



"The Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Righteousness, & Gospel of Peace"  
(Ephesians 6:10-15)  
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A. Read 6:10-13

1. There is a real spiritual battle going on in the heavenly realms

\* Daniel 10: 12 Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. 13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

2. There is a real devil, and he is looking to take all of us down

\* Matt.6: Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

\* There is a DAY OF EVIL!

\* He especially targets Christians

\* I Peter 5: 8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

\* Luke 22: 31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

3. Understanding the devil's schemes

\* Note: "The devil has no moral principles, no code of honor...(his demons) recognize no Geneva Convention to restrict or partially civilize their weapons of their warfare. Satan is utterly...ruthless in the pursuit of his malicious designs...he is also cunning...force and fraud form his chief offensive against the saints."

\* He will use fear/intimidation

\* II Cor.11: 14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness.

#### 4. If my strength is not in the Lord, I lost the battle (v.10)

\* King Saul tried to get David to wear his battle armor to go against Goliath, but David was not used to wearing physical armor for the battles he faced...so he took off the physical armor and went out against Goliath with spiritual armor!

\* Jude 9 But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

\* Acts 19: 13 (In Ephesus) Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

\* I have a responsibility in being prepared for the day of evil. That preparedness comes by me "putting on" the armor that God has so graciously provided.

\* Today we will look at three of the seven pieces of armor God has so graciously provided for us.

### B. Three Pieces Of Armor

#### 1. The belt of truth (v.14a)

\* It is not the Word of God (see v.17b)

\* It is not simply a knowledge of truth

- I Tim.4: 16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

\* It is the absence of falsehood; no hypocrisy

- Psalm 51: 6 Surely you desire truth in the inner parts ; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

- I John 1: 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

\* The belt of truth keeps your spiritual pants up! (Don't get caught with your pants down)...

\* See II Kings 5:24-27

\* Acts 5: 3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"

\* John 3: 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

## 2. The breastplate of righteousness (v.14b)

\* It is not salvation (see v.17a)

\* It is a righteousness by faith that is reflected in life, a practical righteousness which reveals that one's heart has been changed (note that the breastplate protects the heart).

\* Zacchaeus

\* II Cor.6: 7...with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;

\* Eph.4: 28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

\* See Rom.6:5-13

## 3. Gospel Shoes (v.15)

\* The Roman soldier wore a half-boot which was tied to the ankles and shins with leather straps. These boots had a heavily nail-studded sole, which gave traction and stability, just like today's cleated sports shoe.

\* It is peace with God (See Rom.5:1-2a)

\* It is actively sharing the gospel

\* Mark 16: 15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

\* Philemon 6 I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

- \* I Peter 3: 15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.
- \* Rom.10: 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"
- \* Isaiah 52: 7 How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation...
- \* Fear will keep us from putting on this peace of armor
- \* Peter denying he knew the Lord (3 times)
- \* Prov.28: 25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.
- \* Promote Team Hope Friday nights

#### CONCLUSION:

- \* The belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, and feet fitted with the gospel of peace. Three essential pieces of armor for the battle. Which one(s) do you need to put on? (Invitation?).
- \* Something you're hiding that you need to confess & repent of?
- \* Something you need to begin doing? (Giving, serving)
- \* Something you need to start sharing?