Introduction

Put on the full armor of God.

In Ephesians 6, Paul uses the illustration of a Roman soldier to describe the armor that we are to put on.

He describes 7 pieces of armor – if we include prayer in the list.

Each piece of the armor represents a spiritual truth.

I. The Belt of Truth. Verse 14

For a Roman soldier the belt served several essential purposes.

- It held the breastplate in place.
- It held the scabbard which sheathed his sword.
- It protected his loins with a heavy leather apron.
- When cinched up tight, it held his short tunic, and he was ready for battle.

For the Christian, the belt represents the truth of God’s Word.

If we are to stand firm in battle against Satan’s lies, we need to know the truth of God’s Word.

That’s why one of the greatest concerns in the church today is the erosion of truth.

As a result, the faith of many Americans is syncretism.

Two-thirds of all Americans no longer believe in absolute truth.

But if there is no truth, then there is no basis for ethics, for moral values or for right and wrong.

In contrast the Word of God gives us a solid place to stand.

II. The Breastplate of Righteousness. Verse 14

The breastplate protected the heart and the vital organs.

For the Christian, the breastplate represents righteousness.

When we believe in Jesus Christ, we are clothed with his righteousness. Philippians 3:9 and II Corinthians 5:21
Theologians call it “imputed righteousness”.
It can’t be bought or earned. It is a gift received by faith.
But we are also to walk in righteousness.
If we are to walk in victory, we need to walk in the light with Christ.

III. The Boots of the Gospel. Verse 15
Our feet are to be fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.
A Roman soldier wore sturdy army boots. Josephus tells us they were thickly studded with nails.
Their footwear gave them an advantage in battle.
For the Christian, knowing the gospel, knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior, gives us a firm place to stand.
“For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.” Philippians 1:21
Like a good soldier of Jesus Christ, knowing the gospel means that we are ready to share it at any time.
“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 you have.” I Peter 3:15

IV. The Shield of Faith. Verse 16
Roman shields were of two types.
- A small round shield.
- A large oblong shield (about 4 feet high and 2 ½ feet wide).
A shield was a very important part of a soldier’s armor and so is our faith.
It is by faith, by trusting in God, that we extinguish the fiery darts of Satan.
What are some of those darts? Sinclair Ferguson identifies 4 major darts.
- Fiery Dart 1: “God is against you. He is not really for you. How can you believe that when you see the things that are happening in your life?”
- Fiery Dart 2: “I have accusations I will bring against you because of your sins.”
- Fiery Dart 3: “You can say you are forgiven, but there is a payback coming – a condemnation day.”
- Fiery Dart 4: “Given your track record, what hope is there that you will persevere to the end?”
When Satan throws his fiery darts at you, will you trust in Christ?
Because nothing can separate you from his love.

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:37-39

Conclusion

To win in this battle, we need to:

- Be grounded in the truth of God’s Word.
- Be clothed with his righteousness.
- Be sure of our salvation and ready to share the gospel with others.
- Be people of faith – who trust in God and his Word.