

**The Armor of God**

Ephesians 6:13-14 NKJV

The “Armor of God” is a spiritual armor that all Christians should be putting on to combat spiritual darkness.

Paul was in a Roman prison at the time of this writing and no doubt would have been in the custody of a Roman soldier and was therefore able to correlate the dressing of a Roman soldier to the “Armor of God”. Each piece of the “Armor of God” matches a piece of armor that a Roman soldier would have actually worn. It’s also interesting to note that Paul mentions each piece of God’s armor in the order that the soldier would have put his on.

Paul’s audience would have been familiar with a soldier’s garb, so he likened each piece to a spiritual truth of what we need to live as followers of Jesus.

God’s armor is crucial for our survival in God’s kingdom, and we need to be aware of these pieces and put them on in our lives so they can be used to combat Satan and for our survival in God’s kingdom. It’s way too easy for Satan and his followers to distract us; have us questioning God’s truth, and sabotaging our faith. To preempt this, we need to put on the full armor of God. 1 Peter 5:8 We won’t be all equally vulnerable.

1. **BELT OF TRUTH (girding your waist with truth).**

What is truth?

In John 18:38Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” - this question is more relevant today than at any other time in human history.

Today’s society may tell you that truth is whatever you decide is right for you. Far-left media outlets and our politicians tell us that we can redefine our sexuality based on how we feel or what we choose. On the other hand, we saw how the far-right media became complicit to the big lies of the 2020 election when high profile news anchors willfully and knowingly spread lies to deceive the American public to believe that the election was stolen in order to protect their ratings and their bottom lines.

However, we’re talking about God’s truth. What is God’s opinion on the matter? What does God say in His Word, the Bible? That is where our truth comes from.

As a piece of a soldier’s armor, the belt goes on first and the other pieces of armor hinge on it. The belt helps bear the weight of the breastplate and gives strength to the soldier’s core so that he doesn’t buckle under pressure. This strength then flows to the rest of his body.

**HOW DO I PUT ON THE BELT OF TRUTH?**

As a Christian, we need to look to God’s truth first. EVERYTHING gets measured by it. We can’t measure things based on feelings.

Why do you suppose that is?

Feelings and emotions are constantly changing, but God’s truth never changes:

-His truth needs to surround us like that belt.

-God’s standard of truth frees us from guilt, gives protection, and allows us to live peaceably with others…and,

-God watches over His word to perform it.

1. **BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

The Roman soldier’s breastplate protected his vital organs in the heat of the battle – when he wasn’t quick enough to take up his shield. The breastplate was for the quick and unexpected advances of the enemy.

As believers, we have no righteousness apart from that which has been given us by Christ. Our breastplate is His righteousness. His righteousness will never fail. Though we have no righteousness of our own, we must still, by His power, chose to do right. Living a right life, rooted in God’s Word is powerful in protecting our heart, killing our flesh, and defeating the enemy.

Zechariah 3:1-5

In this amazing scene we see Joshua, the High Priest of that day, standing before the Lord. Satan is also there, right at his side, right in his face, ready to accuse (as he does!). Even though Joshua was the High Priest, yet by his own works he is pictured as standing in filthy garments; no wonder Satan was ready to accuse!

 *'Is this your High Priest? Is this the best you've got? Is this the one who represents the entire nation... this sinful dirty disgusting creature*?' I'm sure he would do the same with me. 'Look at what this son of yours did now! What a vile creature! '

But the Lord rebuked Satan then as He does now saying 'Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?'

This is an interesting picture. A brand is a burnt shouldering piece of wood. It is blackened and isn't particularly useful for any purpose or of any worth. It would be completely burnt unless someone plucked it from the fire.

That, my friend, is a picture of you. It is also a picture of me. And yet, God reaches down and saves that brand, us, from the fire. Alleluia!