

Get Dressed For War!

Ephesians 6:10-20

We are in a spiritual battle!

We are up against a scheming enemy we can't defeat on our own!

We win only when we rely on God's power!

We appropriate God's power when we are dressed for war! Ephesians 6:13

- We are to "take up", or "put on" the "full armor of God", a once for all action.
- "you will be able" means that the power will be available when we are dressed!
- "to resist" and "to stand firm" is what we are called to do. James 4:7; I Pet. 5:8-9

We must put on the...

Belt of truth

- Roman soldiers wore loose outer garments that needed to be gathered in.
 - A large square cloth with holes for the head and arms would have been worn.
 - A large leather belt would have been used to gather and hold the garment in.
- The "belt of truth" defined...
 - "truth" can mean the content of what is true. (more on that next week)
 - "truth" in this verse means an attitude of truthfulness.
 - It is being prepared, being disentangled, being committed. I Peter 1:13
 - It is the opposite of being distracted by life, indifferent, non-committal.II Timothy 2:4
 - It is an attitude of readiness, brought about by a renewed mind. Romans 12:2

Breastplate of righteousness

- Roman soldiers wore sleeveless armor that covered the torso, made of leather or heavy linen, lined with overlapping pieces of animal horns, hooves, or of metal.
- In ancient Jewish thinking, the heart was the center of thinking and the intestines the center of emotions, the favorite place of attack for Satan.
- To protect those vital areas God wants us to wrap ourselves in the body armor of righteousness...
 - Not self righteousness. Isaiah 64:6; Matthew 5:20
 - Not imputed righteousness. Romans 4:22-24
 - It is practical righteousness. Ephesians 4:20-32; I Peter 2:11; Romans 13:12-14

Shoes of the Gospel of peace

- Roman soldiers had shoes that had bits of metal or nails on the soles to give traction.
- Solid footing was very important in hand to hand combat!
- "preparation" meant to be in a state of readiness.
- "the Gospel of peace" referred to the standing believers have with God...
 - We were formerly enemies of God, but now are at peace with Him.Romans 5:1, 10-11
- We are on solid footing with God in the battle. Romans 8:31-39

Next week- Three more pieces of the believer's armor!