

## 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.

