

Christian Armor, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 6:11-17.
- B. There is spiritual conflict with the demonic for the Christian.
- C. The Christian's responsibility is to join in the victory that Christ has provided.
- D. The believer's responsibility is to put on the armor of God in a minefield loaded by Satan. We desperately need to be equipped because we are insufficient without God.

II. Paul sees the Christian as a soldier and translates the armor of the soldier into Christian terminology.

- A. God provides the armor--the believer cannot create his own armor.
- B. He is to take the armor.
- C. We are to stand against anything Satan throws. (James 4:9, I Peter 5:9, I Corinthians 9:24)
 - 1. We are to examine our lives so that we do not lose the crowns we have gained in the Christian life. (II John 8, II Peter 3:17)
 - 2. A person's ministry is just as important when it ends as when it began.

III. Loins girded with truth.

- A. If Satan is a liar, the Christian must be prepared to meet the lies with truth.
- B. One is to meet Satan with truthfulness--that is, integrity.
- C. You know how committed to truth you are by how obedient you are to it.

IV. The breastplate of righteousness.

- A. The breastplate protected vital organs.
- B. The Christian who is righteous offers Satan no opportunity for success.
- C. The Christian has no righteousness of his own. (Isaiah 64; Romans 3:23; 5)

D. God gives the believer positional righteousness in Christ. It is a gift that is given--the believer cannot put it on. Consequently, the breastplate of righteousness must be referring to personal righteousness instead.

E. Along with positional righteousness, there must be practical righteousness. (Romans 6:13, 19)

F. If Satan can find a hole in the breastplate, Satan will drive his dagger in. (II Corinthians 2:9, I Corinthians 15:34, II Timothy 2:22)

V. Shod with the gospel of peace.

A. Shoes were very practical for endless marches.

B. The gospel established a person's position. Our position depends upon the gospel. (Ephesians 2:14)

C. A believer must know his position so that Satan cannot tempt him. (I John 5:18)

D. Our shoes also enable us to carry the gospel. (Romans 10:15)

Application questions:

1. Why is it important to understand that one cannot create the spiritual armor?

2. What are some things that can cause holes in a person's righteousness? Explain.

3. How does knowing a person's position help in the battle against temptation?
