

Ephesians
The Whole Armor of God
Ephesians 6:10-24
November 2nd, 2025

I. Introduction

In Ephesians, Paul has been proclaiming God's good news for the cosmos. It is good news that touches down in every part of our lives. And it is good news that requires a lot of good work from us. Moreover, our work is to be carried out in a world much different from that of Adam and Eve. Their world was one full of potential, but untouched. It was a wild world waiting to be tamed. Our task is different. It is harder. Our task is to be carried out in the midst of a war. The world Christ is subduing is not merely wild, it is wicked. And what is more, its wickedness is not merely of human caliber. The wickedness we wage our warfare against is of a demonic, superhuman sort. We wage war against cosmic powers, spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Adam was tasked with the difficult task of exercising godly dominion over the earth. We're tasked with the much harder task of subduing and defeating the heavenly powers that he let in.

II. Text — Ephesians 6:10-24

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. . . .

The battle we wage is the battle over our marriages, the battle over our kids, the battle over our businesses, the battle over church life. Paul's not thinking here of some extraordinary situation that he as an apostle or even as a missionary faced. It is the run-of-the-mill, mundane spiritual battle we all face every day. It is a battle waged from an office space, that smells of bureaucrats and the mundane, ordinary business of our lives.

"The greatest evil is not done in those sordid 'dens of crime' that [Charles] Dickens loved to paint. It is not done even in concentration camps and labor camps. In those we see its final result. But it is conceived and ordered (moved, seconded, and minuted) in clean, carpeted, warmed, and well-lighted offices, by quiet men with white collars and cut finger nails and smooth-shaven cheeks who do not need to raise their voice."
(From C. S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*)

III. The Whole Armor of God

First. The belt of _____. The belt was an important part of a soldier's armor. The soldier would tuck his long robe into a belt around his waist, and the belt would keep everything intact. This was how he would "gird up his loins." How does *truth* do this for us? Another word for truth in this context is *sincerity*. Paul is calling us to keep a good conscience. You cannot fight against darkness with darkness. You cannot war against falsehood while being false yourself. You have to have a good conscience. This sincerity binds everything else together.

Second. The second piece of armor Paul lists is the breastplate of _____. Is this a *moral* righteousness seen in our lives, or is it *Christ's* righteousness imputed to us? Both. It is Christ's righteousness given to us *and* put on by us. We are not only justified by God in Christ Jesus, but by the power of His Spirit, we are also called to put on His righteousness.

This righteousness is important in every age, but it is especially important in our day when most of the world's moral compass is completely broken. Good is called evil, evil good. The fact is a rival righteousness, a rival morality, is on the rise all around us to the point where the enemies of the church carry out their wickedness as though it were true righteousness. They attack the good works of the Church with a moral zeal. See John 16:2. The true righteousness is that defined by God Himself, and it is this which we must put on as a breastplate.

Third. Our feet need to be shod with the boots of Gospel _____. We need to run, stand, jump knowing and enjoying peace with God: knowing and enjoying the divine and glorious fact that God has made peace with us through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. There are two ways of running this race. There is a running that looks like fleeing. In that case we're running because we're terrified. This is the fear of a slave. That's a fine start. We should fear God. But that fear must drive us to Christ. And once we come to Christ, we are safe and there is plentiful peace. God is no longer our enemy. He's now our Father. As Christians, we need to wear these boots every day, everywhere we go. We need to live as those with whom God is well-pleased. We need to live as those with whom God has made peace.

Fourth. We are to take up the shield of _____. Without faith we cannot stand. We cannot stand the trial. We need faith for every season of life, for by it we lay hold of God (Ps. 28:7). Faith sees God, the Lord God, in every season. Faith beholds Him, trusts in Him, and is anchored in Him. This makes it so that nothing can get through, nothing can shake us, no arrow can harm those whose trust and confidence are in the Lord and in His mighty power. Those who have faith in the Lord God will prevail; they will resist and overcome any and all attacks that come from the world, the flesh, and the devil. (See 1 John 5:4-5 Rom. 8:31-39)

Fifth. Paul charges us to take up the helmet of salvation, also called, the helmet of _____ (1 Thes. 5:8). Hope guards our thinking and directs our eyes. See 1 Pet. 1:13. By the shield of faith, we lay hold of Christ our shield. We take refuge behind His victory, His sovereignty, His power and kindness, and by wearing the hope of the Gospel over upon our minds, we remain sober in our thinking.

Sixth. Paul calls us to take up the sword of the _____. God has given us His very word for this purpose. Scripture furnishes us with doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Seventh. The second weapon we're given in this battle is _____. This means that we are not alone. The Lord doesn't simply send us out into battle, fully armored, but then leave us to fend for ourselves. We have continual air support. We seek to be a part of God's great work of seeing all things united in Christ. That is the overarching mission which we are enlisted to carry out. And we can have no success apart from God's grace attending our way. Apart from God's grace, we will accomplish nothing.

IV. Come & Welcome to Jesus Christ