

**We are at War Part 3**  
**Ephesians 6:13–15**  
**Sunday a.m. July 16, 2017**

- ❖ Paul started with strategy, we are at war and we have an enemy
- ❖ Now, he goes to tactics, our weapons

⊛ **When we put on the whole armor of God we are confirming that we are at war and ready for war**

- ❖ The war is not fought for us, but we must fight in this war **(6:13)**
  - ✚ We must take up, pick up our weapons
  - ✚ We must be able, yield to the power and resources of God
  - ✚ We must withstand, resist, and oppose the devil

⊛ **The evil days, days of battle will come; we must be ready. When you have done everything to be ready, then you can stand firm**

- ❖ **Why is armor necessary? Why not just be strong?**

- **Power alone is not enough**

**1 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV)**

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

- **God has provided the weapons for this war**

**2 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)**

as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

- ❖ **There are six pieces of armor divided into two groups of three**

**(Show picture of Roman soldier)**

- **Armor that attaches to the body are defensive weapons**
  - ✚ The soldiers belt, the soldiers breastplate, the soldiers sandals
- **Armor that is not attached to the body are offensive weapons**
  - ✚ The shield, the helmet, the sword

## ■ **The Belt of Truth (Ephesians 6:14)**

❖ The belt protected the lower abdomen area, stomach, intestines

- ✚ The soldier's belt was the central piece of his armor
- ✚ The belt held his scabbard, lances, kept breastplate in place

- ✚ The Roman soldier wore a skirt similar to a kilt
- ✚ They also wore a cloak or tunic that could be secured in the belt

### ⊛ **This was the sign of readiness for battle**

❖ This is why Paul mentions girding our waist with truth

- ✚ **We must put on truth before anything**
- ✚ **We are caught in the open battlefield by Satan without truth**
- ✚ **We must have a settled conviction regarding truth**
- ✚ **We must know what we believe about our salvation, about who Jesus is and about the word of God**

### ⊛ **Uncertainty about truth in battle will lead to defeat**

❖ Peter says to "Resist him, steadfast in the faith" **1 Peter 5:9**

- ✚ **We cannot rely upon our own sincerity and truthfulness**
- ✚ **We cannot rely upon "I think so", but "I know so"**

## **John 8:31-32 (NKJV)**

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup> And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

❖ Jesus declared that His Father's "word is truth." **John 17:17 (NKJV)**

## **3 John 1:4 (NKJV)**

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

❖ Jesus is the truth **John 14:6**

### ⊛ **The truth of Scripture never changes, never requires updating**

## ■ **The Breastplate of Righteousness (Ephesians 6:14b)**

❖ The breastplate protected the lungs and heart

⊛ **The breastplate of righteousness protects our hearts from the accusations of Satan**

### • **Positional righteousness**

⊛ **This righteousness is ours at salvation and is from God**

## **2 Corinthians 5:21(NKJV)**

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

## **1 Corinthians 1:30 (NKJV)**

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption

❖ We are “found in Him, not having my own righteousness’ **Philippians 3:8**

## **Ray Stedman**

“You never had anything worthwhile in yourself to offer to God. You gave all that up when you came to Christ. You quit trying to be good enough to please God. You came to God the Father on the infinite merits of His Son, who died for you. It is not your own miserable, tattered righteousness that covers your heart, but the solid, impenetrable righteousness of Jesus. And His righteousness is durable enough to deflect any of the arrows of Satan's accusations.”

### • **Practical righteousness**

⊛ **Righteousness has been given to us through Christ, but we also must live a righteous life**

✚ This righteousness conforms to the standard that God has set

✚ This is the daily practice of righteousness before God and man

⊛ **We stand in the righteousness of Christ which the enemy cannot attack**

## ■ **The Cleats of the Gospel (Ephesians 6:15)**

- ❖ The sandals or *caliga* of the Roman soldier had short nails on the sole
- ❖ These enabled the Roman soldier to stand his ground

- ❖ There are two interpretations
  - ✚ We are to stand firm in our salvation
  - ✚ We are to defend and declare the gospel

### • **We are to stand firm in our salvation**

- ❖ It is impossible to stand firm if you are not sure about your salvation

### • **We are to defend and declare the gospel**

- ❖ Preparation, be prepared to share the gospel

### • **We need peace with God**

## **Romans 5:1 (NKJV)**

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

- ✚ We cannot find peace without God in our life
- ✚ We cannot find peace with God without Christ
- Charles Blondin was the first person to tight rope across Niagara Falls
- He crossed 17 times in the years 1859-1860
- He crossed blindfolded, balanced on a chair and carried his manager
- The Prince of Wales was in the crowd in September, 1860, when Blondin carried his manager on his back
- The Prince was asked if he would like to be carried on Blondin's back for the return journey, but he refused
  - ✚ The Prince knew Blondin could do it, but he did not trust him to do so
  - ✚ You may believe Christ can forgive your sins, but you must trust Him