### EPHESIANS

God's Provisions for His Church
Section III

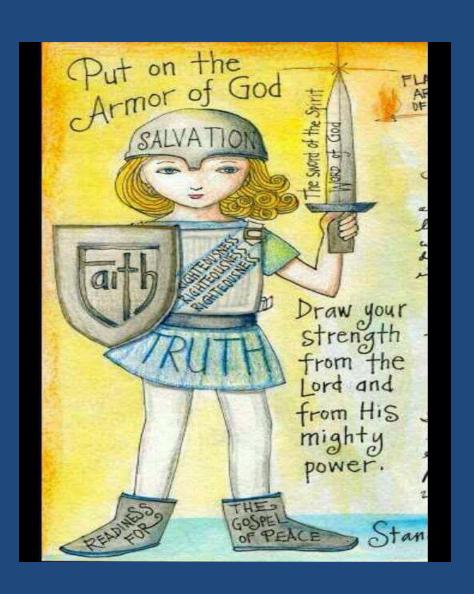
# The Believer's Warfare

Chapter 6:10 – 24

### EPHESIANS

"The Armor of God"
Part 1
Truth and Righteousness

Ephesians 6:14



### Truth and Righteousness

#### Intro:

A casual reading of Eph. 6:14-17 clearly shows that we are in a serious battle with unseen enemies. These foes, not of the flesh, are so powerful that we need to be protected by the full armor of God. Eph. 6:11,13

We, as Christians, live in a dangerous world. While there is nothing Satan can do to our salvation, Jn. 10:27-28, we can still live a defeated life, void of peace and Joy if we are unprepared for battle.

Intro: There are four distinct ranks of angels in the Bible, Satan was one of them prior to his fall:

- 1. Regular angels who are ministering spirits to God's elect, Hebrews 1:14;
- 2. Cherubim, created spirits that guard God's glory, Gen.3:24
- 3. Seraphim who bear God's holiness, Isa. 6:2,
- 4. Arc Angels, who are the commanders of the hosts of heaven, Jude 9.

We are to resist the devil. The Greek word is, "anthistemi" and it means to vigorously oppose, to bravely resist standing face to face with our adversary. We do this by putting on God's armor.



### I. Gird your Loins with Truth

Truth to the world of today is a relative issue. But in scripture is reality. It is absolute and thus never changes. If we negate the absoluteness of truth we then discard the absolute standards of morality.

The Greek for truth is, "aletheia" and it means that which is out in the open, nothing being hidden. There is no deception in absolute truth.

The word occurs over 140 times in the Bible, 7 times here in Ephesians: 1;13; 4:15; 4:21; 4:24; 4:25; 5:9, and our text, 6:14.

## "The Armor of God" I. Gird your Loins with Truth

Putting on the belt of truth signifies you are ready for battle.

While it is necessary that we hold onto the truth of God's word, it is just as necessary that we apply it to our daily lives. We must be transparent to God and others in our conduct. If we lie and deceive we effectively aid Satan.

We must Gird ourselves with the belt of truth in our daily experience.

### II. The Breastplate of Righteousness

The Greek word for Breastplate is "thorax" and it protects the soldier's upper body. Likewise, God's righteousness protects the Christian's heart and will from the fatal thrusts of his spiritual foes.

Righteousness, "dikaiosune" is a moral concept and is God's character Who is the source of all righteousness. It is what God is, what He commands, what He demands and all that He approves. There are two types of righteousness:

### II. The Breastplate of Righteousness

1. Imputed Righteousness as in Eph. 4:24 and Romans 5:1.

It is what God declares us to be apart from anything about us. We don't earn it, it comes from accepting the sacrifice of Christ, Romans 4:6.

2. Practical Righteousness as in Eph. 5:9, Ps. 18:24. It is righteous behavior, conduct in keeping with our sanctification, Rom. 6:13.

Although every believer is clothed with the righteousness of God we must still appropriate it for it to be our breastplate of protection.

### II. The Breastplate of Righteousness

Paul was kept from discouragement due to at least two factors:

- 1. He always remembered who he was because of God's grace. "By the Grace of God I am what I am..." 1 Cor. 15:10.
- 2. He considered that his present circumstances had no bearing on God's love for him, Rom. 8:18.