

Ephesians 6:13-17

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 3-2-16

Review

Read Ephesians 6:13-17

V. 12 - The enemy - is _____

The Full Armor of God

Roman soldiers

- Ubiquitous in the Roman world
- Paul was dictating this letter while chained to one (v. 20)
- We must walk, work, and sleep in it, stand firm and watch, and never relax our vigilance.

V. 14a - "having girded your loins with **truth**"

- "girding up your loins" = an idiom. _____ yourself for _____.
 - Soldier's belt - held his tunic together and his sword.
 - Ensured nothing held him back from advancing forward.
- Our belt is truth
 - Satan = "father of lies" (John 8:44). Truth "sets us free" (John 8:32)
 - Two possible meanings:
 - Truth of _____: Revelation of God in Christ in the Scriptures (cf. 4:21)
 - Truth in the _____ being: Sincerity
 - 4:15 - "truthing in love"
 - 5:6, 9 - Fruit of light
 - Must at all times be honest and have integrity
 - Must have a pure _____ and pure _____



V. 14b - "having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**"

- The soldier's breastplate protected his vital organs.
- Ours is "righteousness". 2 senses in the NT:
 - _____ - _____ righteousness on our behalf
 - Justification = being made right with God
 - _____ by his righteousness
 - Cf. Romans 8:1, 33-34
 - _____ - _____ righteousness of character and conduct
 - Relative vs. real change - justified/born again
 - Cf. 2 Cor. 6:7; Eph. 4:24, 5:9
 - Not either/or, but both/and - One leads to the other
 - G.G. Findlay - "The completeness of pardon for past offence and the integrity of character that belong to the justified life, are woven together into an impenetrable mail."



V. 15 - “having shod your feet with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**”

- Roman soldier’s *caliga* (“half-boot”) - mobile and sturdy footing
- Ours are “gospel boots” - 2 possible meanings:
 - _____ the gospel gives to those who believe it
 - Cf. Eph. 2:14-15
 - _____ to proclaim the gospel
 - Cf. Eph. 2:17; Isa. 52:7
 - We must march forward in its _____ and _____ power



V. 16 - “taking up the shield of **faith**”

- “in addition to all” instead of “above all”
- The Roman *scutum* - Protected the entire body
- Our shield is faith
 - V. 16b - “extinguishes all the flaming arrows of the evil one”
 - Proverbs 30:5 - “(God) is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.”
 - Faith lays hold of the _____ of God in times of doubt
 - Faith lays hold of the _____ of God amidst temptation



V. 17a - “take the helmet of **salvation**”

- Roman soldier’s helmet - tough, yet comfortable
- Ours is salvation - 2 possible meanings:
 - _____ - assurance
 - I Thess. 5:8-9 - “the hope of salvation”
 - _____
 - Throughout Ephesians: Spiritual life, forgiveness, deliverance from Satan’s bondage, adoption into God’s family, etc.
- Helmet protects the head, which is the seat of the mind
 - Rom. 12:2 - “be transformed by the renewing of your mind”
 - Phil. 2 - we are to have “the mind of Christ”
 - Eph. 4:11-14 - “no longer children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming”
 - Confronts the herd mentality [the “course of this world” (2:2) and fallen “desires of the mind” (2:3)]
 - Charles Hodge: “That which adorns and protects the Christian, which enables him to *hold up his head with confidence and joy*, is the fact that he is saved” and, we might add, he knows his salvation will be perfected in the end.

