them spiritually awake”

(John Stott, *Ephesians*, p. 282)

Importance of knowing God's word

“Let God's Word keep telling us who and what we are if we are Christians. We must keep reminding ourselves what we have and are in Christ. One of the great purposes of daily Bible reading, meditation and prayer is just this, to get ourselves correctly orientated, to remember who and what we are.”

(John Stott, *Galatians*, pp. 109-110)

God's Armor: Salvation, God's Word

Satan attacks God's truth with lies

He wants you to doubt Jesus' ability to keep you eternally safe

Use your sword to remind you of your helmet. How?

Read and absorb: Jn 10:28-29; Rom 8:1, 31ff; 1 Pet 1:3-5

Eph 6:17