

Donning the Armor (3)

Brandon Phillips

Preparing for Battle! / Christian Life; Prayer; Church / Ephesians 6:10–24

In Eph 6:13, which we looked at two weeks ago, Paul reiterates the urgency for the Christian to take up the full armor of God to be able to resist the evil of our day. In 6:14-17, Paul gives six critical pieces of armor for resisting. You must prepare by:

Girding yourself with the belt of truth (6:14a)

Putting on the breastplate of righteousness (6:14b)

Shodding your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace (6:15)

Taking up the shield of faith (6:16)

Taking up the helmet of salvation (6:17a)

Taking up the sword of the Spirit (6:17b)

Pre-sermon Comments

Preach the Word and deal with the consequences ~ Don Green

Sermon Text

Ephesians 6:10–24 NASB95

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.

And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you.

I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible *love*.

Introduction to our Text

Proposition and Outline

- In Eph 6:13, which we looked at two weeks ago, Paul reiterates the urgency for the Christian to take up the full armor of God to be able to resist the evil of our day. In 6:14-17, Paul gives six critical pieces of armor for resisting. You must prepare by:
 - Girding yourself with the belt of truth (6:14a)
 - Putting on the breastplate of righteousness (6:14b)
 - Shodding your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace (6:15)
 - Taking up the shield of faith (6:16)
 - Taking up the helmet of salvation (6:17a)
 - Taking up the sword of the Spirit (6:17b)

Review

| Ephesians 2:2 (NASB95)

| in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

Ephesians 3:13 NASB95

Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.

Ephesians 3:17–19 NASB95

so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

Preparation 1 (review): Girding yourself with the belt of truth

Ephesians 6:14 NASB95

Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

Preparation 2 (review): Put on the breastplate of righteousness:

Ephesians 6:14 NASB95

Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

Ephesians 6:14 HCSB

Stand, therefore,

with truth like a belt around your waist,

righteousness like armor on your chest,

2 Corinthians 5:21 NASB95

He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

| Philippians 3:9 (NASB95)

| and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

Ephesians 4:17 NASB95

So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,

Ephesians 4:20 NASB95

But you did not learn Christ in this way,

Ephesians 4:21–23 NASB95

if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

Ephesians 4:21–23 HCSB

assuming you heard about Him and were taught by Him, because the truth is in Jesus. You took off your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires; you are being renewed in the spirit of your minds;

Ephesians 4:24 HCSB

you put on the new self, the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth.

2 Corinthians 5:17 NASB95

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Romans 6:13 NASB95

and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

Preparation 3: Shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace

Ephesians 6:15 NASB95

and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

Ephesians 6:15 NASB95

and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

Four encouragements about the gospel which will carry you through the battles of the Christian life:

- **1st Encouragement - You should intimately know the Gospel.**

2 Peter 1:12 NASB95

Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you *already* know *them*, and have been established in the truth which is present with *you*.

- **2nd Encouragement - You should recall the Gospel when you encounter trials and suffering.**

Romans 8:28 NASB95

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Romans 8:29 NASB95

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

Romans 8:31–39 NASB95

What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Just as it is written,

"FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;

WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

| Ephesians 6:15 (NASB95)

| and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

- **3rd Encouragement - You should remind yourself that the Gospel brought you peace with God and with man!**

Romans 8:5–8 NASB95

For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*,

and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Psalms 5:4–6 NASB95

For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness;

No evil dwells with You.

The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes;

You hate all who do iniquity.

You destroy those who speak falsehood;

The LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.

Romans 5:1 NASB95

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Colossians 2:13–14 NASB95

When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

- **4th Encouragement - As Christians, you should make it your aim that every aspect of your life reflects the Gospel.**

Philippians 1:27 NASB95

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Conclusion:

The Gospel

Acts 2:23–24 NASB95

this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

“But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.