

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

“The Armor of God”



“The Armor of God”

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.

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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.

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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**.

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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.

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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:

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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.

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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.