



The Armor
Of God

River Road
Baptist Church
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Reflections

RELIGIOUS?

would come into their lives resulting in their being His witnesses in the world.

As the armor is being described, Paul points out that it is composed of Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Faith, Salvation and the Word: In essence the gospel of Christ expressed in a life filled, empowered, and protected by the Holy Spirit. It could be further noted that there is nothing for the back, telling us that we are to face the enemy, not run from him. The Apostle John tells us... *You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. (1John 4:4 NAS)* To fully appreciate the armor of God, we must understand, once again, who we are fighting against. Paul reminds us that we are fighting an enemy that is powerful. *...For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12 NAS)*

In this modern day with the many weapons available to the enemy, the internet, movies and TV, books, magazines and music to name a few, we must take the risks seriously. When we examine our lives in the light of the Word with both its promises and its warnings, how can we continue to be a people claiming a form of godliness but not living in the power of the true Gospel of Christ? Paul warns Timothy, *...But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ² For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; ⁵ holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; (2 Timothy 3:1 NAS)* There can be little doubt that this warning seems to speak not only to that time but directly to our time in history.

How about you? Are you facing the onslaught of the enemy with the full armor of God protecting your spiritual life? Are you confident that you are equipped for the battles that may befall you? Are you walking in the Spirit? (Galatians 5) Do you have a hunger and thirst for the Word? These are important questions with which to evaluate our daily walk. If, as we believe, we are facing a last days battle for the hearts and minds of our families, our children and our churches, we must not try to face the enemy without the full armor of God.

Pastor Doug

Paul, in his letter to the Ephesian Church tells them to *...be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil*

(Ephesians 6:10-11 NAS) His explanation begins with the description of the enemy that we are facing. *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

(Ephesians 6:112 NAS) He then describes, using the analogy of the Roman soldier's armor, the armor of God and the types of protection needed and provided to withstand the devil's schemes. Paul begins with the waist girded with truth and the breastplate of righteousness protecting the heart. The feet are to be shod with the gospel of peace, the shield of faith quenches the fiery darts of the enemy, the mind is protected by the helmet of salvation and the weapon of power is the sword of the Spirit (the Word of God) while continuous prayer keeps our focus on the one who provides for our spiritual life and needs.

Let's spend a few minutes and examine what is being called for in this important message from Paul. He calls the Church to be strong in the Lord. We are not to perceive ourselves strong in our flesh, but rather, we learn to walk in the Spirit that His power might be our base of spiritual courage. Paul then tells us to put on the full armor of God that we might stand in the face of the devil's evil. By implication, being only partly equipped is to fail in the moment when spiritual warfare intrudes into our lives in an assault from the enemy.

Too many unprepared Christians discover that they are ill-equipped to stand in the evil day. When suffering, loss, or other major offensive is launched by the enemy, they are not able to stand. For this reason the Scripture calls us to *...be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of your time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, (Ephesians 5:15-18 NAS)* Being filled with the Spirit is the expectation of God for all who are His children. He told the disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit