

THE FULLY ARMED CHRISTIAN

(Eph. 6:10-20)

I. The Nature of the Opponents, vs 12-13

- A. Not flesh and blood
- B. But Principalities, Powers, and Spiritual Hosts

II. The Nature of the conflict

- A. Like Wrestling
- B. Like Warfare

III. The All-Sufficient Power of Christ

The source of our strength is "in the Lord and in the strength of his might." vs. 10.

IV. The Christian Armor, vs 11 & 13-17

- A. The "Panoply" of God
- B. Paul certainly knew the armor of a Roman soldier, as he had been chained to one for about three years.

C. Detailed Description

1. The "Belt of truth."

"Truth" here means faithfulness, inner integrity, which holds all other qualities in their proper place.

2. The "Breastplate of righteousness"

Uprightness in character.

3. Feet shod with "the equipment of the gospel of peace."

"Equipment" means readiness for the conflict and readiness to preach the gospel.

4. "Above all" (in addition to all the rest) take the large oblong "shield of faith."

(Covered with leather to catch & quench the "fiery darts," arrows tipped with a flammable material and lighted before being shot.

5. The "Helmet of salvation"

Receive it as a gift of God.

The whole process of Xtn experience.

6. The "sword of the Spirit," the Word of God. -
A weapon of defense and offence.
The "word" here is the spoken word; for us it might include also the written word. The Spirit will supply the right word for each situation.

D. Persevering Prayer, vs. 18-20

Paul has not mentioned certain parts of armor such as the spear, lance, etc. But he adds one part which is one of the greatest weapons of the Christian-- PRAYER. This prayer must be:

1. Ceaseless, "at all times"
2. Intensive, "in the Spirit"

See Rom. 8:26-27

3. Unselfish, "for all saints", esp. for all that are in the army of the Lord.

The Christian warrior needs the prayers of his fellow-soldiers, not so much for safety and peace, but for courage to proclaim the gospel boldly. Paul requests prayer that he may be uncompromising in proclaiming the gospel.

CONCLUSION: The theme of Ephesians is the purpose of God to reconcile all things in Christ, with the church as an instrument by which this goal is to be achieved. Each Christian is "called" to share in this great enterprise. Therefore, his conduct is to be in harmony with the will and purpose of God who aims to unite all things in Christ, "things in heaven and things on earth."

Is your life and conduct in harmony with this great will and purpose of God?

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